

SUBJECT: Election of General Conference Delegate

BY: Pacific Coast Japanese Conference / David Hino

RELATED TO: A/281.2

Rating:

ASSIGNED:

ACTION: Ministry Committee:
General Conference:

1 WHEREAS, the Free Methodist Church is committed to the multiplication of "godly
2 competent leaders, and

3 WHEREAS, the election of the General Conference delegates of both ministers and
4 lay persons is by a ballot election without nominations, and

5 WHEREAS, the process of this election assumes that delegates to an annual
6 conference are sufficiently aware of the qualifications, leadership skills and spiritual
7 character of other conference lay people and ministers, but in reality delegates are
8 uninformed about such matters due to the geographical distances between
9 churches and the growing size of a conference, and

10 WHEREAS, the process of this election is even more discouraging to new delegates
11 who are at greater disadvantage in knowing who to elect, and

12 WHEREAS, after the first ballot, many delegates simply vote based on whoever is
13 getting the highest number of votes rather than based on discernment and prayer,
14 and

15 WHEREAS, those who are getting elected have not been through any screening
16 process prior to their election,

17 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

18 that Paragraph A/281.2 be replaced by the following:

19 The ministerial delegates and reserve delegates to General Conference
20 can be nominated by the nominating committee and elected by the
21 ministers of the annual conference. They shall be elders and, at the
22 time of their election, as also at the time of the General Conference,
23 shall be members of the annual conference from which he/she is

24 elected. When a ministerial delegate leaves the conference from
25 which he/she is elected prior to the time of the General Conference,
26 by accepting an appointment to serve another conference, he/she shall
27 be automatically disqualified as a delegate.

28

29 Persons nominated as General Conference Delegates:

- 30 • shall seek to live in accordance to the scriptural principles of
31 Christian conduct as expressed in the Membership and
32 Covenant (Paragraph A/156-160);
- 33 • should be recognized leaders in the church with evidence of
34 spiritual gifts of leadership and faith;
- 35 • continue to live in harmony with our doctrine, membership
36 covenant and mission;
- 37 • are seeking to fulfill our expected outcomes of the Free
38 Methodist Church.

39

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

41 that Paragraph A/281.3 be replaced with the following:

42 In emergencies where neither elected ministerial delegates nor reserve
43 delegates can serve in this capacity, the board of administration (or its
44 equivalent) of that annual conference shall have authority to elect by
45 majority vote the additional reserve delegates to serve.

46

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

48 that Paragraph A/282.2 be replaced with the following:

49 The lay delegates and reserve lay delegates to General Conference can
50 be nominated by the nominating committee and elected by the lay
51 delegates of the annual conference they are to represent. They must
52 at the time of the election and at the time of the General Conference
53 be members of the church in full relation within the bounds of the
54 conference which elects them. When a delegate leaves the
55 conference from which he/she is elected prior to the time of the
56 General Conference, he/she shall be automatically disqualified as a
57 delegate.

58

59 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

60 that Paragraph A/282.3 be replaced with the following:

61 In emergencies where neither lay delegates nor reserve lay delegates
62 can serve in this capacity, the board of administration (or its
63 equivalent) of that annual conference shall have the authority to elect
64 by majority vote the additional reserve delegates to serve.