



**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: Pacific Northwest Conference

ANNUAL CONFERENCE NAME: _____
Pacific Northwest Conference

WRITTEN BY:
Melissa Knight, Lu Chau, Charles Waiyaki

General Conference Secretary - OFFICE USE ONLY

Resolution No. 413

Received Date: 12/16/22

Resolution Committee Grade: _____

BOA Consideration: _____

GC Consideration: _____

RELATED TO PARAGRAPH: 4100, 4110.A, 4120, 4200

Referred to Ministry Team Number:

SUBJECT OR TITLE: Bishop Roles and Responsibilities

Final Vote: Yes No

WHEREAS:

The Free Methodist Church within the United States shows continual decline instead of growth;

The culture within the US is rapidly changing and needs the leadership of the Free Methodist Church to understand and identify the ever-changing needs in order to fulfill the Church's mission and clearly communicate the gospel;

The role of Bishop in the US oversees Annual Conferences not only in the US but throughout the entire world, requiring numerous days per year of travel outside the country;

The Board of Bishops determines their own assignments and duties within the Board;

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the appointed Lead Bishop will be charged with leading the Board of Bishops and will select a Bishop (either themselves or another) to focus primarily on the church in the United States, while the remaining Bishops will take on the oversight of annual conferences outside of the United States.

May it be further resolved that the appointed Bishop overseeing the FM churches in the US be charged with the oversight to inspire, instruct, encourage and engage the youth of the church in an attempt to build elders from within and assure continuity of the denomination.

May it be further resolved that the following be edited in the Book of Discipline to reflect the above statements:

¶4110

- A. The General Conference shall elect by ballot two or more ~~traveling~~ elders as bishops to serve as the pastoral overseers of various areas of the denomination who shall constitute the Board of Bishops. These are to be persons who exhibit exemplary character and leadership qualities, and who embody deep commitment to the mission, doctrine and theology of the Free Methodist Church. The term of office of bishops shall begin 90 days after the close of the General Conference at which they are elected. They shall remain in office for four years or until the 90 days following the subsequent General Conference and, unless the General Conference decides upon a lesser number of bishops, until others shall be elected in their places.

May it be further resolved that the following be added to the Book of Discipline to reflect the above statements:

¶4120 The Role of a Bishop

D. Regarding Roles and Responsibilities

One Bishop shall be primarily tasked to overseeing the growth and development of the Free Methodist churches within the United States. Their travel days outside the US should be limited, and responsibility for provisional or annual conferences outside the US should be minimal. This bishop is also charged specifically with the oversight to inspire, instruct, encourage and engage the youth of the church in the US in an attempt to build elders from within and assure continuity of the denomination.

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:

