

MINUTES OF THE 2014 GENERAL CONFERENCE
The Free Methodist Church in Canada
May 16-19, 2014

Theme: We have Everything we Need?!

The Ninth General Conference of The Free Methodist Church in Canada convened on Friday, May 16, 2014 in Toronto, Ontario, at the Toronto Airport Marriott Hotel.

The worship band, led by Pastor Ryan Young, opened the conference session followed by Dr. Will Willimon presenting the Word and highlighting that God has given us all we need.

Bishop Elford introduced the theme for General Conference: “We have everything we need?!” along with the scripture passage 2 Peter 1:3.

Bishop Elford called the conference to order and asked the members of Conference and lay delegates to take their seats within the bar. He welcomed the delegates, outlined the goals of the conference and gave a general orientation of its procedures.

Bishop Elford explained that the network leaders would be taking attendance.

234 Ordained Ministers and Lay Delegates were present.

Bishop Elford explained the procedure for voting by highlighting the Parliamentary Procedure for the Ninth Canadian General Conference.

On motion, the Agenda was adopted as a guide. (See **Appendix One**)

On motion, the Standing Rules were adopted. (See **Appendix Two**)

Rev. Greg Pulham, who was appointed by the Board of Administration as the Parliamentarian, was seated at the presiding table.

Rev. Mike Hogeboom, chair of the Nominating Committee, nominated Rev. Steve Cylka to serve as General Conference Secretary. This was approved by a show of hands.

On motion, the tellers were approved: Dennis Ball, Ian Isaak, Beverly Kay (Head Teller), Belinda Leibel, Jeremy MacDonald, Holly Raymond, Lynda Sinclair, Annette Smith

The following were introduced and welcomed as guests of the Conference: Bishop David and Yvonne Kendall (USA); Dr. Will Willimon as the Bible teacher; missionaries: Rev. Sok Em, Rev. Debbie Hogeboom, and Linda Stryker. Pastors for whom this was their first conference were also recognized. Sarah Jackson and Rev. Luke Haggett were introduced as the Prayer Coordinators for the conference and it was noted that all members of Conference; delegates and honorary members, were assigned a block of time so that prayer was being offered consistently throughout the conference weekend. The Hudson Bay Room was the location of the prayer room.

Bishop Elford introduced Chris Lewis, Conference Coordinator. Bishop Elford declared the conference in recess until 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 17 and Rev. Dr. Gary Walsh closed in prayer.

Study Team resourcing sessions for the Board of Administration and NLT reports took place in the evening.

Saturday, May 17, 2014

Conference reconvened at 8:00 a.m. with worship followed by Dr. Will Willimon opening the Word.

246 Ordained Ministers and Lay Delegates were present.

Report of the Board of Administration and National Leadership Team

(See **Appendix Three** for the written report notes from each of the following presenters.)

Bishop Elford invited Greg Ford, the chair of The Board of Administration to open the report. Greg drew attention to the BOA's report on its activities since the last General Conference and highlighted the Strategic Initiatives passed at the 2011 General Conference. He also commented briefly on the FMCiC Services and the Connectional Health surveys, noting only a small number of churches participated and further analysis needs to be done regarding the data collected.

Rev. Marc McAlister, Director of Church Health, reported on the 2011 Strategic Initiative to hire a Director of Church Health and shared the highlights of his first year in this position. He explained that the role of the Director of Church Health is to help churches in transition, mediate conflict within churches and boards, and help guide congregations toward better church health.

Marc shared some statistics relating to Canada's religious composition, highlighting the significant rise in people that identify with having no religious affiliation and the steady decline in church attendance. Looking specifically at data within the Free Methodist Church, Marc highlighted that there has been a decrease in attendance, membership and number of commitments in Free Methodist Churches. Marc shared his desire for local churches to use the LifePlan and/or other tools to help churches become healthy.

Marc also reported on the **Church Health Survey** showing that there has been an increase in churches declaring themselves in the ‘not healthy’ category.

Rev. Dan Sheffield reported on the 2011 Strategic Initiative related to Wesleyan Discipleship and outlined the **Journey Toward Wholeness in Jesus** disciple making process.

Dan introduced a video of Ian Isaak, associate pastor of Weyburn, who shared his story of spiritual growth during his first six months in the role. Dan reminded us of our commitment, from the 2011 General Conference, to recover the Wesleyan Means of Grace and highlighted the actions taken over the past three years to reinforce this Wesleyan tradition.

Dan explained the four milestones in **Journey Toward Wholeness in Jesus**

- Milepost #1 – Exploring relationship with Jesus – I’m a seeker
- Milepost #2 – Growing in relationship with Jesus – I’m a Jesus follower
- Milepost #3 – A close relationship with Jesus – I’m an active disciple
- Milepost #4 – Jesus is the central relationship in my life – I am a Jesus centered, others oriented disciple

Dan showed a video that was produced as a resource for local churches, which highlighted the journey of faith through a Wesleyan lens. He read Ephesians 4:20-24 and shared Paul’s intentional plan for people to grow in faith. Another video, with Cherith Alexander from the Weyburn Free Methodist Church, showed how regularly incorporating Acts of Mercy in one’s life and help with spiritual growth.

Dan highlighted the tools and resources available on the FMCiC website: **God’s Grace Channels** (7 week study/practices), **Following Jesus** (exploratory studies for seekers/new believers), **Partnership: Joining the Ministry Community** (membership), **The Journey Discipleship Survey**.

Dan shared the story of “Uncrowded House”, a community that he is part of in Hamilton. They are intentionally practicing the discipleship pathway and the video featured people from “Uncrowded House” talking about their experience of growing in Christ through community and discipleship.

At 10:05 a.m. the Conference was dismissed for a coffee break, provided by the Lorne Park Foundation.

The Conference reconvened at 10:40 a.m.

Chris Pomeroy, chair of the Personnel Committee of the Board of Administration, presented a report on the work done on defining the roles of the National Leadership Team. He discussed the process of hiring Rev. Marc McAlister as Director of Church Health to fill a new position on the National Leadership Team.

Rev. Kim Henderson, Director of Personnel, reported on two Systems Analysis Task Team Activities. Kim gave an update and shared that 68% of pastors have completed the Personal and Church Stewardship Course as of today.

Kim explained the Leadership Formation Plan outlined in her report.

Kim also discussed the results of the Pastoral Health Survey creatively by calling on Rev. Roger Keyzers and Pastor Rachel Runnalls to play a version of the Family Feud game. This highlighted the degree to which the Means of Grace are being practiced among FMCiC pastors.

Rev. Jared Siebert, Director of Church Planting, presented his report. This highlighted the progress that had been made since the last General conference, including the move of the Director of Church Planting to Saskatchewan and the 16 grass roots church planting initiatives that are taking place around the country.

Rev. Dan Sheffield, highlighted the importance of preserving our historical documents through a national digital archive.

He also gave a report on Global Ministries, emphasizing the work in Sri Lanka, Niger, Ghana and elsewhere. The information indicated that there has been a significant increase of multi-ethnic FMCiC churches within Canada.

Mark Molczanski, Director of Administration Services presented his report, which included the state of the pension deficit, giving to Core Ministries and Giving Streams. He stated that **in 2013** there are 44 churches that have given more than 10% of their income to Core Ministries.

Bishop Elford called the Conference to prayer in response to the challenges that were made obvious in the above reports. This resulted in an extended time of people pouring out their hearts to God in prayers of repentance and asking for the Lord to pour out his Spirit upon the FMCiC to enable us to be more effective in His mission in the world.

As Bishop Elford concluded the BOA report he expressed thanks to the BOA members, the rest of the National Leadership Team, and Ministry Centre support staff. He also expressed his appreciation to Marcia Goldstein, who was retiring from her position as Administrative Assistant to the Bishop, after serving in that role for 18 years.

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On motion, the report of the BOA/NLT was approved.

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The conference was dismissed for lunch at 12:30, provided by La-Z-boy

Conference reconvened at 1:15 p.m. with the Memorial Service, led by Rev. Sabrina D’Rozario and Rev. Darrin Lindsay. The following ministry people had died since the 2011 General Conference and were remembered in the order of their passing: Juliene Benoit, Edna Wilkins, Marie Nicholls, Grace Schnell, Amanda Tanner, Byron Withenshaw, Donald Eyre, Blanche Slater, Marie Purcer, Lavern Snyder, Alton Gould, David Benson, Ruby Lyons, Herbert McLeod, Ruth Russell, Helen Babcock, Joseph James and Muriel Patterson.

Report of the Nominating Committee

Rev. Michael Hogeboom brought the Nominating Committee report.

The following Nominating Committee recommendations were presented. Ballots were collected and counted by the tellers. Later in the conference, it was reported that 243 votes were cast and the following were declared elected.

BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

Lay		Clergy	
Greg Ford	(CE)	Darryl Dozlaw	(CW)
Harold Gonyou	(CW)	Vern Frudd	(CP)
Evelyn Lawrence	(CGL)	Richard Hamilton	(CE)
Marc Ngendahayo	(CE)	Aaron James	(CGL)
Chris Pomeroy	(CGL)	Rodney Peterson	(CE)
Tanya Prinsep	(CE)	Michael Tesema	(CE)
Jeff Robinson	(CW)	Matthew Wiley	(CGL)
	(CP)		(CW)

6-CE-Canada East 4-CGL – Canada Great Lakes 4-CW – Canada West 2-CP – Canada Pacific

STUDY COMMISSION ON DOCTRINE

Lay		Clergy	
Rob Clements	(CE)	Greg Pulham	(CGL)
Lee Barbour	(CW)	Derek Spink	(CE)
Beverly Kay	(CE)	Mary-Elsie Wolfe	(CGL)
Dustin Schellenberg	(CW)	Dale Harris	(CE)
		Bishop	Ex-officio

MINISTERIAL EDUCATION GUIDANCE AND PLACEMENT COMMITTEE

Lay		Clergy	
QUEBEC REGION	(6)	Yves Anthonuel Albert Haba Maya Seematter	Edrice Clermy Jean-Robert Noël Nathan Umazekabiri
ONTARIO REGION	(16)	Joanne Bell Darrell Dean Jim Grime Audrey Isaacs Tyler Lane Robert Martel	Stephen Bond Felix Chow Mary Lee DeWitt Sabrina D’Rozario Terry Gibson Roxanne Goodyear

		Kelly Pulham Beth Rawn		Joan Stonehouse Jason Tripp
PACIFIC - WEST REGION	(12)	Anne Baker Bryan Bosley Marnell Cornish Kris deVeer Vonda Dozlaw Keith Schnell		Greg Elford George Fleming Daniel Graham Dan Jansen Jason Johnson Barry Taylor

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On motion, the following recommendation was approved.

**Nominating Committee Recommendation #1
Filling Vacant Positions on National Committees**

That the vacant positions in the slate of nominees (along with any nominations collected from the floor) be included in the unfinished business referred by the General Conference to the Board of Administration. The Board of Administration will in turn refer these vacancies and nominations to the newly elected Nominating Committee for further deliberations.

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On motion, the following recommendation was approved.

**Nominating Committee Recommendation #2
Merging Regional Boundaries for Representation on the Board of Administration**

Whereas the formula for electing members to the National Ministerial Education Guidance and Placement Committee was amended to provide for larger regions from which to identify nominees, and

Whereas this approach has worked well for nominating members to the National Ministerial Education Guidance and Placement Committee, and

Whereas it is advisable to have consistency in regional representation formulae, and

Whereas the present formula for nominating members to the Board of Administration is as follows: Canada East/Quebec (6), Canada Great Lakes (4), Canada West (4), Canada Pacific (2);

Therefore be it resolved that the formula for nominating members to the Board of Administration be as follows: Quebec (1), Ontario (9), Pacific-West (6).

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Afternoon coffee break, provided by Lorne Park Foundation

Election of the Bishop

Bishop David Kendall assumed the chair for the election of the Bishop. Ballots were prepared, collected and counted by the tellers. See below for a report on the results.

Discussing Emerging Issues Identified in the Regional Gatherings

The Conference was broken into four discussion groups

- Ministry to Children and Youth
- Engaging with our Communities
- Building Spiritual Passion together in our movement
- The FMCiC what do we need from it...does it need from us?

Greg Ford reported the results of the **election of the Bishop**. 244 votes were cast with 123 necessary for election. Rev. Keith Elford received 213 votes and was declared elected. There was a standing ovation in affirmation of the results. Greg invited Donna Elford to the platform. Bishop Elford expressed his gratitude for the support of his wife and the denomination.

Rev. David Dyer closed the session in prayer at 5:15 p.m.

Evening worship and message by Dr. Willimon

Brief reports were given by the facilitators of the four afternoon discussion groups. See **Appendix Four** for a summary of their comments.

- Ministry to Children and Youth
- Engaging with our Communities
- Building Spiritual Passion together in our movement
- The FMCiC what do we need from it...does it need from us?

Conference recessed until 8:00 a.m. Monday, May 19, 2014.

Study Team resourcing sessions for the Board of Administration, Developing Leaders for Today & Tomorrow (MEGaP) and Careful Thinking about God's Truth (SCOD) reports took place in the evening.

On Sunday, May 18, the following events took place:

10:00 a.m. The Conference worshipped with Bishop Elford preaching on the conference theme: “*We have everything we need?!*.” His sermon was entitled, “We **Do** have Everything we Need”. The service concluded with Holy Communion.

12:30 p.m. The following Retirees were honoured in the morning service and hosted at a noon luncheon that was provided by the Lorne Park Foundation:
Present: Rev. Jim Denison, Rev. Jim Kesselring (Carole), Rev. Gary Landers (Margaret), Rev. Charles Mayo (Lena), Rev. Stephen Merriman, Rev. David Panton, Rev. Paul Shaw (Allison), Ms. Linda Stryker, Rev. Marion Traviss, Rev. Nathan Umazekabiri.

In absentia: Rev. Edigh Charles, Rev. Pierre Andre Jean Charles, Rev. Jean Robert Noel, Rev. Ousman Ali, Rev. Dr. Catherine Stonehouse, Pastor Richard Venne, Shirley Denison, Sharon Merriman, Helen Umazekabiri.

2:30 and 3:45 p.m. Workshops were offered on the following topics: *Pastoral Health Toolbox, International Child Care Ministries, Helping Harvest Hands (Church Planting), Church Health Toolbox, Global Ministry Partnerships, Q&A with the Bishop, Kernels of Hope (World Relief Canada), Debt Free and Financially Fit, Worship and Work are One, Mogochurch (multimedia resources)* (the workshops were sponsored by the Lorne Park Foundation)

7:00 p.m. Worship service: “Love is an Orientation: *Starting a conversation about reaching different-from-me-people*”

Tyndale University and Seminary sponsored an ice-cream social for all the members of the Conference

Monday, May 19

Conference reconvened on Monday, May 19 at 8:00 a.m. with worship, followed by a preaching team of Rev. Jennifer Wagar, Rev. Dennis Camplin and Rev. Jason Tripp opening the Word.

234 Ordained Ministers and Lay Delegates were present for this conference session.

Bishop Elford gave instructions to members of Conference regarding the conference evaluation forms.

“Careful Thinking about God’s Truth” Study Team Report
(Study Commission on Doctrine [SCOD])

(See **Appendix Five** for the written report.)

The Study Commission on Doctrine presented their report, “Careful Thinking about God’s Truth”. Rev. Dr. Mary-Elsie Wolfe introduced and explained the details around Resolution # 1 (Reform of Prostitution Laws in Canada). Rev. Greg Pulham presented the response to the 2011 General Conference Resolution #2 (Membership).

Beverly Kay presented the additions/revisions to *The Manual* of The Free Methodist Church in Canada that were approved by the Board of Administration since the 2011 General Conference.

Conference went into recess at 9:30 a.m. for a coffee break, provided by the Tyndale University and Seminary, Canadian Bible Society, Robertson Hall Insurance, World Relief and the Canadian Council of Christian Charities

Conference reconvened at 10:00am.

Bishop Elford spoke about the process and thinking behind the edits made to ¶630.2.2 Self Discipline.

Rev. Matthew McEwen presented the changes made to ¶630.2.3 Possessions, ¶630.3.1.3 Healing Troubled Marriages and ¶711 Communion Services.

Rev. Derek Spink presented the resources available online at the FMCiC website.

Bishop Elford shared the various on-going projects that the Study Commission on Doctrine is working on.

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On motion, the report of The Study Commission on Doctrine was approved.

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Mr. Greg Ford, Chair of the Board of Administration, presided over the following recommendations:

On motion, the following recommendation was approved: Yes: 222, No: 1

FREE METHODIST WORLD CONFERENCE RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION TO BE VOTED ON BY ALL FREE METHODIST GENERAL CONFERENCES

At the General Conference of the Free Methodist Church-USA, held in Rochester, New York, July 13-17, 2011, the following resolution was passed and subsequently approved for referendum by the Free Methodist World Conference, held in Bujumbura, Burundi, August 10-12, 2011.

RESOLUTION: ARTICLE 122 - THE LANGUAGE OF WORSHIP

WHEREAS the desire of the Free Methodist Church is to be completely in agreement with the full counsel of Scripture on all Articles of Religion; and

WHEREAS the current article 122 appears to make prohibitions that are not completely in agreement with the Scriptures (e.g. 1 Corinthians 12, 14), and

WHEREAS the current article includes a sentence (the final one) that is confessional instead of the declarative of all other sentences in all other articles, and

WHEREAS referencing Reformation theology in an article breaks from the specific reference to scripture and the broader term of the common experience of the history of the church, and

WHEREAS referencing the Apostle Paul in the article, instead of a specific scripture or the general teaching of scripture, breaks from the pattern of the articles, and

WHEREAS, the first sentence of the article affirms the bias of intelligibility in public worship, and

WHEREAS, the article has been revised to give undue attention to the restrictions of one spiritual gift,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Article 122, The Language of Worship, be changed to read:

According to the Word of God and the custom of the early church, public worship and prayer and the administration of the sacraments should be in a language understood by the people. ~~The Reformation applied this principle to provide for the use of the common language of the people. It is likewise clear that the Apostle Paul places the strongest emphasis upon rational and intelligible utterance in worship. We cannot endorse practices which plainly violate these scriptural principles.~~

Be it further resolved that **Paragraph 131, Scripture References, Language of Worship**, be amended as follows:

The Language of Worship (see ¶122)

Nehemiah 8:5, 6, 8; Matthew 6:7; I Corinthians 14:6-9, 1 Corinthians **12-14**.

Referred by the Free Methodist World Conference in Bujumbura, Burundi, August 8-10, 2011

Voting deadline: **July 31, 2015**

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On motion, the following amended recommendation was approved.

Motion: That Resolution #1 (Reform of prostitution laws of Canada) be adopted by the 2014 General Conference of The Free Methodist Church in Canada.

**The Free Methodist Church in Canada
GENERAL CONFERENCE RESOLUTION**

Reform of prostitution laws of Canada

WHEREAS the Free Methodist movement has an historic commitment to the deep worth of all persons, and has stood squarely for freedom from human slavery and exploitation in all of its forms, everywhere;

WHEREAS the Free Methodist Church in Canada is “pledged to active concern whenever human beings are demeaned, abused, depersonalized, or subjected to demonic forces in the world, whether by individuals or institutions (Galatians 3:28; Mark 2:27) ... and ... committed to give meaning and significance to every person by God’s help” (§630.2.1, The Manual of the Free Methodist Church in Canada);

WHEREAS we believe that human bodies are not commodities to be bought and sold, but prostitution and commercial sexual services in Canada and globally are highly characterized by slavery and exploitation through human trafficking, manipulation and coercion of services providers, and abuse of relationships of trust;

WHEREAS we understand that prostitution and trafficking victimize vulnerable women and minors in particular, and that such exploitation threatens the welfare and safety of communities across Canada;

WHEREAS the Supreme Court of Canada has ruled in December 2013 that criminal law regarding the operation of a common bawdy house or brothel, living on the avails of prostitution, and communicating for the purposes of prostitution are unconstitutional and has given Parliament one year to approve a new legislative scheme before the old laws lapse;

WHEREAS the federal Government is drafting new prostitution legislation and is inviting public input;

WHEREAS one of the goals of the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada is the elimination of all forms of sexual exploitation in Canada and to that end has released a comprehensive report proposing fundamental reform to Canada’s prostitution laws, entitled *Out of Business: Prostitution in Canada – Putting an End to Demand* - www.theEFC.ca/OutOfBusiness;

WHEREAS the reform proposed in *Out of Business* has adapted the **Nordic model** of law and policy on prostitution, to work within Canada’s constitutional requirements, with two broad **objectives**: (i) eliminate the “pull factors” that draw people into prostitution—including demand from sex buyers and manipulation by pimps, and (ii) in cooperation with civil society and the charitable sector, provide assistance, such as drug rehabilitation, trauma counseling and job retraining, to help people escape prostitution;

WHEREAS for Canada, this model means that new laws must be established to address the root causes of prostitution and provide help for those leaving prostitution, thus undermining the viability of the trade itself, and whereas Canada’s current laws and policies fall short in reaching these goals, *Out of Business* includes these **key recommendations** in the model of reform:

- Criminalize the purchase and attempted purchase of sex from any person—whether from escort services, in brothels, or on the street, and by any form of payment—as a means to eliminate the demand and the activities of pimps and human traffickers
- Maintain prohibitions against acts of any third party attempting to profit from sexual exploitation including procuring for the purpose of prostitution, operation of brothels, and other organized forms of prostitution
- Amend our laws to reflect the non-criminal nature of individuals who are being prostituted
- Invest in exit programs and support for persons being prostituted or trafficked
- Initiate a public awareness campaign to accompany such a change in the law, designed to help reshape attitudes about prostitution as a manifestation of inequality and violence against women and minors;

WHEREAS the Nordic model, first enacted in Sweden in 1999, is one of the most coherent and successful prostitution policy models ever developed and has proven successful in reducing rates of prostitution and sex trafficking and has been replicated in Norway and Iceland, and whereas The Netherlands, Germany and New Zealand are rethinking their approach of legalization, decriminalization and efforts at regulation, and Israel, Ireland and Scotland are taking steps toward laws targeting the purchase of sex, and France’s Parliament has voted in favour of proceeding with legislation that would impose strict fines on individuals who purchase or attempt to purchase sexual services;

WHEREAS the Free Methodist Church in Canada is a longstanding member of the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada and supports EFC's initiatives to gather Evangelicals together for influence, impact and identity in ministry and for ensuring a constructive voice and public witness for biblical principles in life and society; and

WHEREAS the Free Methodist Church in Canada joins with the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada in expressing concern for the prostituted based on biblical principles that compel care for the vulnerable and inform the duty of care we owe one another as human beings;

Therefore, be it resolved that:

1. The Free Methodist Church in Canada strongly supports the reform of prostitution law as proposed in "Out of Business: Prostitution in Canada – Putting an End to Demand," a 2013 report of the Evangelical Fellowship of Canada, and the inclusion of a Canadian version of Nordic Model law on prostitution within legislation being introduced to Parliament in 2014;

2. The Free Methodist Church in Canada immediately communicate this Resolution to leaders and offices of the federal Government engaged in conceiving and drafting the legislation, and that the pastor and Board of each local Free Methodist church in Canada immediately communicate and affirm the Resolution to their respective Member of Parliament;

3. The leaders of each local Free Methodist church in Canada commit to dialogue with their local law enforcement service and local victim services agency to learn about the impact of prostitution and human trafficking in their area and how the church congregation and individuals may be supportive of victims of exploitation, abuse and control through measures such as safe houses and programs for physical and spiritual restoration, where applicable.

4. The Free Methodist Church in Canada establish an ad hoc committee to dialogue and strategize about next steps for further church involvement nationally and locally in the fostering of holistic freedom from slavery and trafficking, and move forward in coordination with existing ministries and services of the church.

5. The Free Methodist Church in Canada and local congregations designate a Sunday each year to celebrate as Freedom Sunday.

Submitted by: Grant Sigsworth, Whitby Free Methodist Church

Sponsors: Rev Cliff Fletcher, Rev Vic Stonehouse

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On motion, the following recommendation was approved.

a. ¶250.2.3 Presiding Officers - to clarify the roles of the presiding officers

MOTION: That ¶250.2.3 **Presiding Officers** be amended to read as follows:

The Canadian General Conference shall elect one ordained minister to the office of bishop. The election shall be by ballot. The term of office of the bishop shall begin at the close of the general conference session at which ~~they are~~ the bishop is elected.

The bishop shall preside at the sittings of the General Conference with primary responsibility for spiritual leadership and managing the agenda. The chair of the board of administration shall assume

the chair to process motions and conduct voting. There shall be a parliamentarian, appointed by the board of administration, to assist the presiding officers.

When electing the bishop, arrangements will be made for a visiting Free Methodist bishop or a former bishop or the chair of the board of administration to preside over the conference for this specific agenda item only.

Note: This wording has also been used in Standing Rule #5, Presiding Officers

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On motion the following amended motion was approved

- b. ¶320.3.3 Delegates: to clarify the formula for electing delegates

MOTION: That ¶320.3.3 Delegates be amended to read as follows:

3.3 The number of lay delegates elected by a local church is as follows:

- a. A local church without a pastor elects one lay delegate.
- b. A local church with at least one appointed pastor (ordained, commissioned, ministerial candidate) will elect one lay delegate, and may elect additional delegates according to the greater of:
 - i. one additional lay delegate for each appointed ordained minister (beyond the lead pastor) serving at least half-time.

OR

- ii. one lay delegate for every 75 members (that is, 1-75 members entitles the society to one lay delegate; 76-150 members entitles to two delegates; 151-225 members entitles to three delegates, etc.)

Wording of 320.3.3 in current Manual

~~3.3 — The number of delegates to be elected depends on the number of members in a local church and the number of pastors appointed to the local church. If a church has one appointed pastor (ordained, commissioned, ministerial candidate), it is entitled to one delegate. A church without an appointed pastor is entitled to send one delegate—~~

~~Where two pastors share a single full-time lead pastor appointment, the society is entitled to only one lay delegate corresponding to this pastoral position.~~

~~If there are additional appointed pastors who are full members of the conference (i.e. ordained), who serve the local church at least half time, the society is entitled to one additional delegate for each additional pastor.~~

~~If the society has more than 75 members over the age of majority, one additional delegate may be elected. One additional delegate may be elected for each additional 75 members.~~

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On motion, the following recommendation was referred back to the Board of Administration.

- c. ¶320.5.2.2 **Pastor's Cabinet:** to clarify how the Pastor's Cabinet is elected.

MOTION: That ¶320.5.2.2 **Pastor's Cabinet** be amended to read as follows:

The pastor's cabinet shall be nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the society. It shall have no fewer than three members and no more than seven, who shall be members of the society. Alternatively, the society may direct to have the official board serve as the pastor's cabinet. At least one delegate shall be a member. (See ¶373.2.6)

Note: This wording is also used in ¶373.2.6.

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On motion, the following recommendation was approved.

- d. **Change Name "Church Development Giving Stream" to "Church Planting Giving Stream"**

MOTION: Whereas the department of Church Development no longer exists, be it resolved that the name of the "Church Development Giving Stream" be changed to "Church Planting Giving Stream."

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On motion, the following recommendation was approved.

- e. **"Quebec Ministries" Giving Stream Discontinued**

MOTION:

Whereas the Quebec Giving Stream was created with the purpose of subsidizing struggling church plants in Quebec and predates the Church Development Giving Stream;

Whereas the deployment of the Quebec Giving Stream monies has evolved to subsidize new church plants;

Whereas there seems to be a successful, sustainable Church planting movement in Quebec;

Whereas Church Development Giving Stream is directed at the same purpose, but applies to the entire country and the Church Development subcommittee feels that, at this time, it is more efficient/effective to have a national, unified Giving Stream that can be deployed wherever there is need/activity;

Whereas we hope those people who supported the Quebec stream will transfer their support to the general overall fund.

Be it resolved that the Church Development subcommittee of the BOA moves that the Quebec Giving Stream be wound down at the end of 2014, that remaining funds be put to pay the expenses of Quebec region (projected at ~\$10,000/year) until said designated funds are used up (2017-projected), and that General Operating Funds be used to cover Quebec regional expenses for the foreseeable future (2018 ongoing).

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On motion, the following recommendation was approved.

f. ¶440.3.1 Giving Streams

MOTION: That ¶440.3.1 Giving Streams be amended to read as follows:

The Giving Streams funding model shall provide for the support of the ministries of The Free Methodist Church in Canada in the following areas:

- Global Ministries: Support for global ministries proceeding from Canadian church involvements.
- Church Planting ~~Development~~: Ongoing development of new ~~and existing~~ Free Methodist churches in Canada, related financial assistance, and related leadership training and development.
- ~~Quebec Ministries: Financial support to assist in church development and ministry expansion in the province of Quebec.~~
- Leadership Development: Financial support for the Leadership Scholarship Program.

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The conference went into recess at 12:05 for lunch, provided by Deeks Insurance

Conference reconvened at 12:35pm.

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On motion the amended motion was approved**g. Revised ¶630.2.2 Self-Discipline: ¶630.2.6 Misuse of Substances integrated into ¶630.2.2 Self-Discipline****MOTION:**

Whereas, the guidance given in ¶630.2.6 **Misuse of Substances** all relates to the larger overarching issue of self-discipline, and

Whereas the aim of ¶630.2.2 **Self-Discipline**, is to give principled guidance on how to live a balanced, healthy life, and

Whereas there is an increasing weight of conviction among our people that a position of careful moderation with respect to alcohol is an appropriate stance for believers,

Therefore be it resolved that that the guidance of ¶630.2.6 Misuse of Substances be integrated into a revised ¶630.2.2 Self-Discipline as follows:

¶630.2.2 Self-Discipline

One attribute of the Spirit's indwelling presence is self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). As Christians we believe that life is full, abundant, and free in Jesus Christ (John 8:36; 10:10). We take seriously the words of Jesus to love God, our neighbours and ourselves (Mark 12:30-31). We also heed the Apostle Paul, when he writes, "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your body" (I Corinthians 6:19-20).

Therefore, we commit ourselves to be free from anything that challenges Jesus' lordship over our lives, that distracts us from joyful participation in His mission in the world and that damages, destroys, or distorts His life within us.

What God has created is good and was created for His pleasure (Revelation 4:11). He created humans with a capacity for enjoying His good creation. But as a consequence of the fall, sinful self-centeredness and intemperance (even with respect to various forms of godly pleasure) became part of the human reality.

Undisciplined seeking after pleasure is a form of idolatry that weakens the will, distracts from participation in the mission of God and models selfishness to others under our influence (Philippians 3:19; Colossians 3:5). Instead, we seek to experience the fullness of life in Christ, which includes enjoying what God has made in ways that honour God and are compatible with His mission in the world. We seek to enjoy a godly, balanced

relationship with pleasure that allows us to be free to enjoy them in moderation or to abstain from them out of authentic conviction rooted in past experiences or out of love for a “weaker brother” (Romans 14:13-23).

We accept that, though all things may be allowed, not all things are beneficial (1 Corinthians 6:12; 10:23-24). Spirit-led self-examination surrounded by loving mutual accountability is essential to growing in holiness. Therefore, we regularly ask ourselves honestly: Do I exercise godly self-control with respect to pleasure? How does what I invest in various forms of pleasure compare to what I give of my life resources to reach people with the gospel and to alleviate suffering? Does this form of pleasure restore or fatigue me, arouse a craving for more that I then must struggle to master? Is it inherently evil because it exploits or causes unnecessary suffering? Some pleasures (e.g. that which we ingest, the forms of recreation/relaxation that we pursue, etc.) if used with self-control, restore us. Some of the same pleasures can ultimately destroy us if used selfishly. On the one hand we can become obsessively distracted, even addicted to them. On the other hand, because some legitimate pleasures tempt us to excess, we can react by becoming overly scrupulous and, out of fear, seek to limit the liberty of others by imposing our control-based convictions on them. With respect to this, the Apostle Paul wrote: “Such regulations indeed have an appearance of wisdom, with their self-imposed worship, their false humility and their harsh treatment of the body, but they lack any value in restraining sensual indulgence” (Colossians 2:20-23).

Pleasures which exploit others or which damage our health are inherently evil.

As Christians we desire to be characterized by balance and moderation. We seek to avoid extreme patterns of conduct. We also seek to keep ourselves free from addictions or compulsions. Since it is our goal to live disciplined lives, in order to be transformed into the likeness of Christ, we depend upon the Holy Spirit to enable us to make choices that displace selfish indulgence in worldly pleasures. It is our wish to live simply, in service to others, and to practice stewardship of health, time, and other God-given resources. We are committed to help every Christian attain such a disciplined life. Although unhealthy habits are not easily broken, believers need not live in such bondage. We find help through the Scriptures, the Holy Spirit, prayer, the counsel and support of other Christians and, if need be the help of professional services.

The following is an illustrative list of some difficult issues, habits and substances which may hinder, confuse, or distract us in seeking a disciplined, holy, Spirit-filled life.

- We believe that the intemperate consumption of food is a form of abusing the body which may result in illness and obesity. A healthy balanced diet preserves the strength of our bodies and extends our years of usefulness as servants of Christ.
- We believe that overwork causes unhealthy strain on individuals and relationships.
- We believe that the inordinate pursuit of leisure is an expression of selfishness and immaturity.

- We believe that the illicit and inappropriate use of illegal, prescription or over the counter drugs causes untold damage to people and relationships. Such drug use can restrict personal development, damage the body, and reinforce an unrealistic view of life.
- We believe that alcohol is unpredictably addictive and the destructive effects from its abuse cannot be fully measured. We see abstinence as a wise form of self-discipline. Drunkenness is to be avoided at all costs in obedience to God's Word. (Proverbs 20:1; Luke 21:34; Romans 13:13 and Ephesians 5:17-18)
- We believe that tobacco is a major cause of a variety of cancers and other diseases, as well as being an expensive and socially offensive addiction. Nicotine is a powerfully addictive substance, whatever the delivery method used.

We desire to be a community of people continuing to be transformed into the likeness of Christ, living free from the excesses of pleasure and overcoming the bondages of addictions so that we can joyfully participate in the mission of God in the world. We believe in Christ's power to deliver (Romans 6:13; Galatians 6:2). But, we also recognize the struggles associated with attaining these freedoms and are therefore committed, with the grace that God supplies, to provide support to one another within and through the church body, through making pastoral counsel available and through referring people to professional and community resources.

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Rev. Lloyd Eyre, President of Lorne Park Foundation, presented the report of Lorne Park Foundation. He shared that funds have reached \$2.8 million. The Donald and Kathleen Bastian Chair of Wesley Studies fund has reached \$1.4 million of the \$1.2 million goal (this figure includes funds from the Free Methodist Foundation). Lloyd stated that there are many special scholarships available. (See **Appendix Six** for the written report.)

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“Developing Godly, Competent Leaders for Today and Tomorrow” Study Team Report
(National Ministerial Education Guidance and Placement Committee)

(See **Appendix Seven** for the written report.)

Rev. Kim Henderson presented the MEGaP report, “Developing Godly, Competent Leaders for Today and Tomorrow”.

Kim used videos to introduce all the new ordained ministers, commissioned ministers and ministerial candidates and encouraged churches to be a place where ministry leaders are developed.

Kim introduced Bishop Keith and Donna Elford. Through the process of an interview, Bishop Elford and Donna shared learnings from the Bishop's journey of emotional depletion and restoration.

It was noted within the Developing Leaders report that the MEGaP Committee considers the character and performance of each of the members of the General Conference on an ongoing basis and is satisfied that they are acceptable, with the exception of:

- Edward Yoshida, who was expelled for conduct unbecoming a Christian minister. He persistently breached professional pastoral ethics by ongoing, direct interference with the ministry of his successor, and for being insubordinate to clear written instructions given to him by MEGaP and the Bishop.
- Six ministers who were flagged by MEGaP; because they had personal/ministry issues, or about whom MEGaP has no information. MEGaP continues to monitor these situations

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On motion, the following recommendation was approved.

**Developing Leaders Recommendation #1:
MEGaP Stats Report**

The National MEGaP recommends to the General Conference 2014 that the MEGaP Statistics Report be adopted as amended.

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Kim invited Rev. Dan Jansen and Rev. Jason Tripp to make a presentation to the Conference. Dan explained a shift MEGaP is endorsing for how pastors spend their ministry time. This shift changes work hours from the term "office hours" to "ministry hours", so that pastors are available during the times others are not working, enabling more time for discipleship. There was a time of discussion in small groups reflecting on incorporating this way of spending work hours throughout the week.

Jason presented a mindset of discipleship making, that reflects how Jesus disciplined others. He stated that discipling should happen in the street as well as the sanctuary, and in the school as well as the living room. Jason described four disciple-making spaces: *public space* (Sunday morning worship), *social space* (missional communities), *personal space* (small groups) and *intimate space* (life transformational groups). There was a time of discussion in small groups reflecting on incorporating this type of disciple-making in church ministry.

Kim closed the report.

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On motion the report of the Developing Godly, Competent Leaders for Today and Tomorrow was approved.

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Chris Lewis made some final announcements.

The Executive and other Committee assignments on the Board of Administration were announced:

- a. **Executive:** Greg Ford (Chair), Rick Hamilton (Vice Chair), Evelyn Lawrence (Secretary), Chris Pomeroy (Treasurer)
- b. **Committee assignments completed:**
 - **Church Health:** Matt Wiley, Aaron James, Evelyn Lawrence
 - **Church Planting:** Darryl Dozlaw, Michael Tesema, _____
 - **Global Ministries:** Rodney Peterson, Vern Frudd, _____
 - **Leadership:** Tanya Prinsep, Greg Ford, _____
 - **Management:** Harold Gonyou, Rick Hamilton, Chris Pomeroy, Jeff Robinson

(Marc Ngendahayo and the two unidentified candidates will be asked as to their choices for a committee assignment and will be assigned later through an email vote by the Board.)

The Board of Administration led in a time of laying on of hands and prayer for the National Leadership Team and their spouses that were present

Rev. Jason Johnson gave the complimentary resolutions. Thanks were expressed to:

- Bishop Elford, presiding over the Conference and for the Sunday message
- National Leadership Team Members: Jared Siebert, Kim Henderson, Marc McAlister, Mark Molczanski, and Dan Sheffield
- Greg Ford, Chair of the Board of Administration
- Chris Lewis, Conference Coordinator
- Ryan Young and the members of the worship team
- Storyboard Solutions
- Dr. Will Willimon
- Translators: Anathalie Jean Charles, Lindsay Noel, Mary-Elsie Wolfe
- Sunday afternoon workshop leaders
- Dennis Camplin, Jennifer Wager and Jason Tripp for their Monday morning devotions
- Sabrina D’Rozario and Darrin Lindsay for the memorial service
- Audio visual team
- Retirees for their service to the Lord and His church
- Prayer Coordinators: Sarah Jackson and Luke Haggett
- Nominating Committee: Mike Hogeboom and the Nominating Committee members
- All involved in the Sunday morning and evening services
- Steve Cylka, General Conference Secretary
- Greg Pulham, Parliamentarian

- Tellers: Dennis Ball, Ian Isaak, Beverly Kay (Head Teller), Belinda Leibel, Jeremy MacDonald, Holly Raymond, Lynda Sinclair, Annette Smith
- Members of: the Board of Administration, the Ministerial Education Guidance and Placement Committee, the Nominating Committee, the Study Commission on Doctrine
- Hotel staff

On motion, the General Conference adjourned at 3:27 to meet again at the call of the chair.

A closing prayer was given by Bishop Elford

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen R. Cylka, Secretary