

Whereas:

The mission of the Free Methodist Church is “*to ignite a Spirit-fueled movement for the catalyzation of leaders and churches*”, and

Whereas:

The current complement of three Bishops provide oversight for not only the Free Methodist conferences in the USA, but also outreach conferences in 32 other countries worldwide, and

Whereas:

To serve this worldwide responsibility, current Bishops are required to travel extensively, and are stretched to capacity, and

Whereas:

Bishops for the Free Methodist Church USA serve a racially diverse church in the USA and around the world, and

Whereas:

The Free Methodist Church USA only recently elected its first female bishop and further movement towards greater diversity would be beneficial, and

Whereas:

The Board of Bishops for the Free Methodist Church USA presently and historically has lacked racial diversity, and

Whereas:

It is appropriate and desirable for the Board of Bishops to reflect the racial diversity for the conferences it serves, therefore

Be it resolved:

That the Free Methodist Church USA 2023 General Conference shall elect four bishops, and

Be it further resolved:

That Bishop Search Committee make every effort to present nominees for bishop that includes persons of color reflecting the racial diversity of the Free Methodist Church USA.

