



**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: Matthew Thomas

ANNUAL CONFERENCE NAME: Board of Bishops

WRITTEN BY: Matthew Thomas, Bishop Emeritus

On behalf of the Board of Bishops

General Conference Secretary - OFFICE USE ONLY

Resolution No. 501

Received Date: 10/27/2022

Resolution Committee Grade: _____

BOA Consideration: _____

GC Consideration: _____

RELATED TO PARAGRAPH: 5110 A., B. and C.

Referred to Ministry Team Number:

SUBJECT OR TITLE: Superintendent Nominations

Final Vote: Yes No

WHEREAS:

Confusing language exists conflating Superintendent Nominating Committee, Superintendent Selection Committee and Conference Nominating Committee when in actuality, the first two are one and the same using different names and the Conference Nominating Committee is responsible to nominate other conference officers;
And whereas, consistency of the process is not maintained throughout in the current superintendent nomination process;
And, whereas the role of the bishop(s) in the nomination process is unclear or inconsistently applied;
And, whereas no provision is made for the common practice of adjourned sitting and electronic ballot voting prior to the Annual Conference when the superintendent assumes responsibility;
And, whereas, the process for dealing with a failed election is unclear and could result in the removal of a deliberate nomination process;
And, whereas, there is currently no provision providing for a superintendent election when extenuating circumstances prevent the bishop of record being present at the annual conference when a superintendent is elected;

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED:

That paragraph 5110 A. B. and C. read as follows:

Superintendent

¶5110

A. Nomination

1. ~~When a superintendent is needed for an annual conference, that~~ **No later than the calendar year prior to the election of a superintendent, the annual** conference shall designate the Ministerial Education and Guidance Board (MEG Board) or a special committee of not less than six plus the bishop of record as chair to serve as the Superintendent ~~Selection~~ **Nominating** Committee. The incumbent superintendent shall not serve on the ~~Superintendent Selection~~ **Nominating** Committee (SNC).
 - a. The Superintendent ~~Selection~~ **Nominating** Committee shall determine the qualifications desired in a superintendent **in accord with the role of superintendent as described in ¶5120, the mission/vision of the General Conference and need of the annual conference.**
 - b. The Superintendent ~~Selection~~ **Nominating** Committee shall develop a list of candidates to be interviewed. The Board of Bishops may add ~~any name(s)~~ **candidates** to that list and may veto any potential candidate on the list without comment or prejudice.
 - c. The Superintendent ~~Selection~~ **Nominating** Committee will be responsible to interview candidates ~~presented by the Nominating Committee~~ **they deem suitable for the superintendency and those presented by the Board of Bishops, then** recommending the superintendent **nominee** to the Annual Conference **for election by ballot either at the Annual Conference or by electronic ballot or at an adjourned sitting within six months of the Annual Conference when the new term commences. The time and method of ballot voting will be determined by the bishop of record in consultation with the Board of Administration of the Annual Conference.**
 - d. If the Superintendent Nominating Committee chooses to renominate the sitting superintendent who is willing to continue serving, the SNC may limit their interview process to include only him/her. The Board of Bishops may add or veto candidates as noted in A.1.b.
 2. A prospective superintendent shall:
 - a. Have demonstrated at least five years of productive leadership in the Church.
 - b. Have a favorable result from a job-related professional evaluation.
 - c. Articulate a vision for the conference for review and approval by the bishop of record and the Superintendent ~~Selection~~ **Nominating** Committee.
 - d. Commit to fully participate in the Superintendents' ~~Leadership Development Process~~ **leadership development process as determined by the Board of Bishops.**
 - e. Commit to attend and participate in **superintendent training events, regional, national and international leadership events and the Global Overseers Team Meetings as required by the Board of Bishops**
 3. ~~Should the nominating process fail, a new nominating process shall begin to bring another nominee~~ **fail to be elected by majority vote of the annual conference, to the conference for ballot vote either at an adjourned sitting or by electronic means, as determined by the Board of Administration in consultation with the Bishop of record the bishop of record will reassemble the Superintendent Nominating Committee to interview candidates as described in 5110 A. 1. a, b and c and present a new nominee to be elected by ballot either at an adjourned sitting of Annual Conference or electronically as determined by the bishop of record in consultation with the Conference Board of Administration.**
- C. Special Circumstances:
1. If a vacancy should occur in the office of the superintendent between conferences, the bishop of record in consultation with the

Conference MEG shall appoint an interim Superintendent until the next annual conference session.

2. The ~~conference~~ **bishop of record** may instruct a superintendent to work under the general direction of **the bishop of record, his/her designee or** an advisory committee, provided ~~that~~ there is no infringement of the disciplinary powers of the superintendent.

3. Recall of a superintendent shall be by a two-thirds ballot vote by any succeeding annual conference.

4. Should the bishop of record not be available to chair an overseas conference for the vote of a superintendent, the ~~Superintendent Selection Committee shall delay their recommendation until the arrival of the bishop~~ **the bishop of record may assign the Area Director or other designee to conduct the election.** ~~or bishop designate. Upon their arrival a recommendation for the new superintendent would be presented to the annual conference for a vote~~

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- A healthy process in nominating our leaders is seminal to accomplishing our vision and mission fidelity.

2. How will the proposed change help us accomplish our vision and mission? *It clarifies the nomination process, making our elected leaders and the annual conference confidence in their election more certain and deliberate while engaging the whole conference and bishops in a clarified process.*

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: