



 Watch Video

 Spanish Transcript

 Listen to the Podcast

Bishop Nominee

Matt Whitehead

Vision

Our vision as a denominational family is to ignite a Spirit-fueled movement that catalyzes the multiplication of leaders and churches. This compelling vision charts the course for our future as we follow the leading of God's Spirit and humbly seek God as never before.

The Board of Bishops was thankful for the opportunity to bring greater clarity to the denomination's identity through the development of The Free Methodist Way. It was a journey of discovery as God led us to the five values that honor the best parts of our history and compel us forward on mission for Jesus. While we celebrate the development of The Free Methodist Way and our denominational vision, we also understand that the next four years are crucial as we continue to implement these foundational truths into the DNA of our ministry family.

The next quadrennium will undoubtedly bring multiple challenges but also great Kingdom opportunities. Our complete and total dependence on the Spirit of God to convict, guide, empower, and fill us is the only way we will reach our divided world. The commitment of local churches to prioritize evangelism and discipleship coupled with a culture of systemic multiplication opens the door to greatest Kingdom impact.

We have so much to learn from our global Free Methodist family. Our commitment to healthy biblical interdependency models the Kingdom priority that we are better together.

I am hopeful about our future. Our Wesleyan message of God's reconciling holy love that transforms the human heart, families, communities, and culture is a message we humbly offer to a hurting world.

Leadership in the church is an incredible privilege. It's been a great honor to serve as a bishop since GC19. Melanie and I are at peace and praying for God's will to be done in the bishop election at GC23.

Experience

- Bishop, FMCUSA (2019-Present)
- Superintendent, Pacific Northwest Conference (1999-2019)
- Lead Pastor, Lakeview FMC, Seattle, WA (1990-1999)
- Lead Pastor, Centralia Free Methodist Church (Cooks Hill Community Church), Centralia, WA (1983-1990)

Education

- Doctor of Ministry, Asbury Theological Seminary
- Master of Divinity, Western Evangelical Seminary (Portland Seminary)
- Bachelor of Arts, Seattle Pacific University
- Attended Spring Arbor University for 2 years

Family

Wife: Melanie, celebrating 43rd anniversary in August 2023

Daughter and son-in-law: Jessica and David Haslam, **grandsons:** Micah, Rowan, Duke

Daughter: Melissa and **future son-in-law:** Tyler Dominguez