

Article 7: Congregations

7.1 Purpose

A congregation shall function in a manner consistent with the MDG; subject to the authority, oversight, and direction of the Regional Bishop; and under the direction of the congregation's **lead** pastor and governing board

7.2 New Congregations

A congregation that is functioning will be recognized by the BIC U.S. as a new congregation when its governing documents have been approved by its Regional Conference **Board of Directors (BOD)** and have been adopted by the congregation. The Bishop assigned to that Regional Conference is responsible to coordinate the initial organization of the congregation.