



GLOBAL CRITERIA FOR AFFILIATION OF LOCAL CONGREGATIONS

A Universal Standard

In 2025, **CGM** adopted criteria to express the minimum standard to be met by any congregation seeking either to affiliate with or to retain their affiliation with CGM. In order to gain recognition as a member congregation of the Church of God Ministries, regardless of where the church is located, the following criteria should be met:

1. Demonstration of willingness to ascribe to the CGM core values, vision, and mission, based on God's Word.
2. Demonstration of willingness to embrace CGM Bylaws as a relationship.
3. Ministerial/Laity leadership that meets the standards established by the CGM Bylaws.
4. Sustain a sufficient average worship attendance to make the church viable in:
 - a. Meeting all other criteria, and
 - b. Demonstrating a process of outreach and service appropriate to the unique demographic and cultural context of the area where the church would be located.
5. In some cases to be able to help compensate an overseer, consistent with equitable local standards. International areas will require consideration of number of members, and/or congregations served, as well as what income is sustainable for the overseer, as countries outside of the U.S. generally require less for the same living standard as the U.S.
6. Achieve incorporation/registration status, as applicable by national and/or local law if desired or required.
7. Governance structure that assures accountability to God, the congregation, and to the CGM Bylaws.
8. Submission of a biannual report to CGM in the U.S.
9. Submission of local church Bylaws/Standard Operating Procedures to CGM, following their approval by CGM as needed.
10. Maintain minimum standards for risk management, as established by CGM.

Global Diversity

As a ministry with global presence in many countries, CGM recognizes that a universal standard should be interpreted for application within each church's particular context. What is needed in order to meet the universal standard can vary from country to country. For instance, "minimum standards for risk management" that would be appropriate in one country might be inadequate in another country. For this reason, CGM has established protocols as the indicators of readiness for affiliation for each global area: Africa, (APAC) Asia-Pacific, Canada, Europe, Latin America, and the United States. Some are similar, but different.

COMPARISON OF GLOBAL PROTOCOLS FOR AFFILIATION

<p>1-Demonstration of willingness to ascribe to the CGM core values, vision, and mission.</p> <p>APPLIES TO ALL GLOBAL AREAS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The church's membership classes and/or workshops teach about CGM core values, vision, and mission based on God's Word. Every aspect of the church's ministry both inside and outside of the church is compatible with and reflects the CGM core values, vision, and mission based on God's Word.
<p>2- Demonstration of willingness to embrace CGM Bylaws as an association relationship.</p> <p>APPLIES TO ALL GLOBAL AREAS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The church's membership classes and/or workshops teach about the relationship between the local church and CGM and about the ways that decisions are made within the local church and by CGM in regards to God's Word and way of life. The church has submitted the monthly Attendance & Assessment Report form for at least the preceding six months prior to full affiliation. In those countries where CGM has a bank account, the church has paid its 10% tithe to CGM for at least the preceding six months prior to affiliation. Their bank statements should be submitted to CGM on a monthly (or in some cases at least a quarterly) basis. In those countries where CGM does not have a bank account, the church's financial report reflects that the 10% tithe paid to CGM for at least the preceding six months prior to affiliation has been placed in a designated account and not used for local church expenses.
<p>3- Ministerial leadership that meets the standards established by the CGM Bylaws.</p> <p>APPLIES TO ALL GLOBAL AREAS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The elder/leader has been recognized and/or authorized by CGM. The elder/leader has participated in at least one relevant learning activity during the year prior to affiliation. If CGM clergy, the elder/leader maintains a license to serve in this capacity. If ordained by another denomination, CGM has approved the leader's request to serve in this capacity. If laity, the leader has successfully completed the CGM Mentorship Program or is meeting such through further training the requirements to do so. The elder/leader has signed the CGM Code of Conduct.
<p>4- Sustain a sufficient average worship attendance to make the church viable in:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting all other criteria, and Demonstrating a process of outreach and growth appropriate to the unique demographic and cultural context of the area where the church would be located, as determined in consultation with CGM.
<p>APPLIES DIFFERENTLY IN EACH GLOBAL AREA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The church has maintained an average worship attendance of at least () people during the six months prior to affiliation. This may be flexible after discussion with Church Administration of CGM in the U.S. <p style="padding-left: 40px;"> Africa: 15 people (APAC) Asia-Pacific: 10 people Canada: 10 people Europe: 10 people Latin America/Caribbean: 10 people United States: 10 people </p> <p>APPLIES TO ALL GLOBAL AREAS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The average worship attendance trend shows a stable level of attendance during the 12 months prior to affiliation.

APPLIES DIFFERENTLY IN EACH GLOBAL AREA

Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America/Caribbean

- The average monthly income has met approximate regular expenses for the six months prior to affiliation.

Canada, Europe, United States

- The average monthly income has met and/or exceeded regular expenses for the six months prior to affiliation.

5- Be able to partially compensate an elder/leader, consistent with equitable local standards.

APPLIES TO ALL GLOBAL AREAS

- The financial report for the six months prior to affiliation reflects the sources of all income and the nature of all expenses.
- There is a written agreement between the elder/leader and the church that includes a position description and compensation level, and that has been signed by the elder/leader and Church Administration of CGM where applicable. International areas will require consideration of number of members, and/or congregations served, as well as what income is sustainable for the overseer, as countries outside of the U.S. generally require less for the same living standard as the U.S.
- Compensation actually paid to the elder/leader for at least the six months prior to affiliation meets or exceeds the compensation amount that is reflected in the agreement between the person and the Church.

6- Achieve incorporation/registration status, as applicable by national and/or local law.

APPLIES DIFFERENTLY IN EACH GLOBAL AREA

Canada, United States, and nations in all global areas where incorporation/registration of a church is legally required and permitted.

- Criteria 6 applies.

United States

- The church has incorporated with the State government or with CGM extension.
- The church has been granted an Employer Identification Number (EIN) from the Internal Revenue Service or shared with CGM.

Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Latin America/Caribbean

- Criteria 6 does not apply to emerging churches located in countries where incorporation or registration of churches would not be granted to a CGM church or where an attempt to incorporate or register the church with the government could put the members of the church at risk of personal injury or harm.

7- Governance structure that assures accountability to the congregation and to the CGM Bylaws.

APPLIES TO ALL GLOBAL AREAS

- The church has an administrative body (Church Committee, etc.) that is elected by and reports to the Members of the church, as well as copies to CGM in the US.
- The church Bylaws (where applicable) and any other internal governance documents have been approved by CGM.
- The church conducts an official decision-making meeting of the Members at least once a year.

8- Submission of an annual report to CGM.

APPLIES TO ALL GLOBAL AREAS

- An emerging church desiring affiliation has submitted the Annual Report Form for at least the previous year prior to affiliation.
- An affiliated church submits an Biannual Report Form each year after affiliation.

9- Submission of local church Bylaws/Standard Operating Procedures to the CGM, following their approval by Church Administration of CGM.

APPLIES TO ALL GLOBAL AREAS

- The church has submitted the approved Bylaws and/or other internal governance documents to CGM, following adoption by the Members of the church.

10- Maintain minimum standards for risk management, as established by CGM.

APPLIES TO ALL GLOBAL AREAS

- The church follows sound and fiscally responsible procedures for receiving, reserving, disbursing, and reporting on its money.
- The church follows appropriate procedures to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children who participate in church-sponsored activities.
- The church has adopted policies and procedures that address such matters as sexual harassment and sexual abuse, verbal abuse, discrimination and exclusion, conflict management, etc.
- The church usually gathers in spaces that are structurally sound and meet the local building code, whether it be in a member's home or a building.
- The church has a written procedure to be followed by the local administrative body when considering allegations of disloyalty, unbecoming conduct, or dereliction of duty by a church Member or Lay Delegate.

Affiliation – For affiliation, the Emerging Church should provide CGM Church Administration with written evidence that necessary criteria has been met. The information should be submitted to:

T. S. Hoefker, President, Senior Pastor
tshoefker@cogministries.org

AFRICA PROTOCOL FOR AFFILIATION

1-Demonstration of willingness to ascribe to the CGM core values, vision, and mission. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The church's membership classes and/or workshops teach about CGM core values, vision, and mission. Every aspect of the church's ministry both inside and outside of the church is compatible with and reflects the CGM core values, vision, and mission based on God's Word.
2- Demonstration of willingness to embrace CGM Bylaws as an association relationship. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The church's membership classes and/or workshops teach about the relationship between the local church and MCC and about the ways that decisions are made within the local church and by CGM. The church has submitted the monthly Attendance & Assessment Report form for at least the preceding six months prior to affiliation. In those countries where CGM has a bank account, the church has paid its 10% tithe to CGM for at least the preceding six months prior to affiliation. Their bank statements should be submitted to CGM on a monthly (or in some cases at least a quarterly) basis. In those countries where CGM does not have a bank account, the church's financial report reflects that the 10% tithe to CGM for at least the preceding six months prior to affiliation has been placed in a designated account and not used for local church expenses.
3- Leadership that meets the standards established by the CGM Bylaws. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The elder/leader has been authorized by CGM. The elder/leader has participated in at least one relevant learning activity during the year prior to affiliation. If CGM clergy, the ministerial leader maintains a license to serve in this capacity. If ordained by another denomination, CGM has approved the elder/leader's request to serve in this capacity. If laity, the leader has successfully completed the CGM Mentorship Program or is meeting such through further training the requirements to do so. The elder/leader has signed the CGM Code of Conduct.
4- Sustain a sufficient average worship attendance to make the church viable in: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting all other criteria, and Demonstrating a process of outreach and growth appropriate to the unique demographic and cultural context of the area where the church would be located, as determined in consultation with CGM.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The church has maintained an average worship attendance of 15 or more people during the six months prior to affiliation. The average worship attendance trend shows a stable level of attendance during the 12 months prior to affiliation. The average monthly income has met regular expenses for the six months prior to affiliation.
5- Be able (Where applicable) to compensate a leader, consistent with equitable local standards. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The financial report for the six months prior to affiliation reflects the sources of all income and the nature of all expenses.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a written agreement between the elder/leader and the church that includes a position description and compensation level, and that has been signed by the elder/leader and Church Administration of CGM where applicable. International areas will require consideration of number of members, and/or congregations served, as well as what income is sustainable for the overseer, as countries outside of the U.S. generally require less for the same living standard as the U.S. • Compensation actually paid to the elder/leader for at least the six months prior to affiliation meets or exceeds the compensation amount that is reflected in the agreement between the person and the Church.
6- Achieve incorporation/registration status, as applicable by national and/or local law.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This criteria does not apply to emerging churches located in countries where incorporation or registration of churches would not be granted to a CGM church or where an attempt to incorporate or register the church with the government could put the members of the church at risk of personal injury or harm.
7- Governance structure that assures accountability to the congregation and to the CGM Bylaws.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church has an administrative body (Board of Directors, Church Committee, etc.) that is elected by and reports to the Members of the church. • The church Bylaws (where applicable) and any other internal governance documents have been approved by CGM. • The church conducts an official decision-making meeting of the Members at least once a year.
8- Submission of an annual report to CGM.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An emerging church desiring affiliation has submitted the Annual Report Form for at least the year prior to affiliation. • An affiliated church submits the Biannual Report Form each year after affiliation.
9- Submission of local church Bylaws/Standard Operating Procedures to the CGM, following their approval by the Office of Emerging Ministries.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church has submitted the approved Bylaws and/or other internal governance documents to CGM, following adoption by the Members of the church.
10- Maintain minimum standards for risk management, as established by CGM.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church follows sound and fiscally responsible procedures for receiving, reserving, disbursing, and reporting on its money. • The church follows appropriate procedures to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children who participate in church-sponsored activities. • The church has adopted policies and procedures that address such matters as sexual harassment and sexual abuse, verbal abuse, discrimination and exclusion, conflict management, etc. • The church usually gathers in spaces that are structurally sound and meet the local building code, whether it be in a member's home or a building. • The church has a written procedure to be followed by the local administrative body when considering allegations of disloyalty, unbecoming conduct, or dereliction of duty by a church Member or Lay Delegate.

Affiliation – For affiliation, the Emerging Church should provide CGM Church Administration with written evidence that all of the criteria have been met. The information should be submitted to:

T. S. Hoefker, President, Senior Pastor
tshoefker@cogministries.org

APAC (ASIA-PACIFIC) PROTOCOL FOR AFFILIATION

1-Demonstration of willingness to ascribe to the CGM core values, vision, and mission. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church's membership classes and/or workshops teach about CGM core values, vision, and mission. • Every aspect of the church's ministry both inside and outside of the church is compatible with and reflects the CGM core values, vision, and mission based on God's Word.
2- Demonstration of willingness to embrace CGM Bylaws as an association relationship. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church's membership classes and/or workshops teach about the relationship between the local church and MCC and about the ways that decisions are made within the local church and by CGM. • The church has submitted the monthly Attendance & Assessment Report form for at least the preceding six months prior to affiliation. • In those countries where CGM has a bank account, the church has paid its 10% tithe to CGM for at least the preceding six months prior to affiliation. Their bank statements should be submitted to CGM on a monthly (or in some cases at least a quarterly) basis. • In those countries where CGM does not have a bank account, the church's financial report reflects that the 10% tithe to CGM for at least the preceding six months prior to affiliation has been placed in a designated account and not used for local church expenses.
3- Leadership that meets the standards established by the CGM Bylaws. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The elder/leader has been authorized by CGM. • The elder/leader has participated in at least one relevant learning activity during the year prior to affiliation. • If CGM clergy, the ministerial leader maintains a license to serve in this capacity. • If ordained by another denomination, CGM has approved the elder/leader's request to serve in this capacity. • If laity, the leader has successfully completed the CGM Mentorship Program or is meeting such through further training the requirements to do so. • The elder/leader has signed the CGM Code of Conduct.
4- Sustain a sufficient average worship attendance to make the church viable in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Meeting all other criteria, and d. Demonstrating a process of outreach and growth appropriate to the unique demographic and cultural context of the area where the church would be located, as determined in consultation with CGM. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church has maintained an average worship attendance of 10 or more people during the six months prior to affiliation. • The average worship attendance trend shows a stable level of attendance during the 12 months prior to affiliation. • The average monthly income has met regular expenses for the six months prior to affiliation.
5- Be able (Where applicable) to compensate a leader, consistent with equitable local standards. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The financial report for the six months prior to affiliation reflects the sources of all income and the nature of all expenses.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a written agreement between the elder/leader and the church that includes a position description and compensation level, and that has been signed by the elder/leader and Church Administration of CGM where applicable. International areas will require consideration of number of members, and/or congregations served, as well as what income is sustainable for the overseer, as countries outside of the U.S. generally require less for the same living standard as the U.S. • Compensation actually paid to the elder/leader for at least the six months prior to affiliation meets or exceeds the compensation amount that is reflected in the agreement between the person and the Church.
6- Achieve incorporation/registration status, as applicable by national and/or local law.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This criteria does not apply to emerging churches located in countries where incorporation or registration of churches would not be granted to a CGM church or where an attempt to incorporate or register the church with the government could put the members of the church at risk of personal injury or harm.
7- Governance structure that assures accountability to the congregation and to the CGM Bylaws.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church has an administrative body (Board of Directors, Church Committee, etc.) that is elected by and reports to the Members of the church. • The church Bylaws (where applicable) and any other internal governance documents have been approved by CGM. • The church conducts an official decision-making meeting of the Members at least once a year.
8- Submission of an annual report to CGM.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An emerging church desiring affiliation has submitted the Annual Report Form for at least the year prior to affiliation. • An affiliated church submits the Biannual Report Form each year after affiliation.
9- Submission of local church Bylaws/Standard Operating Procedures to the CGM, following their approval by the Office of Emerging Ministries.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church has submitted the approved Bylaws and/or other internal governance documents to CGM, following adoption by the Members of the church.
10- Maintain minimum standards for risk management, as established by CGM.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church follows sound and fiscally responsible procedures for receiving, reserving, disbursing, and reporting on its money. • The church follows appropriate procedures to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children who participate in church-sponsored activities. • The church has adopted policies and procedures that address such matters as sexual harassment and sexual abuse, verbal abuse, discrimination and exclusion, conflict management, etc. • The church usually gathers in spaces that are structurally sound and meet the local building code, whether it be in a member's home or a building. • The church has a written procedure to be followed by the local administrative body when considering allegations of disloyalty, unbecoming conduct, or dereliction of duty by a church Member or Lay Delegate.

Affiliation – For affiliation, the Emerging Church should provide CGM Church Administration with written evidence that needed criteria has been met. The information should be submitted to:

T. S. Hoefker, President, Senior Pastor
tshoefker@cogministries.org

CANADA PROTOCOL FOR AFFILIATION

<p>1-Demonstration of willingness to ascribe to the CGM core values, vision, and mission.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church's membership classes and/or workshops teach about CGM core values, vision, and mission. • Every aspect of the church's ministry both inside and outside of the church is compatible with and reflects the CGM core values, vision, and mission based on God's Word.
<p>2- Demonstration of willingness to embrace CGM Bylaws as an association relationship.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church's membership classes and/or workshops teach about the relationship between the local church and MCC and about the ways that decisions are made within the local church and by CGM. • The church has submitted the monthly Attendance & Assessment Report form for at least the preceding six months prior to affiliation. • In those countries where CGM has a bank account, the church has paid its 10% tithe to CGM for at least the preceding six months prior to affiliation. Their bank statements should be submitted to CGM on a monthly (or in some cases at least a quarterly) basis. • In those countries where CGM does not have a bank account, the church's financial report reflects that the 10% tithe to CGM for at least the preceding six months prior to affiliation has been placed in a designated account and not used for local church expenses.
<p>3- Leadership that meets the standards established by the CGM Bylaws.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The elder/leader has been authorized by CGM. • The elder/leader has participated in at least one relevant learning activity during the year prior to affiliation. • If CGM clergy, the ministerial leader maintains a license to serve in this capacity. • If ordained by another denomination, CGM has approved the elder's/leader's request to serve in this capacity. • If laity, the leader has successfully completed the CGM Mentorship Program or is meeting such through further training the requirements to do so. • The elder/leader has signed the CGM Code of Conduct.
<p>4- Sustain a sufficient average worship attendance to make the church viable in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> e. Meeting all other criteria, and f. Demonstrating a process of outreach and growth appropriate to the unique demographic and cultural context of the area where the church would be located, as determined in consultation with CGM.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church has maintained an average worship attendance of 10 or more people during the six months prior to affiliation. • The average worship attendance trend shows a stable level of attendance during the 12 months prior to affiliation. • The average monthly income has met regular expenses for the six months prior to affiliation.
<p>5- Be able (Where applicable) to compensate a leader, consistent with equitable local standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The financial report for the six months prior to affiliation reflects the sources of all income and the nature of all expenses.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a written agreement between the elder/leader and the church that includes a position description and compensation level, and that has been signed by the elder/leader and Church Administration of CGM where applicable. International areas will require consideration of number of members, and/or congregations served, as well as what income is sustainable for the overseer, as countries outside of the U.S. generally require less for the same living standard as the U.S. • Compensation actually paid to the elder/leader for at least the six months prior to affiliation meets or exceeds the compensation amount that is reflected in the agreement between the person and the Church.
6- Achieve incorporation/registration status, as applicable by national and/or local law.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This criteria does not apply to emerging churches located in countries where incorporation or registration of churches would not be granted to a CGM church or where an attempt to incorporate or register the church with the government could put the members of the church at risk of personal injury or harm.
7- Governance structure that assures accountability to the congregation and to the CGM Bylaws.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church has an administrative body (Board of Directors, Church Committee, etc.) that is elected by and reports to the Members of the church. • The church Bylaws (where applicable) and any other internal governance documents have been approved by CGM. • The church conducts an official decision-making meeting of the Members at least once a year.
8- Submission of an annual report to CGM.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An emerging church desiring affiliation has submitted the Annual Report Form for at least the year prior to affiliation. • An affiliated church submits the Biannual Report Form each year after affiliation.
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church follows sound and fiscally responsible procedures for receiving, reserving, disbursing, and reporting on its money. • The church follows appropriate procedures to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children who participate in church-sponsored activities. • The church has adopted policies and procedures that address such matters as sexual harassment and sexual abuse, verbal abuse, discrimination and exclusion, conflict management, etc. • The church usually gathers in spaces that are structurally sound and meet the local building code, whether it be in a member's home or a building. • The church has a written procedure to be followed by the local administrative body when considering allegations of disloyalty, unbecoming conduct, or dereliction of duty by a church Member or Lay Delegate.

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T. S. Hoefker, President, Senior Pastor
tshoefker@cogministries.org

EUROPE PROTOCOL FOR AFFILIATION

1-Demonstration of willingness to ascribe to the CGM core values, vision, and mission.
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2- Demonstration of willingness to embrace CGM Bylaws as an association relationship.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church's membership classes and/or workshops teach about the relationship between the local church and MCC and about the ways that decisions are made within the local church and by CGM. • The church has submitted the monthly Attendance & Assessment Report form for at least the preceding six months prior to affiliation. • In those countries where CGM has a bank account, the church has paid its 10% tithe to CGM for at least the preceding six months prior to affiliation. Their bank statements should be submitted to CGM on a monthly (or in some cases at least a quarterly) basis. • In those countries where CGM does not have a bank account, the church's financial report reflects that the 10% tithe to CGM for at least the preceding six months prior to affiliation has been placed in a designated account and not used for local church expenses.
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> g. Meeting all other criteria, and h. Demonstrating a process of outreach and growth appropriate to the unique demographic and cultural context of the area where the church would be located, as determined in consultation with CGM.
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The financial report for the six months prior to affiliation reflects the sources of all income and the nature of all expenses.

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6- Achieve incorporation/registration status, as applicable by national and/or local law.
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church has submitted the approved Bylaws and/or other internal governance documents to CGM, following adoption by the Members of the church.
10- Maintain minimum standards for risk management, as established by CGM.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church follows sound and fiscally responsible procedures for receiving, reserving, disbursing, and reporting on its money. • The church follows appropriate procedures to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children who participate in church-sponsored activities. • The church has adopted policies and procedures that address such matters as sexual harassment and sexual abuse, verbal abuse, discrimination and exclusion, conflict management, etc. • The church usually gathers in spaces that are structurally sound and meet the local building code, whether it be in a member's home or a building. • The church has a written procedure to be followed by the local administrative body when considering allegations of disloyalty, unbecoming conduct, or dereliction of duty by a church Member or Lay Delegate.

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T. S. Hoefker, President, Senior Pastor
tshoefker@cogministries.org

LATIN AMERICA/CARIBBEAN PROTOCOL FOR AFFILIATION

1-Demonstration of willingness to ascribe to the CGM core values, vision, and mission.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church's membership classes and/or workshops teach about CGM core values, vision, and mission. • Every aspect of the church's ministry both inside and outside of the church is compatible with and reflects the CGM core values, vision, and mission based on God's Word.
2- Demonstration of willingness to embrace CGM Bylaws as an association relationship.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church's membership classes and/or workshops teach about the relationship between the local church and MCC and about the ways that decisions are made within the local church and by CGM. • The church has submitted the monthly Attendance & Assessment Report form for at least the preceding six months prior to affiliation. • In those countries where CGM has a bank account, the church has paid its 10% tithe to CGM for at least the preceding six months prior to affiliation. Their bank statements should be submitted to CGM on a monthly (or in some cases at least a quarterly) basis. • In those countries where CGM does not have a bank account, the church's financial report reflects that the 10% tithe to CGM for at least the preceding six months prior to affiliation has been placed in a designated account and not used for local church expenses.
3- Leadership that meets the standards established by the CGM Bylaws.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The elder/leader has been authorized by CGM. • The elder/leader has participated in at least one relevant learning activity during the year prior to affiliation. • If CGM clergy, the ministerial leader maintains a license to serve in this capacity. • If ordained by another denomination, CGM has approved the elder/leader's request to serve in this capacity. • If laity, the leader has successfully completed the CGM Mentorship Program or is meeting such through further training the requirements to do so. • The elder/leader has signed the CGM Code of Conduct. • The elder/leader has signed the MCC Code of Conduct.
4- Sustain a sufficient average worship attendance to make the church viable in:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Meeting all other criteria, and j. Demonstrating a process of outreach and growth appropriate to the unique demographic and cultural context of the area where the church would be located, as determined in consultation with CGM.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church has maintained an average worship attendance of at least 10 or more people during the six months prior to affiliation. • The average worship attendance trend shows a stable level of attendance during the 12 months prior to affiliation. • The average monthly income has met regular expenses for the six months prior to affiliation.
5- Be able (Where applicable) to compensate a leader, consistent with equitable local standards.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The financial report for the six months prior to affiliation reflects the sources of all income and the nature of all expenses.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a written agreement between the elder/leader and the church that includes a position description and compensation level, and that has been signed by the elder/leader and Church Administration of CGM where applicable. International areas will require consideration of number of members, and/or congregations served, as well as what income is sustainable for the overseer, as countries outside of the U.S. generally require less for the same living standard as the U.S. • Compensation actually paid to the elder/leader for at least the six months prior to affiliation meets or exceeds the compensation amount that is reflected in the agreement between the person and the Church.
6- Achieve incorporation/registration status, as applicable by national and/or local law.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This criteria does not apply to emerging churches located in countries where incorporation or registration of churches would not be granted to a CGM church or where an attempt to incorporate or register the church with the government could put the members of the church at risk of personal injury or harm.
7- Governance structure that assures accountability to the congregation and to the CGM Bylaws.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church has an administrative body (Board of Directors, Church Committee, etc.) that is elected by and reports to the Members of the church. • The church Bylaws (where applicable) and any other internal governance documents have been approved by CGM. • The church conducts an official decision-making meeting of the Members at least once a year.
8- Submission of an annual report to CGM.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An emerging church desiring affiliation has submitted the Annual Report Form for at least the year prior to affiliation. • An affiliated church submits the Biannual Report Form each year after affiliation.
9- Submission of local church Bylaws/Standard Operating Procedures to the CGM, following their approval by the Office of Emerging Ministries.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church has submitted the approved Bylaws and/or other internal governance documents to CGM, following adoption by the Members of the church.
10- Maintain minimum standards for risk management, as established by CGM.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church follows sound and fiscally responsible procedures for receiving, reserving, disbursing, and reporting on its money. • The church follows appropriate procedures to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children who participate in church-sponsored activities. • The church has adopted policies and procedures that address such matters as sexual harassment and sexual abuse, verbal abuse, discrimination and exclusion, conflict management, etc. • The church usually gathers in spaces that are structurally sound and meet the local building code, whether it be in a member's home or a building. • The church has a written procedure to be followed by the local administrative body when considering allegations of disloyalty, unbecoming conduct, or dereliction of duty by a church Member or Lay Delegate.

Affiliation – For affiliation, the Emerging Church should provide CGM Church Administration with written evidence that necessary criteria has been met. The information should be submitted to:

T. S. Hoefker, President, Senior Pastor
tshoefker@cogministries.org

UNITED STATES PROTOCOL FOR AFFILIATION

1-Demonstration of willingness to ascribe to the CGM core values, vision, and mission. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church's membership classes and/or workshops teach about CGM core values, vision, and mission. • Every aspect of the church's ministry both inside and outside of the church is compatible with and reflects the CGM core values, vision, and mission based on God's Word.
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4- Sustain a sufficient average worship attendance to make the church viable in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> k. Meeting all other criteria, and l. Demonstrating a process of outreach and growth appropriate to the unique demographic and cultural context of the area where the church would be located, as determined in consultation with CGM. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The church has maintained an average worship attendance of 10 or more people during the six months prior to affiliation. • The average worship attendance trend shows a stable level of attendance during the 12 months prior to affiliation. • The average monthly income has met regular expenses for the six months prior to affiliation.
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