



**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: Al Sones/David Harvey/Chris Pulice

ANNUAL CONFERENCE NAME: _____
Acts 12:24 Churches

WRITTEN BY: Al Sones/David Harvey

General Conference Secretary - OFFICE USE ONLY

Resolution No. 604

Received Date: 12/28/2022

Resolution Committee Grade: _____

BOA Consideration: _____

GC Consideration: _____

RELATED TO PARAGRAPH – Proposed New Paragraph 6860

Referred to Ministry Team Number:

SUBJECT OR TITLE:

Subject: New Groups that Multiply

Title: New Wine and New Wineskins

Final Vote: Yes No

WHEREAS: Paragraph 6850 creates a permission and process to form “New Societies on Conference Boundary”; and,

Whereas, organizational structures are necessary to keep order in the church but need to be balanced by permission-giving for organic growth which creates innovation and advancement at the front lines of Kingdom expansion; and,

Whereas, rapid multiplication movements are messy arenas of biblically-shaped, contextualized strategies that create new momentum for discipleship and group formation that often do not fit into existing institutional definitions, categories and structure; and,

Whereas, the ambiguity of new forms produced by front-line innovation is not evidence of unhealth in the organization, but rather a necessary artifact of rapid, creative forward-moving Kingdom expansion; and,

Whereas, institutional needs such as statistical reporting, allocation of oversight, and calculation of EPP are necessary for the organization to survive, but should not be used to impede growth at the front lines where flexibility and innovation are determiners of success; and,

Whereas, the growth momentum that results from apostolic endeavor is a greater determinative of a healthy, purpose-driven organization than an insistence that new works begin with high clarity, high conformity and low ambiguity; and,

Whereas, movements in formative seasons are sustained in orthodox theology and biblical practice by godly apostolic leadership, not by rigid institutional policies; and,

Whereas, Paragraphs 6000, 6010, 6020, 6030, 6040, 6050 and 6060 provide a sufficient, biblical, permission-giving definition of the Mission, Vision and Characteristics of the Church; and,

Whereas, Paragraphs 6800, 6810, 6820, 6830, 6840, and 6850 provide adequate guidance on the Formation of New Churches by the gradual adding of new societies; and,

Whereas, the Free Methodist Church is being called to contribute to societal reformation by rapidly expanding the Kingdom of God through cultivating multiplication movements; and,

Whereas, Jesus anticipated all these dynamics in His teaching about the new wine and the wineskins as recorded in Matthew 9:17;

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED: **that** a new wine and new wineskins paragraph be added to the Book of Discipline which allows for innovative, biblically shaped new wineskins that can flex and expand to preserve the new wine of multiplication movements; and,

Be it further resolved that this new paragraph be entitled Paragraph 6860 “New Groups that Multiply”; and,

Be it further resolved that this new paragraph read as follows: Since we embrace evangelistic effectiveness as our highest priority, we affirm that apostolic activity in the harvest fields will create many different forms of and trajectories for new groups of disciples. In submission to Jesus’ teaching about the need for new wineskins for new wine, we choose to trust our apostolic leaders, permit innovation and organizational latitude at the growing edge of the Free Methodist Church, and avoid creating rigid institutional boundaries that constrain rapid Kingdom expansion. We trust that, over time, godly disciple-makers and church planters will help many of the new disciples and groups to embrace the distinctive realities of the Free Methodist Church as God leads. In keeping with Paragraph 6850, all parties involved shall seek to establish and enhance fellowship, and connectional ties while recognizing evangelistic effectiveness as the highest priority.

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? This proposal is 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 and evidenced by growing and reproducing new disciples, pastors, and churches.

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: