

**MISSISSIPPI FOOD NETWORK
CHURCH QUALIFIER FORM**

The Internal Revenue Service has set 14 criteria to determine whether an organization qualifies as a church. In accordance with this provision, the Mississippi Food Network has established a policy that requires an organization which operates as an independent, unincorporated church to certify that their program evidences at least 9 of these characteristics. The criteria are listed below. Please check the appropriate items for your church.

- ___ 1. A distinct legal existence.
- ___ 2. a recognized creed and form of worship.
- ___ 3. A definite and distinct ecclesiastical government.
- ___ 4. A formal code of doctrine and discipline.
- ___ 5. A membership not associated with any other church or denomination.
- ___ 6. A distinct religious history.
- ___ 7. A complete organization of ordained ministers, ministering to their church.
- ___ 8. Ordained ministers elected after completing prescribed course of study.
- ___ 9. A literature of its own.
- ___ 10. Established place of worship.
- ___ 11. Regular congregations.
- ___ 12. Regular religious services.
- ___ 13. Sunday schools for the religious instruction of the young.
- ___ 14. Schools for the preparation of its ministers.

As the duly authorized officer of _____
(church name), I certify that this organization meets the requirements indicated for
identification as a church.

Signature of Pastor

Date