



**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: David Harvey, Al Sones, Chris Pulice

ANNUAL CONFERENCE NAME: _____
Acts 12:24 Churches

WRITTEN BY: David Harvey, Al Sones

General Conference Secretary - OFFICE USE ONLY

Resolution No. 603

Received Date: 12/28/2022

Resolution Committee Grade: _____

BOA Consideration: _____

GC Consideration: _____

RELATED TO PARAGRAPH 6800

Referred to Ministry Team Number:

SUBJECT OR TITLE:

Subject: Church Planting

Title: Freeing Kingdom workers to work wherever God sends them

Final Vote: Yes No

WHEREAS: It is the desire of God to expand His Church by planting tens of thousands of new churches across the US and around the world,

Whereas God is calling and sending individuals to plant churches in “every town and village he is about to go” (Luke 10),

Whereas the church planting process outlined in the Book of Discipline which has been our path for about forty years has not proven to be particularly effective in adding new churches and is, at times, cumbersome,

Whereas the Church has always spread along relational lines with churches “sending out” workers into new harvest fields,

Whereas we live in a highly mobile society with the average family moving to a new location once every five years,

Whereas because the spread of the Church today is more organic than the structural process laid out in Paragraph 6800, the primary oversight and connection of church planters is often connected to their sending church,

Whereas the geographically defined conference boundaries which have served us well in the past are becoming increasingly irrelevant in a highly mobile society because they cannot accommodate the organic, relational spread of Jesus’ Church,

Whereas the process laid out in the Book of Discipline for planting a church can constrain church planting because it is based on a structural/organizational model rather than an organic model,

Whereas many churches are being planted today in an organic model which cannot be stopped because of how the Holy Spirit is at work in the world,

And whereas we cannot stop these organically planted churches from being planted, we can only stop these churches from being Free Methodist churches by requiring unworkable artificial connectedness that seeks to impose oversight from strangers and belonging where there is no relationship,

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED: that we add the following the Book of Discipline as Paragraph 6800 E:

As the Church spreads along relational lines, there will be times when a new church plant may be birthed through a relationship with a church or a conference in a different geographical region. When this is the case the church plant may receive oversight from, and belong to, the conference to which they are relationally connected. The new church must still follow the path laid out in the BOD to become a Free Methodist Society. The originating conference will inform and maintain conversation with the regional conference in which the church is located. As the church matures the originating conference may work with the church and the regional conference to build relationships that may lead to transferring the church to the regional conference at the discretion of the superintendents and the BOA of both conferences. Both the originating conference and the new church plant will be intentional about creating collegial relationships with other Free Methodists in the regional conference.

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

1. How will the proposed change help us accomplish our vision and mission?

This proposal supports the mission, vision and values of the Free Methodist Church. Specifically, it strengthens the Free Methodist commitment to make disciples in the context of holy Biblical community that is marked by obedience to Jesus' call to send individuals to plant churches in "every town and village he is about to go" (Luke 10). In addition, this facilitates the work of ministry to spread along relational lines with churches "sending out" workers into new harvest fields. The proposed change would allow for increased flexibility and latitude to create a culture for Kingdom expansion ministry opportunities.

2. The Resolutions Committee rates this resolution as:

(A) Support - recommend adoption

(B) Recommended - worthy of review

(C) Rejected - anticipate General Conference rejection

Other Comments: