



**Free Methodist Church USA
39th General Conference
RESOLUTION**

INSTRUCTIONS:

Complete requested information, adding additional pages as necessary. Save and e-mail completed form to your Annual Conference office.

INTRODUCED BY: _____

ANNUAL CONFERENCE NAME:
Southern California

WRITTEN BY: Wendy Seyfert

General Conference Secretary - OFFICE USE ONLY

Resolution No. 309

Received Date: 12/30/2022

Resolution Committee Grade: _____

BOA Consideration: _____

GC Consideration: _____

RELATED TO PARAGRAPH: 3402

Referred to Ministry Team Number:

SUBJECT OR TITLE: Diversity of Leadership in the Church and Staff

Final Vote: Yes No

WHEREAS:

I Corinthians 12:12-14 reminds us that “Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ... Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many.” And WHEREAS we know that when we come together before God that there will be a “...great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language... (Revelation 7:9-10) And WHEREAS God’s work is often performed by various leaders within committees and boards and staff positions. And WHEREAS Free Methodism is founded on principles of equality and representation. And WHEREAS a diverse workplace or diversity in board and committee representation will not only create better decision making but also ensures social justice.

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED:

That a Human Resource department of the Free Methodist Church of North America maintains statistics of diversity (age, gender, race, ability) gathered from Annual Conferences and for hired positions within the FMCUSA and that these statistics are reviewed by the national BOA no less often than annually and published.

Proposed revised paragraph 3402:

Leadership in the church is an honor that has accompanying responsibilities and sacrifices. The Scriptures describe the qualities of leaders in such passages as: Exodus 18:21, Acts 6:3, I Timothy 3:1-13, Titus 1:5-9. *Scripture also reminds us that the variety of people and giftings is critical as well as representation from many people groups (I Corinthians 12:12-14, Revelation 7:9-10).* Those who are chosen to lead in the church do so in a spirit of humility and dependence upon God. They must be spiritually mature individuals whose lifestyle shall be in harmony with the Scriptures, the doctrine of the Free Methodist Church (§100-131), the principles of the Membership Covenant (§154-160), which are the goals of our maturing life in Christ, and of the selection of leaders (§6200.E). *To ensure proper representation within all positions within a society, regional conference, and nationally the corresponding Nominating Committees should strive to maintain a diverse slate of candidates from all races, ages, cultures, abilities, and genders. To measure progress in this area, each annual conference and nationally-elected positions will report annually on diversity statistics (age, gender, race, ability) for review and publication annually to all ministries and annual conferences by the national Board of Administration.*

Annual Conference Resolutions Committee Worksheet:

Mission: To love God, love people and make disciples.

Vision: To bring wholeness to the world through healthy biblical communities of holy people multiplying disciples, leaders, groups and churches.

1. Does the resolution have a direct relationship to the vision and mission of the Free Methodist Church?

Yes

No

2. How will the proposed change help us accomplish our vision and mission?

3. The Resolutions Committee rates this resolution as:

(A) Support - recommend adoption

(B) Recommended - worthy of review

(C) Rejected - anticipate General Conference rejection

Other Comments: