



**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: Executive Leadership Team (XLT)

ANNUAL CONFERENCE NAME:

WRITTEN BY: Steve Tungate

General Conference Secretary - OFFICE USE ONLY

Resolution No. 102

Received Date: 1/2/2023

Resolution Committee Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

BOA Consideration: \_\_\_\_\_

GC Consideration: \_\_\_\_\_

RELATED TO PARAGRAPH – Introduction

Referred to Ministry Team Number:

SUBJECT OR TITLE: FM Way and Vision Frame in the *Book of Discipline*

Final Vote:                      Yes                      No

**WHEREAS:**

Whereas: The introduction to the *2019 Book of Discipline* communicates an overview of the historical distinctives of Free Methodism; and

Whereas: The introduction to the *2019 Book of Discipline* states that “These distinctives of the Free Methodist Church from its origin are still living issues. In every era and every land these distinctives are the witnesses of the church, needing utterance clear and strong that they may be heard and heeded amidst the world’s confusing and misleading voices” (p. 7); and

Whereas: The *Free Methodist Way* and the *Vision Frame* are a fresh articulation of the distinctive core values and contemporary mission of the Free Methodist Church USA.

**Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED:**

**Therefore, be it resolved to include *The Free Methodist Way* at the end of the introduction of the *Book of Discipline*. *The Free Methodist Way* shall include the wording of the brochure document which summarizes the five core values, shown below:**

**The Free Methodist Way: Five Values that Shape our Identity<sup>1</sup>**

*Life-Giving Holiness*

God’s call to holiness was never meant to be a burden, but a gift that liberates us for life that is truly life by delivering us from the destructive power of sin. All who are born again are made right with God by the finished work of Jesus Christ and called to experience the fullness of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. Forgiven and filled, we approach life with confidence that we are acceptable to God even as He continues to transform our character and behavior to become more and more like Jesus. Life-giving holiness, then, is the fruit of full surrender to the loving reign of God over every aspect of our lives, establishing within us love that is truly love.

Leaving behind the legalism that once hindered our movement, *The Free Methodist Way* invites every believer to embrace the transforming work of the Holy Spirit that empowers us to love and serve God and others in joyful obedience.

*Love-Driven Justice*

Love is the way we demonstrate God’s heart for justice by valuing the image of God in all men, women, and children, acting with compassion toward the oppressed, resisting oppression, and stewarding Creation.

We devote ourselves to our founders’ deep convictions around matters of injustice as they took their stand against the evils of slavery, the oppression of the poor, the marginalization of women, and the abuse of power in the church. Our heart for justice continues and expands today, fueled by God’s holy love for the unborn, the vulnerable, oppressed, marginalized, and people of all races and ethnicities.

*The Free Methodist Way* is not only to realize a better society, but that all may be reconciled to God and one another in ways that reflect God’s just character.

*Christ-Compelled Multiplication*

The gospel of Jesus Christ — the message He proclaimed, the life He lived,

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<sup>1</sup> The following text was taken from the brochure by this name published by the Free Methodist Church-USA.

and the ministry He modeled — set into motion a redemptive movement destined to fill the whole earth.

Jesus' approach to discipleship was primarily a relational one in which He poured His life into a few with the full expectation that they would follow His example. His aim was not merely the transmission of information, but the transformation of lives by empowering those who followed Him to do what He had been doing. His mission is now our mission. We believe this redemptive movement of multiplication applies to every believer and should permeate our Free Methodist culture at every level: the found reaching the lost, disciples making disciples, leaders developing leaders, churches planting churches, and movements birthing movements.

*The Free Methodist Way* is to see God's kingdom expand exponentially as ordinary people are equipped by God's power to do extraordinary things.

#### *Cross-Cultural Collaboration*

From the beginning, God's intent was to have a people from every nation, culture and ethnicity, united in Christ and commissioned to carry out His work in the world.

Today we celebrate the beauty of a multicultural and multiethnic church both in the U.S. and in over 100 countries around the world. In the U.S., we cling to the promise that we have been made one in Christ even as we dedicate ourselves to becoming a more diverse church that looks like the kingdom of God. Globally, we continue to send missionaries to other nations even as we rejoice that the nations are increasingly coming to us. Freely sharing our own gifts and resources, we are also challenged and inspired by the faithfulness, perseverance, ceaseless prayer, theological insights, and spiritual wisdom of our international brothers and sisters. Without question, we are better together.

*The Free Methodist Way* aspires to move beyond colonialism and ethnocentrism in favor of a collaborative partnership in God's global work in anticipation of the day when a great multitude from every tongue, tribe, people and language makes up the eternal throng before the throne of God (Revelation 7:9).

#### *God-Given Revelation*

We hold unwaveringly to our conviction that the Bible is the inspired Word of God and our final authority in all matters of faith and practice.

Drawing on our Wesleyan heritage of engaging with Scripture through the lenses of tradition, reason, and experience, we keep Scripture primary. While the church will always be tasked with authentically communicating and applying biblical truths with sensitivity to cultural dynamics, we do not subjugate the Bible's timeless truths to cultural norms or social trends. *The Free Methodist Way* is to fully align our lives and our movement on the unshakeable foundation of God's Word.

## 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: