



**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: Christine Coates, Rev. Tyler Boyer

ANNUAL CONFERENCE NAME: Gateway

WRITTEN BY: Christine Coates, Rev. Tyler Boyer

General Conference Secretary - OFFICE USE ONLY

Resolution No. 402

Received Date: 11/30/2022

Resolution Committee Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

BOA Consideration: \_\_\_\_\_

GC Consideration: \_\_\_\_\_

RELATED TO PARAGRAPH 4060, 4320

Referred to Ministry Team Number:

SUBJECT OR TITLE: General Conference Location

Final Vote:                      Yes                      No

WHEREAS:

Whereas: In consideration of the following excerpts from the 2019 Book of Discipline of the Free Methodist Church—USA :

**Purpose and Character of the Free Methodist Church.**

**Historical Heritage and Perspective.**

(pg 4) ...outspoken action against the institution of slavery and class distinction inherent in the rental of pews demonstrated the spirit of true Methodism ... Although issues change, the sensitive social conscience remains...

**The Needs of Persons.**

(pg 5) ... Free Methodists are committed to the task of understanding the most important needs of persons, institutions and varying cultures so that it may minister meaningfully and redemptively to them.

**Distinctive Principles.**

(pg 6) They practice a complete consecration of every power and possession to the service of God and all people everywhere. They believe so strongly in the mission of the church that they are committed to responsible stewardship in finance.

**Distinctive Principles.**

(pg 7) Free Methodists are committed to the New Testament ideals of simplicity and modesty as a style of life. They wish to call attention, not to themselves, but to their Lord.

Whereas: The long-running and normative pattern has been to hold General Conference near Free Methodist facilities with only five exceptions, those being Anderson, IN, in 1995 and 1999, and Orlando, FL, in 2015, 2019, and 2023.

Whereas: According to Statistical Summaries of the FMCUSA as of 12/31/2021, **2021 Yearbook** (2020 census), the total FMCUSA membership, lay and ordained, is 66,993 members, and the lay and ordained members of the Southeast Region is only 4,487 members, distributed across 40 societies and five states, and constitutes only 6.7% of the total membership.

Whereas: Quadrennial travel to the Southeast Region (notably central Florida) represents significant distance for more than 90% of participants. That distance, combined with location at the site of extravagant entertainment, expensive lodging and challenging meal supply, may also require costly transportation for many.

Whereas: Bishop Keith Cowart, in his introduction to **The Free Methodist Way**, states, “the five core values of The Free Methodist Way are intended to create the parameters within which we celebrate the rich diversity of our multicultural, multiracial, multigenerational and multiethnic tribe.” (*Values and Culture*, pg 11) He later states in the section *Cross-Cultural Collaboration* (pg 12), “In the U.S., we cling to the promise that we have been made one in Christ even as we dedicate ourselves to becoming a more diverse church that looks like the kingdom of God.”

Both statements suggest a value-placement on recognizing diversity that should be seen and experienced by leaders of the Free Methodist tribe during their attendance of General Conferences hosted by cities, states or regions located near various Free Methodist works.

Whereas: The United States has been divided into three separate regions, each represented by one of our bishops.

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED:

Be it therefore resolved:

That the following changes and additions to P4060 C. and P4320 L. shall be made (as highlighted in italic and underline:

P4060 C. The determination of the location for the subsequent general conference shall be considered prior to final adjournment of a regular general conference session, with careful consideration given to *an equitable exposure to the various regions represented by FMCUSA bishops. Free Methodist facilities. An alternating quadrennial shift from one region to another should be attempted to provide geographic proximity to a variety of Free Methodist works, travel efficiency for attendees and financial affordability for participants.*

P4320 L. The Board of Administration shall have the power to establish the time and place for the meeting of the General Conference. It shall make appropriate arrangements for the General Conference *keeping the following criteria foremost: variety in region, geographic proximity to Free Methodist works, travel efficiency and financial affordability as outlined in P4060 C.*

## **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: