The purpose of this email is to provide additional information on the request that every BIC U.S. congregation vote to repeal the Constitution of the BIC U.S. sometime before the end of March 2018. You may recall that this topic was discussed at General Conference 2016 in Deland, Florida, and it was discussed again at all annual meetings of the seven BIC U.S. regional conferences in 2017.

**Please watch our video summarizing this important information:**[**Petition to Repeal the Constitution**](https://vimeo.com/234391824)**.**

The reason for this *Petition to Repeal the Constitution*is because we are updating the Church's legal and governance documents so that we no longer have a separate Constitution and Bylaws (as was typical when the documents were first drafted decades ago), but, rather, that we will have one document (the Bylaws) containing all the information from the Constitution. This has become the standard format of documents of this kind. In this case, the parts of the Constitution not already contained in the Bylaws were moved into revised Bylaws (which are called the Amended and Restated Bylaws). The 2016 General Conference approved the new Amended and Restated Bylaws of the BIC U.S., and these are now printed in the 2016 *Manual of Doctrine and Government*(MDG). The approval of the Amended and Restated Bylaws was "in principle," meaning they are the Bylaws of the Church but need to be reviewed in 2018 at General Assembly for discussion and adoption. This process allows us to use them for a two-year period and decide what changes, if any, should be made.

In addition to the vote of approval at General Conference 2016 and General Assembly 2018, our governance polity necessitates that the repeal of the Constitution also requires two-thirds of all BIC U.S. congregations in the U.S. to also vote and approve the repeal of the Constitution.**I am, therefore, asking that you assist us in this process by calling your congregation to vote on this amendment at a meeting of your congregation's members.**The attached document includes the necessary information for this congregational vote.

I encourage you to read the [2016 MDG](https://bicus.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/2016mdg.pdf) and note where the sections of the Constitution are repeated in the Bylaws.

* ·         For example, the name of the Church and statement of purpose in the Constitution (page 2, 2016 MDG) are repeated in the Bylaws (page 22, Article 1, 2016 MDG).
* ·         Likewise, information in the Constitution on governance structures of BIC U.S. and how the Bylaws and Articles of Faith and Doctrine can be amended (page 3, 2016 MDG) are now also found in the Bylaws (page 23, Article 2, 2016 MDG; page 65, Article 30, 2016 MDG).

I hope this information is helpful. Thank you for your partnership in the work of the Kingdom of God.