



**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: General Conference delegates from The River Conference.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE NAME: The River Conference

WRITTEN BY: Superintendent Michael Traylor

General Conference Secretary - OFFICE USE ONLY

Resolution No. 417

Received Date: 12/30/2022

Resolution Committee Grade: _____

BOA Consideration: _____

GC Consideration: _____

RELATED TO PARAGRAPH: 4110, 4230

Referred to Ministry Team Number:

SUBJECT OR TITLE: Expansion of the Board of Bishops by the BOA one year prior to a scheduled General Conference.

Final Vote: Yes No

WHEREAS:

The book of discipline states regarding the size of the board of Bishops:

The Nomination and Election of Bishops

¶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 be four years and shall begin 90 days after the close of the General Conference at which they are elected. **The number of bishops to be elected will be established by General Conference action and remains in effect until changed by a subsequent General Conference action.***

¶4110 B. *The nomination and election process shall be as follows:*

1. Call to Prayer: During the year prior to General Conference, the Board of Bishops and the Board of Administration shall call the Church to prayer, specifically focused on the election of bishops.

2. Search Committee: A Search Committee will be formed by the FMCUSA Board of Administration each quadrennium to prayerfully seek out qualified candidates and receive nominations from annual conferences. Members of the Search Committee must be spiritually mature. Some of them must also have experience in developing or searching for candidates of significant positions of leadership. The Search Committee must include at least one lay and one clergy member from the Board of Administration. Consideration shall be given to ethnic, gender, cultural and geographical representation across the breadth of the FMCUSA.

3. Candidate Qualifications: The nominees should have fruitful leadership experience related to the spiritual life and leadership responsibilities noted in Par. 4100 and 4120. Ethnic, gender, cultural and geographical considerations shall be given due attention in selecting nominees for bishop. Potential candidates must grant their permission to proceed through the nomination process. Nominations from annual conferences to the Search Committee must be accompanied by supporting rationale on a form designed and provided by the Search Committee. Sitting bishops, having already been previously qualified, who are willing to continue to serve, will be placed on the ballot with the other nominees.

4. Procedures: The refined list of nominees, with supporting rationale, will be forwarded to the Board of Administration of the FMCUSA. The Board of Administration may ask the Search Committee to consider (an) additional nominee(s). The total number of nominees for bishops forwarded to the Board of Administration will exceed by at least two the number of bishops currently serving. The General Conference secretary shall compile the nominee information in standardized format and distribute it, by paper or electronic means, to all delegates no later than thirty days prior to the opening of General Conference. The ballots for election of bishops shall consist of the names of these nominees and the incumbent bishops who are willing to continue to serve.

And:

¶4320+ A. *The Board of Administration shall be responsible for policy, procedural, financial, and legal issues during the interim between General Conference sessions.*

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED:

In order to allow an orderly and time-sensitive consideration of the expansion of the Board of Bishops, the general conference BOA is authorized, on behalf of the most recent general conference to expand the Board of Bishops via two thirds vote of its body, one year prior to the scheduled General Conference in order to allow the Bishop's search committee time to prepare and provide the appropriate number of candidates. This provision does not allow for a reduction in the board of bishops by the BOA, nor does it super-cede the seated General Conference's ability to increase or reduce the BOB while in session.

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: