



**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: North Central Conference

WRITTEN BY: Rev. Gregory Marsh

General Conference Secretary - OFFICE USE ONLY

Resolution No. 405

Received Date: 12/17/2022

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

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

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

RELATED TO PARAGRAPH 4840 Educational Funds

Referred to Ministry Team Number:

SUBJECT OR TITLE: Funding Undergraduate and Graduate Education for Ministerial Candidates.

Final Vote:                      Yes                      No

WHEREAS:

Whereas throughout the United States there are more and more pastors leaving the ministry due to a variety of issues such as aging, stress and finances.

Whereas the Free Methodist Church USA is also seeing a number of ministers leaving the ministry, which leaves many churches without a pastor.

Whereas the vast majority of Free Methodist Churches are small and often times can only offer a potential pastor a bi-vocational support package, thereby limiting the number of potential candidates for that opening.

Whereas there are those who sense a call to pastoral ministry, but who are faced with answering the call knowing that getting undergraduate and graduate education will leave them with an often time heavy burden of debt to pay off, making it extremely burdensome for them to try and pastor a church and take care of the needs of their family.

Whereas we in the Free Methodist Church believe that pastors need to be theologically trained and equipped to face the demands of the current culture.

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED:

That paragraph 4840 of the Book of Discipline be amended to include that an educational endowment fund be established that will fully fund a number of pastoral ministry candidates as set by the Board of Administration through both the undergraduate and graduate education process. Candidates must be fully vetted before being accepted and must agree to accept an appointment and serve as a pastor in a Free Methodist Church for a least a minimum of the number of years of education they received. The Board of Administration and the Board of Bishops will work with the Free Methodist Institutions of Higher Education to find the necessary means for providing full ride scholarships for these candidates.

## **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: