



**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: GC23 Delegation

ANNUAL CONFERENCE NAME: Genesis

WRITTEN BY: Cindi Newman

General Conference Secretary - OFFICE USE ONLY

Resolution No. 809

Received Date: 1/2/2023

Resolution Committee Grade: A

BOA Consideration: _____

GC Consideration: _____

RELATED TO PARAGRAPH

Referred to Ministry Team Number:

<p>SUBJECT OR TITLE: Ensuring Accessibility to Ordination</p>	<p>Final Vote: Yes No</p>
---	---------------------------

<p>WHEREAS:</p> <p>Whereas- According to the Center for Pastoral Formation (CPF) Website in October 2022: “The Center for Pastoral Formation serves as a resource and networking center ... to equip the next generation of ministry leaders, track their progress, and uphold standards for ministerial credentialing...”</p> <p>Whereas- maximizing elder ordination numbers of spiritually mature ministry leaders is not a recognizable focus,</p> <p>Whereas- according to Barna, in 2017 there were more full-time senior pastors who were over the age of 65 than under the age of 40, and 50% of pastors were age 56 or older https://www.barna.com/research/aging-americas-pastors/; given that one of our FM Values is Christ-compelled multiplication, The Center for Pastoral Formation mission/purpose is fulfilled when it is outcome focused, such that every possible barrier to ordaining as many elders as possible is removed</p> <p>Whereas most adults working full time jobs in addition to their ministry work are unable to take more than one course per semester</p> <p>Whereas the 2022 MEG Board Manual expectation is 15 Master’s level courses and therefore 8 years at this pace</p> <p>Whereas most people are not interested in entering such a long process</p> <p>Whereas conferences do not have enough bandwidth to administer an 8 year process because annual interviews for 8 classes of CMCs could more than double the number of annual CMC interviews the MEG Board is currently administering</p> <p>Whereas the 2022 MEG Board Manual states that experience and knowledge can replace course work, the Manual does not describe how that could be done.</p> <p>Whereas-Matt 28 commands us to make disciple-makers; Life-long learners don’t require a particular degree to be a trained, competent, fruitful disciple-making elder</p>

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED:

That creation of and support for multiple and evolving outcome focused pathways that equip the next generation of ministry leaders in a wide variety of ministry contexts in the USA and wherever worldwide conferences participate in the FMCUSA General Conference would become central to the Center for Pastoral Formation focus and purpose

That conferences would be resourced and supported in their unique and creative efforts to equip the next generation of ministry leaders at the conference level, as assessed by elder preparedness (outcomes) rather than CPF precisely defined processes, recognizing that CPF suggestions and examples are desirable

That CPF would create transfer screening tools that could be used by conferences who wish to assess competency and fruitfulness in elders seeking to transfer from one conference to another

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?