

## Petition to Repeal the Constitution of the Brethren in Christ U.S.

### Introduction

The 2016 General Conference discussed and adopted *in principle* a motion to amend the *Manual of Doctrine and Government* (MDG) of the Brethren in Christ U.S. The proposed changes to the MDG included Amended and Restated Bylaws. These Amended and Restated Bylaws included information that had previously been located in the Constitution but now, in keeping with current practice for organizations, are in the Bylaws and, thereby, make a separate Constitution no longer necessary.

By approving the amendments to the MDG in principle, the 2016 General Conference adopted the Amended and Restated Bylaws as the current Bylaws of BIC U.S., but they must also be brought (with further amendments as necessary) to the 2018 General Conference (now called *General Assembly*) for discussion and adoption.

Section B of the resolution #3 that was adopted in principle by the 2016 General Conference stated:

That, whereas it is no longer common practice for organizations to have a Constitution that is separate from their Bylaws, and

Whereas, the Amended and Restated Bylaws contain all necessary information from the Constitution,

Therefore, the General Conference Board recommends the repeal of the Constitution as per the appropriate protocol, namely a two-thirds majority vote of the 2016 General Conference, approval by a two-thirds majority vote of all BIC congregational councils in the United States, and ratified by a two-thirds majority vote of the 2018 General Conference/Assembly.

The adoption of this resolution by the 2016 General Conference now means that every BIC congregation in the United States is asked to vote to approve the resolution to repeal the Constitution that is contained in the *Manual of Doctrine and Government*. With the approval by a two-thirds majority of all BIC congregations in the United States, the petition to repeal the Constitution will be brought to the 2018 General Conference/Assembly for confirmation.

**We, therefore, request that every congregation should take action on the following petition and submit to the Office of the National Director their completed and signed response by March 31, 2018.**

**Petition to Repeal the Constitution**

Whereas, the 2016 General Conference adopted the resolution to amend the Manual of Doctrine and Government of the Brethren in Christ U.S., and

Whereas the adoption resolution to amend included the adoption in principle of the Amended and Restated Bylaws of the Brethren in Christ U.S., and

Whereas the Amended and Restated Bylaws contain all the necessary information from the Constitution of the Brethren in Christ U.S. so that the Constitution is no longer necessary to be separate from the Bylaws, and

Whereas the 2016 General Conference adopted the resolution to repeal the Constitution of the Brethren in Christ U.S. subject to the approval by a two-thirds majority vote of all BIC congregations in the United States, and the ratification by a two-thirds majority vote of the 2018 General Conference/Assembly,

The \_\_\_\_\_ congregation

located in the \_\_\_\_\_ Regional Conference of the BIC U.S. hereby ratifies the decision of the 2016 General Conference to repeal the Constitution.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Pastor)

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Secretary of the governing board)

Date of the congregational action to repeal the Constitution: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send completed and signed petition to the BIC U.S.:**

***Mail:***

Attention: Office of the National Director  
Brethren in Christ U.S.  
431 Grantham Road  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

*or*

***Scan and email:***

bic@bicus.org  
Subject line: "Petition to Repeal the Constitution"

*If you have any questions, please contact your bishop or feel free to reach BIC U.S. at (717) 697-2634 or bic@bicus.org.*