

	RECOGNIZED ENTITY	SUPPORTING MINISTRY	INDEPENDENT MINISTRY
1. Legal Identity & Trademark Rights	Legal status: Affiliated with and structured as a part of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.	Legal status: Legally autonomous and completely independent of the Church's administrative and ecclesiastical structure.	Legal status: Organized entirely outside of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's structure.
	Church relationship: Maintains a separate corporate existence but is established, owned, or controlled by official Church organizations.	Church relationship: Must state in legal documents, websites, and public dealings that it is not legally affiliated with or controlled by the Church.	Church relationship: Possesses no legal or structural connection to the corporate Church.
	Trademark/use of name: May operate under an approved denominational identity consistent with its recognized Church status and policy.	Trademark/use of name: Must secure explicit prior permission from the General Conference Corporation to use any trademarked church names or marks.	Trademark/use of name: Not recognized as authorized to use Church names, marks, or official identity.
2. Governance, Membership & Accountability	Board control: The board is accountable to official Church entities, with a majority drawn from officers, employees, or board members of <i>Yearbook</i> -listed organizations.	Board control: Controlled by its independent board. Its chief leader must be a Seventh-day Adventist member but may not receive denominational salary for administering the ministry.	Board control: Board structure is determined by the organization's own governing documents, not by Church policy.
	Membership: Corporate members, constituency members, or shareholders must be Seventh-day Adventists in regular standing within the Church's recognized governance structure.	Membership: A majority of the governing membership must be lay Seventh-day Adventists, preserving Adventist identity while remaining legally separate from Church control.	Membership: Membership, ownership, and voting rules are set by the organization's own governing documents.
	Accountability: The board is answerable to a recognized membership or constituency body. That body has authority to elect, review, and remove board members.	Accountability: Answers to its governing documents and the conditions for supporting-ministry recognition; the Church does not own or control it but to be recognized as a supporting ministry, it must adhere to, comply with, and follow the NAD Working Policy K 05.	Accountability: Accountability rests with the organization's own board, members, owners, or governing structure.
3. Funding, Financial Governance & Dissolution	Funding policies: May receive funding through authorized Church channels and participate in approved financial systems, including applicable tax and benefit programs.	Funding policies: Must be financially self-supporting, may not solicit or knowingly accept tithe, and should direct tithe to authorized Church treasury channels.	Funding policies: Fundraising and donations are governed by its own policies and applicable civil law, not Church treasury policy.
	Financial governance policies: Operates under Church financial policies, including denominational wage guidelines, required financial filings, and Church oversight of financial administration.	Financial governance policies: Maintains its own records and controls, remains responsible for assets and liabilities, and must provide audited statements when requested.	Financial governance policies: Financial controls, compensation, reporting, and liabilities are governed by the organization's own documents and applicable civil law.
	Dissolution: Net assets must transfer to another organization with denominational status upon dissolution.	Dissolution: Assets and liabilities are handled according to the supporting ministry's own legal documents and remain the responsibility of the organization.	Dissolution: Asset distribution is determined solely by the organization's articles of incorporation, bylaws, or other governing documents.

4. Ecclesiastical Oversight & Listing Status	Oversight: Subject to the general supervision, periodic review, and control of a recognized Church entity.	Oversight: Recognized through local conference recommendation, union or ASI confirmation, and NAD review or listing maintenance.	Oversight: Operates outside Church administrative jurisdiction and is not subject to denominational oversight.
	Approval process: Conferred, evaluated, and discontinued at the sole discretion of the North American Division Committee.	Approval process: Must demonstrate operational viability for at least one year and maintain at least two full-time employees.	Approval process: Has no denominational approval process unless it seeks recognized or supporting-ministry status.
	Listing status: Officially listed as a denominational institution in the <i>Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook</i> .	Listing status: Maintained on an official NAD roster; listing does not make the Church owner, controller, guarantor, or legal sponsor.	Listing status: Not listed in any denominational roster; “independent ministry” is descriptive only.
5. Mission, Theological Alignment & Public Stance	Mission: Operates as part of the Church’s recognized mission in harmony with denominational purposes and policies.	Mission: Positively supplements the Church’s work and supports its mission, policies, practices, and purposes.	Mission: Defines its own mission, priorities, and ministry focus outside the Church’s official mission structure.
	Theological alignment: Functions under Seventh-day Adventist beliefs, standards, working policies, and denominational oversight.	Theological alignment: Must remain in harmony with the Fundamental Beliefs, mission, practices, and teachings of the Church. See NAD Working Policy K 05 05	Theological alignment: Theological positions are determined by the organization itself and are not reviewed through denominational policy.
	Public stance: Speaks and acts as part of the Church’s official mission and organizational identity.	Public stance: Must support and cooperate with the Church without presenting itself as an official Church project.	Public stance: Public positions are its own and are not made under Church authority or denominational representation.
	Endorsement and cooperation: May be endorsed, sponsored, or represented as part of the Church only within the scope authorized by denominational governance.	Endorsement and cooperation: Recognition permits cooperation but does not create Church ownership, control, sponsorship, guaranty, or blanket endorsement.	Endorsement and cooperation: Cooperation, invitation, or access does not constitute denominational endorsement, sponsorship, ownership, or control.
6. Representation, Property & Access	Authority to represent the Church: May speak or act for the Church only within its authorized denominational role.	Authority to represent the Church: May promote Adventist beliefs and mission but may not speak for the Church or present itself as an official Church project.	Authority to represent the Church: Has no authority to speak for or represent the Church.
	Property ownership: Property is held for denominational purposes and subject to applicable Church governance and property requirements.	Property ownership: Owns, controls, and is responsible for its own property, assets, facilities, and related obligations.	Property ownership: Property ownership and control are determined by its own legal documents and applicable civil law.
	Use of Church facilities/platforms: May use denominational facilities, platforms, and channels as authorized by Church governance.	Use of Church facilities/platforms: May use Church facilities, pulpits, platforms, or channels only by invitation, agreement, or permission.	Use of Church facilities/platforms: May access Church facilities or channels only at the responsible Church entity’s discretion.
	Access to Church membership data: May access member records, directories, lists, or donor information only as authorized for official Church purposes.	Access to Church membership data: Has no access to use member list, directories, email lists, donor information or church data.	Access to Church membership data: Has no right to Church membership records, directories, communication lists, donor information, or protected Church data.

7. Employment, Conflicts & Risk Management	Employment & personnel: May participate in denominational employment systems, personnel policies, benefits, retirement, and applicable review processes.	Employment & personnel: Responsible for its own employment practices, personnel policies, compensation, benefits, and legal compliance.	Employment & personnel: Employment matters are governed solely by the organization's own policies, contracts, and applicable civil law.
	Employee involvement: Employee service, promotion, fundraising, or representation occurs within assigned denominational duties and applicable Church policies.	Employee involvement: Employees, pastors, or officers may participate only personally or as authorized, without implying Church control, sponsorship, or guaranty. Must disclose all invitations to serve on Supporting ministry board and must receive approval from governing board or committee in accordance with NAD Working Policy E 85.	Employee involvement: Any involvement by Church employees or officers is personal unless separately authorized by the responsible Church entity.
	Conflict of interest and private benefit: Conflicts, disclosures, recusals, and private-benefit concerns are governed by applicable denominational policies and fiduciary expectations.	Conflict of interest and private benefit: Relationships with Church employees, officers, or entities should be disclosed and managed to avoid private benefit, divided loyalty, or misuse of influence.	Conflict of interest and private benefit: Governed by the organization's own policies and applicable civil law, with no denominational responsibility implied.
	Risk management & insurance: Operates under applicable denominational risk-management expectations and insurance requirements.	Risk management & insurance: Must secure and maintain its own insurance coverage, risk-management controls, and liability protections.	Risk management & insurance: Responsible for its own insurance, risk-management practices, and legal liability exposure.
	Liability exposure: Liability is addressed through the applicable denominational entity's governance, insurance, and legal structures.	Liability exposure: Recognition does not make the Church owner, controller, guarantor, sponsor, or insurer of the ministry's acts, debts, or liabilities.	Liability exposure: No denominational entity assumes responsibility for the organization's acts, omissions, debts, or liabilities.
8. Status Review, Compliance & Intellectual Property	Status review and removal: Subject to periodic review by the North American Division and to corrective action, reorganization, or discontinuance according to applicable Church governance processes.	Status review and removal: Subject to review as needed; recognition or listing may be reviewed, suspended, or withdrawn if the ministry no longer satisfies the required criteria or conditions of cooperation or membership.	Status review and removal: Not subject to denominational status review unless it applies for recognized-entity or supporting-ministry status.
	Ongoing compliance: Must remain in compliance with applicable Church policies, governing actions, reporting requirements, and denominational expectations.	Ongoing compliance: Must continue to satisfy doctrinal, mission, governance, financial, and operational criteria required for supporting-ministry status as outlined in NAD Working Policy K 05.	Ongoing compliance: Compliance obligations arise from its own governing documents, contracts, and applicable civil law, not Church policy.
	Intellectual property: Intellectual property created or used in official Church operations may be subject to denominational ownership, licensing, and usage policies.	Intellectual property: Owns and controls its own intellectual property but may only use Church Church names, marks, or other protected denominational identifiers or intellectual property with explicit permission from the General Conference.	Intellectual property: Owns and controls its intellectual property according to its own governing documents and applicable law, without denominational authorization to use Church identity.

Note: The Seventh-day Adventist organizational landscape includes several distinct categories. Denominational Administrative Entities—such as the General Conference, divisions, unions, conferences, local churches, and officially established departments or organizations—are part of the Church's governance and mission structure. Their authority, accountability, and operations derive from Church governing processes.

Recognized Entities operate within the Church's recognized mission structure and remain accountable to denominational governance, though many maintain separate corporate existence. Inclusion in the *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook* identifies recognized status but does not, by itself, make one listed entity legally responsible for another's liabilities, debts, acts, or omissions.

Supporting Ministries are legally independent organizations recognized for cooperation with the Church. Recognition confirms stated doctrinal, mission, and governance standards, but does not create Church ownership, control, endorsement, guaranty, legal sponsorship, or liability for the ministry's activities.

Independent Ministries operate outside denominational status and the Supporting Ministry recognition process. The term *independent ministry* is descriptive, not an official Church approval category.