



**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: Center for Pastoral Formation

ANNUAL CONFERENCE NAME:

WRITTEN BY: Steve Tungate

General Conference Secretary - OFFICE USE ONLY

Resolution No. 508

Received Date: 1/2/2023

Resolution Committee Grade: _____

BOA Consideration: _____

GC Consideration: _____

RELATED TO PARAGRAPH – Proposal of a new Paragraph
5440

Referred to Ministry Team Number:

SUBJECT OR TITLE: Continuing Education for Ordained Elders

Final Vote: Yes No

WHEREAS:

Whereas: no system of training toward ordination can cover the entire breadth of biblical and theological knowledge, ministry best practices, and complete spiritual arrival;

And

Whereas: many professions require the completion of continuing education units annually in order to maintain licensure;

And

Whereas: the *Book of Discipline* does not currently require any further education for women and men who are already ordained;

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED:

Therefore, be it resolved to include an additional Paragraph 5440 in the *Book of Discipline* encouraging the pursuit of continuing education for ordained clergy reading as follows:

“Ordained clergy are urged to engage regularly in continuing education opportunities. After some years spent in ministry service, an ordained elder may consider pursuing a university or seminary degree at the next level for them or enroll in a certificate program that will help them develop ministry skills in a specialty area. At the very least, ordained women and men should attend conferences, courses, lectures, or ministry training events on annual basis.

Many professions require a certain amount of continuing education units (CEU) annually in order to maintain licensure. One CEU is often measured by ten contact hours in a particular training event, conference, or seminar. It is strongly recommended that ordained elders complete the equivalent of at least one unit of continuing education per year. It is appropriate for MEG boards to mandate continuing education standards at the conference level and require a statement or certificate of completion.”

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: