

SUBJECT: **Bishops**

BY: New England Conference / Richard Leonard

RELATED TO: Par. A/591

Rating: **A**

ASSIGNED:

ACTION: Ministry Committee:  
General Conference:

1 WHEREAS, each generation of Free Methodists must ask afresh what is the nature  
2 and function of its leaders, and

3 WHEREAS, our *Book of Discipline* does not give clear guidance on this matter  
4 relative to bishops,

5 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

6 that the 2003 General Conference order that the following paragraph be  
7 included in the next published Discipline under the heading of Bishops:

8 Bishops are elected to serve the church as overseers. They are to  
9 function as teachers and defenders of the faith, general shepherds,  
10 pastors to the pastors, and administrators who by good example and  
11 faithful application of the Book of Discipline assure the order of the  
12 church. Bishops are to inspire the church by preaching and example  
13 to the carrying out of Christ's Great Commission.