



**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: Ben Tolly, Bruce Cromwell, David Harvey

ANNUAL CONFERENCE NAME: Gateway Conference

WRITTEN BY: Ben Tolly, Bruce Cromwell, David Harvey

General Conference Secretary - OFFICE USE ONLY

Resolution No. 503

Received Date: 11/30/2022

Resolution Committee Grade: _____

BOA Consideration: _____

GC Consideration: _____

RELATED TO PARAGRAPH P5400.A.

Referred to Ministry Team Number:

SUBJECT OR TITLE: Voting Rights of Retired Elders

Final Vote: Yes No

WHEREAS:

The retired Elder is a member of the Annual Conference. P5400.A.

The Annual Conference is legally responsible for all Elders holding credentials.

The retired Elder has a wealth of ministry experience and gifting available to the local church.

At present there is no direction for the stewardship of retired Elders in the Book of Discipline.

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED:

"Whenever a Ministerial Education and Guidance Board, in its annual review of pastors, determines that a retired Elder has no involvement in the Free Methodist Church for two consecutive years, the retired elder forfeits the right to vote at the annual conference. This shall not pertain to the enactment of P. 5220.M by the Ministerial Education and Guidance Board.

This shall not pertain to retired Elders who have notified the Ministerial Education and Guidance Board that they are serving a church outside the Denomination and the Ministerial Education and Guidance Board has approved of such service. This shall not pertain to elders in extenuating circumstances (i.e. health of the elder, or lack of a FM church nearby.) The Ministerial Education and Guidance Board shall have the sole prerogative on such matters and the restoration of voting privileges."

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: