



**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: FMC-USA BOA

ANNUAL CONFERENCE NAME: _____

WRITTEN BY: FMC-USA BOA Ad Hoc Team

General Conference Secretary - OFFICE USE ONLY

Resolution No. 499

Received Date:

Resolution Committee Grade: _____

BOA Consideration: _____

GC Consideration: _____

RELATED TO PARAGRAPH

Referred to Ministry Team Number:

SUBJECT OR TITLE:

Merging Resolutions 404, 416, 418, 421, and 807

Final Vote: Yes No

WHEREAS: The General Conference has been presented with resolutions 404, 416, 418, 421, and 807, each proposing to expand the number of Bishops beyond the current number of three; and,

WHEREAS: The General Conference Resolutions Review Committee has recommended that one combined resolution be developed by the FMC-USA Board of Administration and presented to the General Conference; and,

WHEREAS: in presenting this combined resolution the FMC-USA BOA expresses no opinion on the merits of increasing the number of Bishops and does not preempt the possible consideration of any original resolution; and,

WHEREAS: Each General Conference has full authority to establish the number of Bishops to be elected; and,

WHEREAS: the Budget and Finance Committee of the FMC-USA BOA has evaluated the four-year financial impact of adding a Bishop and advises it will be \$1.35 million per additional Bishop considering salary, benefits, travel, resourcing, and a half time admin assistant at 2023 rates while projecting likely Cost of Living Adjustments, health insurance increases and ministry funds increase for a quadrennium; and,

WHEREAS: while the operating budget is insufficient to support the cost of an additional bishop, the position could be funded during the upcoming quadrennium through a combination of additional revenue, reserves and budget adjustments; and,

WHEREAS: the addition of two Bishops would necessitate an increase in the Equal Participation Plan assessment; and,

WHEREAS: each Resolution proposing to expand the number of Bishops beyond the current number of three requires the General Church to push the envelope financially in service to strategic missional investment in expanded fruitfulness and growth of the church; and,

WHEREAS: expanding the number of Bishops could enhance the leadership impact of the Board of Bishops by seating (an) additional Bishop(s) to share the considerable and often overwhelming workload; and,

WHEREAS: expanding the number of Bishops would increase the likelihood of electing a more diverse Board of Bishops from the slate of nominees that was established in submission to BOD Para. 4110 B. 2 that directs, "Consideration shall be given to ethnic, gender, cultural and geographical representation;" and,

WHEREAS: the FMC-USA seeks to cultivate Kingdom diversity as commanded by the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) and seeks to retain disciples of color by providing cultural and ethnic representation in our organizational leadership; and,

WHEREAS: the FMC-USA may be at an inflection point whereby not electing a more diverse slate of Bishops may cause certain affiliation groups in the church to deeply re-evaluate whether the FMC-USA is a continued match for their vision; and,

WHEREAS; expanding the number of Bishops may provide for the allocation of more leadership engagement with the dynamics and unique needs of the younger generations, raising up more young leaders; and,

WHEREAS: expanding the number of Bishops may allow for more strategic allocation of oversight to both national and international ministry;

Therefore, BE IT RESOLVED: That the 2023 General Conference elect four Bishops.