



**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: Rev. Dr. Mindi Cromwell, Rev. Dr. Doug Cullum, Rev. Dr. Brian Lugioyo, Rev. Dr. Ben Wayman, Rev. Dr. Karen Winslow, Rev. Dr. Howard Snyder, Rev. Dr. Elisée Ouoba

ANNUAL CONFERENCE NAME:

Resolution supported by the Pacific Northwest Conference

WRITTEN BY:

Rev. Dr. Mindi Cromwell
Rev. Dr. Doug Cullum
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Rev. Dr. Ben Wayman
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General Conference Secretary - OFFICE USE ONLY

Resolution No. 415

Received Date: 12/22/2022

Resolution Committee Grade: _____

BOA Consideration: _____

GC Consideration: _____

RELATED TO PARAGRAPH **Addition of section between ¶4850+ and ¶4860+**

Referred to Ministry Team Number:

SUBJECT OR TITLE: **COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION RESOLUTION:**
Strengthening Denominational Connection to our Free Methodist Educational Institutions through a Commission on Higher Education.

Final Vote: Yes No

WHEREAS:

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In the late 90's the FM Church disbanded the "Division of Educational Institutions" with the "Commission on Higher Education." This move left many aspects of the connection between the schools and the denomination without support.

WHEREAS:

The single denominational point of connection between the Association of Free Methodist Educational Institutions (AFMEI) currently resides with the Board of Bishops, who meet annually with the Presidents and the Board of Trustee Chairs.

WHEREAS:

There is no official forum for FM theologians, ordained clergy, and FM laity who serve on behalf of our institutions to help support the connection of our AFMEI schools to the denomination.

WHEREAS:

Discussion between the Board of Bishops around AFMEI policies has no avenue for larger denominational conversation, especially with elders and FM members who serve in these institutions or conferences.

WHEREAS:

AFMEI presidents' purview consists of the overall flourishing of the university/college.

WHEREAS:

The elders and FM laity within the schools/departments of theology are particularly oriented toward the Free Methodist Church, are able to address the broader connection, and thus through their membership or ordination in the church are charged to care for all FM institutions.

WHEREAS:

The Commission on Higher Education will foster a stronger understanding of the importance of Higher Education for our denominational mission, through facilitating, encouraging, and providing guidance in the relationship between the denomination and our affiliated schools.

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED:

That a "Commission on Higher Education" be created to facilitate, encourage, and provide guidance in the relationship between the denomination and our affiliated schools.

Therefore, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

- This language will be included after ¶4850+ and before ¶4860+.
 - The Commission on Higher Education facilitates, encourages, and provides guidance in the relationship between the denomination and our affiliated schools.
 - The denomination sponsors the Commission on Higher Education to:
 - Promote an understanding of the nature and character of a Free Methodist University.
 - Provide assistance and guidance to the Board of Bishops, Center for Pastoral Formation, and the AFMEI presidents and chairs, on behalf of the church.
 - Encourage a closer relationship between our schools and our local churches.
 - Foster collaboration between faculty and administration among the Free Methodist Educational Institutions, as well as fostering collaboration between Free Methodist Seminaries so as to create a stronger sense of Free Methodist Identity.
 - Serve as a resource to institutions as they navigate their various accreditation and regulatory processes by providing guidelines that articulate the covenantal and theological relationship with the Free Methodist Church USA.

- The Commission on Higher Education shall consist of the following ten persons. This commission shall include:
 - One FM representative from each AFMEI partner (6)
 - All commission members shall be elders or members of the Free Methodist church
 - Of these six one should be a president
 - The Director of the Center for Pastoral Formation (1)
 - Two members from the BOA (2)
 - The Bishop who is charged with overseeing the AFMEI (1)
- The Commission shall meet at least annually or as needed at the call of the chair or request of the BOA.

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?

With over 150 cumulative years of service as elders and theologians in our FM universities, we believe that a reconstituted Commission on Higher Education, in this form, will strengthen the church's mission to young adults and the world by supporting the connection to our university partners. This commission will enhance our partnership with AFMEI schools, which offers the church a distinct space where the FM vision of multiplying disciples and leaders can live and flourish amongst a diverse population of staff, faculty, and students.

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: