

Whereas in the spirit of helping our congregations move forward in seeking and pursuing their visions for accepting responsibility for their respective communities, and of providing contextualized, progressive direction for achieving those goals, and

Whereas we intend our guiding principles to exemplify who we are as Free Methodists, capturing the essence of our legacy, Wesleyan traditions, calling, and vision, while recognizing that the guiding principles do not attempt to tell the whole story of our identity, and

Whereas we recognize that a new generation's need to be inspired to meaningful engagement with their neighbours and their neighbourhoods in ways that are not only historically informed, but also missionally responsive, requires fresh language framing the fundamentals of the Free Methodist movement, and

Whereas the historical freedoms were stated in reactive terms ('freedom from...'), and we are now suggesting that inspiring the engagement of today's generation would benefit from a more proactive approach and language ('freedom to...'), and

Whereas the Life Plan development and process identified a need for local congregations to seek and pursue ways to achieve their vision for accepting responsibility for their respective communities, as well as to understand and meaningfully articulate their FMCiC identity, and

Whereas the equipping and empowering of churches to develop their own missional responses to their respective contexts in ways that are consistent with the larger Free Methodist movement is the intent of these guiding principles, we therefore put forward the following motion:

Motion: We recommend that the Manual Introduction be reorganized into the following sections: with the addition of Our Legacy and Our Guiding Principles (Section A, III and IV)

Section A: The Introduction

- I. Our Historical Purpose
- II. Our Vision
- III. Our Legacy
- IV. Our Guiding Principles
- V. Our Mission

Section B: Our History

- I. Biblical Concept of the Church
- II. Historical Heritage and Perspective
- III. Methodism in Canada
- IV. Free Methodism in Canada
- V. The Bishops of the Free Methodist Church in Canada

Section C: Our Core Values

Followed by Chapter 1, etc