



**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: Study Commission on Doctrine

ANNUAL CONFERENCE NAME: _____

WRITTEN BY: Rev. Dr. Howard Snyder,
Dr. Edward Song, and
Rev. Dr. Steve Fitch

General Conference Secretary - OFFICE USE ONLY

Resolution No. 303

Received Date: 12/6/2022

Resolution Committee Grade: _____

BOA Consideration: _____

GC Consideration: _____

RELATED TO PARAGRAPH 3232 (new proposed paragraph)

Referred to Ministry Team Number:

SUBJECT OR TITLE: As Regards Creation Care

Final Vote: Yes No

WHEREAS: The Free Methodist Church declares in its Articles of Religion, “The Bible has authority over all human life. It teaches the truth about God, His creation, His people, His one and only Son and the destiny of humankind” [¶108], and in ¶126 declares also that the complete manifestation of the Kingdom of God entails “a total cosmic renewal which is both material and moral”, and

WHEREAS God commissioned humankind to care for the garden in which they were placed (Gen 2:15) and established an “everlasting covenant” with the earth and with “every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth” (Gen 9:13, 16), and

WHEREAS care for creation is particularly important for Methodists, whose founder, John Wesley, wrote extensively on “the Wisdom of God in Creation,” and because “The Needs of Persons” [*Book of Discipline*, Introduction: Purpose and Character of the Free Methodist Church] and the “Worth of Persons” [¶3221] necessarily involve caring for the physical environment,

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED:

The Free Methodist Church-USA shall adopt the following language for the *Book of Discipline* immediately following Paragraph 3231, on “Life in the Workplace,” as a new paragraph 3232 titled “As Regards Creation Care”:

The Lord God brings salvation to earth through a series of revealed covenants, culminating in the New Covenant in the blood of Jesus Christ. The first of these covenants, God’s covenant with the earth (Gen 9), is instituted following humanity’s fall into sin and after the flood. The rainbow is the visible sign of this covenant.

God thus has an everlasting covenant with the earth (Gen 9:8-17), as well as His saving covenant with people. As God’s stewards on earth, called to “cultivate and care for it” (Gen. 2:15, NABRE), we affirm that God’s covenant with the earth constitutes our stewardship commission.

Therefore:

- A. We affirm the goodness of God’s creation, the value—physical, emotional, social, and spiritual—of engagement with it, and our responsibility to care for it as an integral part of our Christian discipleship and God’s Creation mandate (Gen 2:15).
- B. We lament the ways in which humanity has failed to fulfill these responsibilities, polluting our environment, damaging ecosystems, and harming other species. The consequences of such failures are borne the most by the poor and marginalized.
- C. We affirm and seek to support effective ministries of creation care such as reducing our consumption, tree-planting and reforestation, sustainable agriculture and energy production, drought prevention and relief, environmentally sustainable transportation, appropriate recycling, and the minimization of waste.
- D. We commit ourselves to be faithful stewards of God’s creation, engaging in practices that reflect God’s covenant with the earth and our commission to care for it, especially in our preaching, teaching, and spiritual practices; the sustainable stewardship of our church buildings and properties; global and local missions work and ministry; and civic efforts to care for our environment.
- E. We, along with the whole of Creation, groan in anticipation of the time when “the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God” (Rom

8:21). We eagerly look forward to the renewal of the whole of creation when God through the work of Jesus Christ finally “reconcile[s] to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross” (Col 1:20).