

Documents and Records

Charters, bylaws, member lists, and more—the list of legal documents and records that church leaders must work with is seemingly endless. It is always a good idea to seek legal counsel on any matters concerning legal documents, but church leaders must also have a working knowledge of the importance of these documents.

	Yes	Needs Attention
1. If your church is incorporated, do you consistently file an annual report with the Secretary of State's office?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Are you familiar with your church's organizational document (e.g., articles of incorporation, charter, or constitution)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Are you aware of any restrictions and limitations outlined in your church's organizational documents?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Does your church's organizational document include any provisions that are required/recommended by the IRS?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Does your church's organizational document state that your organization's duration is perpetual, rather than a specified number of years?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Do your leaders have a working knowledge of the church bylaws?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. Do you have your church bylaws reviewed by an attorney regularly or when any changes are made to the document?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Are all your church leaders familiar with the organization's financial and accounting records?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. Do board members review church finances at each board meeting, and are they encouraged to ask questions?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. Does your church maintain a current list of active, voting members?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. Do your church records include a complete set of minutes from all board and committee meetings as well those from annual business meetings and other special meetings?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

(Continued on back)

This is a sample document only. Your organization is responsible for compliance with all applicable laws. Accordingly, this form should not be used or adopted by your organization without first being reviewed and approved by an attorney. Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company assumes no liability in the preparation and distribution of this sample form.

	Yes	Needs Attention
12. Are church leaders familiar with tax records and requirements, including payroll tax forms, housing allowance designations, and contribution records?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. Do you keep well-organized employment records for each employee, including applications for employment, reference checks, disciplinary actions, attendance records, changes in employee status, and I-9 immigration forms?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. Are you familiar with your church's property deed and any restrictions that may be outlined in it?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. Do your church leaders consult with the church's attorney before signing any contracts on behalf of the church?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Notes: _____

Completed by: _____ Date: _____