



Working Together in the 21st Century

The mission of the
Free Methodist Church
is to make known to
all people everywhere God's
call to wholeness through
forgiveness and holiness in
Jesus Christ, and to invite
into membership and to equip
for ministry all who
respond in faith.

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*Based on ideas from Peter Senge, The Fifth Discipline.

**Concepts on p. 12 are a revision of concepts from Ken Blanchard, John Carlos and Alan Randolph, The Three Keys to Empowerment and from Leading the Team-Based Church, by George Cladis, Jossey-Bass Publications.

vision

A healthy biblical community
of holy people ...
multiplying disciples, leaders, groups
and churches

Our Vision Path

Every church a healthy church
with Spirit-filled leadership
working a plan to fulfill our
Expected Outcomes





Our Expected Outcomes

1 Prayer-Saturated Congregation

- speaking to God on behalf of a lost world
- praying first, acting second
- interceding for individuals, rulers and nations to yield to the ultimate victory of Christ
- listening to the Holy Spirit and obeying Him

2 Worshipping Congregation

- celebrating the saving grace of God in singing
- encountering God in prayers
- reading and obeying the Word
- preaching the Word
- observing the sacraments

3 Discipling Congregation

- connecting all who wish to know Christ to groups or cells
- nurturing believers toward Christ-like, obedient love
- enfolding believers, welcoming them into membership
- bringing disciples to a life pattern of holy living through the transforming work of the Holy Spirit
- taking and sending disciples into the world to serve

4 Evangelizing Congregation

- befriending spiritually lost people
- presenting and explaining the gospel in culturally relevant ways
- inviting spiritually lost people to trust Christ as Savior

5

Reproducing Congregation

- developing the next generation of pastoral and lay leaders
- establishing cells as core groups for new church plants
- planting new congregations

6

Culture-Engaging Congregation

- seeking justice for all
- showing mercy to the poor
- empowering the disenfranchised

7

World-Mission Congregation

- engaging in Free Methodist (FM) World Missions
- giving vital resources
- sending cross-cultural evangelists
- providing diverse support teams

8

Purpose-Driven Congregation

- organizing for essentials only
- focusing on mission and vision to shape all ministry
- surrendering to Christ's mandated Great Commandment and Great Commission
(see page 5)





Multiplying Effective *Learning Communities*

Learning Communities focus on five objectives:

1. Grow in Christlikeness
2. Unite around a vision
3. Learn in teams as peers in Christ
4. Share stories which influence godly behavior
5. Understand and manage cultural forces which shape the church

Learning Communities organize themselves into teams or groups that meet regularly, using a model such as the acrostic L.E.A.D. to guide their agenda:

L Learn together through studying and discussing the Bible and books or articles that contribute to the understanding of God's Word.

"So...throw yourself into this work of Christ. Pass on what you heard from me...to reliable leaders who are competent to teach others."
(2 Timothy 2:2)

E Encourage one another by listening to one another's story, offering counsel, praying for and spurring one another to love and good deeds.

"If you've gotten anything at all out of following Christ, if his love has made any difference in your life, if being in a community of the Spirit means anything to you, if you have a heart, if you care – then do me a favor: Agree with each other, love each other, be deep-spirited friends." (Philippians 2:1-2)

A Accountability means that we will live according to the principle that speaking the truth and extending grace to one another over the course of time produces godly fruit in and through the church.

“If someone falls into sin, forgivingly restore him, saving your critical comments for yourself. You might be needing forgiveness before the day’s out. Stoop down and reach out to those who are oppressed. Share their burdens, and so complete Christ’s law.” (Galatians 6:1-2)

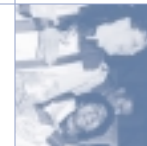
D Dream together about ministry and Christlike living. Do. Put into practice those ministries and behaviors that intentionally obey the commission of Jesus.

“God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I’ll be with you as you do this, day after day, right up to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18-20)

Scripture passages are from The Message.



1. The chart below represents the denomination's commitment to placing mission ahead of method.
2. Leaders are responsible for achieving the expected outcomes.
3. These are the parameters and outcomes expected in every Free Methodist Church.



Non-negotiables

We may NOT

- live in violation of the Scriptures
- live in violation of the Articles of Religion, the Constitution, the Membership Covenant, or the Mission of the Free Methodist Church

Our pastors may NOT

- live in violation of ordination vows

Leadership Initiatives

Placing **mission** ahead of method, our pastors and churches are **free** to strategize and minister in ways which fulfill our **Expected Outcomes**.

Expected Outcomes

See elaboration on pages 2-3:

Every Free Methodist Congregation:

1. Prayer-Saturated
2. Worshipping
3. Discipling
4. Evangelizing
5. Reproducing
6. Culture-Engaging
7. World-Mission-Engaging

- lead the church in ways which detract from our mission

8. Purpose-Driven

Our Strategic Priority

To multiply godly, competent leaders.

The focus of the Bishops, Superintendents and all general church ministry teams must be one these three functions:

- Invest in the multiplication of godly, competent leaders who mentor and equip others
- Form and nurture effective Free Methodist Networks that enhance the fulfillment of our Expected Outcomes
- Promote the vision path that every church be a healthy church with Spirit-filled leadership, working a plan to fulfill our Expected Outcomes



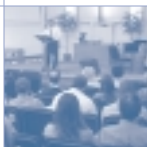


Our Community Culture

- We are a **connectional** church. We are strengthened most by our relationships based on truthfulness and grace.
- We believe our **mission drives everything** we do.
- We **proclaim a grace that is free**. Jesus said the crowning work of authentic ministry is this: when the poor have the gospel brought to them. Hence, the destitute and disenfranchised of the world deserve our particular care.
- We strive to make the message of the **gospel relevant** to our culture by remaining faithful to God, while showing love and sensitivity to the world.
- We **accept all** who come to us, seeing the most desperate sinner with the potential to become a whole and devoted follower of Jesus.
- We see smaller **groups and cells** within the larger Body of Christ as the best environment for the birth, mentoring, encouragement and care of new believers.

- We view our local ***churches as mission outposts***. Our pastors are appointed, not just to a local congregation and building, but to the evangelization of whole communities, towns or cities.
- We see ourselves as an ***apostolic movement***. We are a “sent” people, charged with the task of reaching new territories and new populations of people with the gospel.
- We are ***Wesleyan*** in our doctrine and in our practice. We value the guidance of the scriptures and the consensus of the Church throughout her history.
- We are to be a ***holy people***. Our conduct and our teaching are to reflect the holiness and love of God. We seek nothing less than the healing of mind, body and soul of all who come under our care.





Our Vision for
*Conferences and the
General Church*

Every conference and the general church creating an environment that equips and supports the church and its leaders to fulfill our Expected Outcomes

The information on pages 8-12 describes specifics which help create this equipping and supportive environment.

FM Entities

Associations

- FM Colleges/Universities (AFMEI)
- Association of Human Service Ministries (AHSM)
- FM Chaplains Association (FMCA)
- FM Medical Fellowship (FMMF)

Auxiliaries

- Men's Ministries International (MMI)
- Women's Ministries International (WMI)

Free Methodist Foundation

Networks

- African American
- Brazilian
- Haitian
- Hispanic
- National Student Ministries Team (NSMT)
- FM Urban Ministries (FMUM)

Resourcing Events

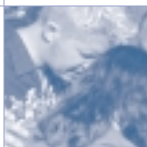
- Graduate Student Theological Seminar (GSTS)
- J-Term
- New Pastors' Orientation (NPO)
- Bishops and Superintendent's Consultation (BSC)

FM Networks

Networks are teams of people with a specific mission, working in close consultation to advance the cause of Christ. They ...

- Shall be **formed out of need**, upon the availability of a godly, competent leader.
- Shall be **supported** only as they function in **harmony with the Great Commandment** and the **Great Commission**.
- Shall **continue** as they **provide leadership**, which results in fulfilling our purpose and mission and as they **evidence multiplication** of disciples, leaders, groups and churches.
- Shall **select apprentices** to be mentored by Network leaders so that multiplication will occur intentionally and regularly.
- Shall **function within the funding parameters** provided through United Ministries for Christ (UMC) Home Ministries, though the network may propose to the FMCNA Board of Administration additional means through which they may generate income.
- Shall submit an **annual report to the Board of Bishops** by July 1, noting:
 - Goals and objectives
 - Progress on meeting goals and objectives
 - Financial report including a projected budget for the coming year
 - Rationale and need for the ongoing function of the network





Empowerment Plan

Step 1.

Share information
with everyone

Connection is vital, thus Free Methodist Communications is moving to electronic communications. Denominational web sites are linked to one master site: www.freemethodistchurch.org.

Therefore, we propose that leaders at every level:

- Model the Mission and Vision.
- Build trust through sharing.
- Practice mutual accountabilities.

Step 2.

Create autonomy through
healthy boundaries

Our non-negotiables define our FM boundaries. When people know the boundaries and are empowered through trust and training, their passion for Kingdom realities grows.

Therefore, we propose that leaders at every level:

- Clarify goals and roles.
- Define values that underlie actions.
- Create permission-giving procedures.

Step 3.

Function in ministry
through self-directed teams

Networks expand the Kingdom when they empower godly, competent leaders by being flexible, multiplying and need-meeting.

Therefore, we propose that leaders at every level:

- Utilize spiritual gifts and temperaments.
- Provide direction and skills training.
- Release control to the effective teams.

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*But you are a chosen people,
a royal priesthood,
a holy nation,
a people belonging to God,
that you may declare
the praises of him who
called you out of darkness
into his wonderful light.*

1 Peter 2:9, NIV



This brochure is produced by Free Methodist Communications, a ministry team dedicated to connecting Free Methodist churches and people with each other, with our God-given identity and unique mission, and with the needs of the world.

For more information and ministry resources from the Free Methodist Church of North America and to discover opportunities to interact with our churches and people visit our web site at:

www.freemethodistchurch.org