



**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.

General Conference Secretary - OFFICE USE ONLY

INTRODUCED BY:

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ANNUAL CONFERENCE NAME

Sierra Pacific Conference

WRITTEN BY:

Mark Adams and Thaddeus Roller

Resolution No. 801

Received Date: 11/29/22

Resolution Committee Grade: _____

BOA Consideration: _____

GC Consideration: _____

RELATED TO PARAGRAPH

123, 124, 8100

Referred to Ministry Team Number:

SUBJECT OR TITLE:

Instructions for the Lord's Supper

Final Vote: Yes No

WHEREAS:

Whereas, the sacrament of the Lord's Supper is the cornerstone of Christian worship, and;

Whereas, the intention within the Wesleyan framework is for Communion to be an invitation to repent and experience the special means of grace afforded by the present Jesus Christ to live aligned with God's holy intent, as evidenced by John Wesley's own words as he wrote thus:

"1) That the Lord's Supper was ordained by God, to be a means of conveying to men either preventing, or justifying, or sanctifying grace, according to their several necessities. 2) That the persons for whom it was ordained, are all those who know and feel that they want the grace of God, either to restrain them from sin, or to show their sins forgiven, or to renew their souls in the image of God. 3) That inasmuch as we come to his table, not to give him any thing, but to receive whatsoever he sees best for us, there is no previous preparation indispensably necessary, but a desire to receive whatsoever he pleases to give. And, 4) That no fitness is required at the time of communicating, but a sense of our state, of our utter sinfulness and helplessness; everyone who knows he is fit for hell, being just fit to come to Christ, in this as well as all other ways of his appointment." and;

Whereas, the instruction currently required of Free Methodist elders and those administering the sacrament is in contrast with Wesley's view, insisting that they discern and require that "no person known to be living an immoral life or to be guilty of any disreputable practice be admitted to the Lord's table among us until satisfactory evidence of repentance and amendment of life has been given" (§8100), and;

Whereas, our current instruction in §8100 makes communion a sacrament available only to those already living holy and sanctified lives rather than those seeking God's gracious and sacramental power to become so, and;

Whereas, the Free Methodist doctrinal statement on the Lord's Supper more simply states that communion is available "to those who rightly, worthily and with faith receive it" (§125), and;

Whereas, the emphasis of §8100 on preventing some from participating in communion is derived from a poor interpretation of 1 Corinthians 11, which was written to address a lack of consideration for other members of the body of Christ, not to bar those in need of grace from receiving it, and;

Whereas, the current language of §8100 is much more restrictive than the example that Jesus himself provided in serving communion to all at the table, and;

Whereas, the Scriptures nowhere explicitly teach that those serving the Lord's Supper should discriminate those worthy to receive it;

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED:

That the First Paragraph 8100 which currently reads as:

Let all our ordained pastors exercise due care to see that no person known to be living an immoral life or to be guilty of any disreputable practice be admitted to the Lord's table among us until satisfactory evidence of repentance and amendment of life has been given.

Be amended to read thus:

Let all our ordained pastors exercise due care to see that the sacrament is administered to those who rightly, worthily and with faith receive it.

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?

The Resolutions Committee rates this resolution as:

(A) Support - recommend adoption

(B) **Recommended - worthy of review**

(C) Rejected - anticipate General Conference rejection

Other Comments:

A minor shift in instructions to a ritual is not constitutional, but brings fuller alignment to Free Methodist practice and theology.

Stuart Welch, SPC Resolutions Team Secretary