

A Conceptual Framework For Working Together In The 21st Century

www.fmna.org

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.

Introduction

The Word of God is our standard and guide in all we do and propose. It is through the anointing of the Holy Spirit and the wisdom that results from seeking God, that clarity vision and understanding of function emerges. It is through the confirmation of God's people that vision can become a reality and that the prayers of the saints can result in great movements of God in our world.

The call to become an apostolic movement, a movement of God into the harvest fields of the world, will mean:

- A church focused on the message of the cross, the resurrection and the Kingdom of God
- A church with sound doctrine, integrating faith and learning
- A church with a holy passion, surrendered to the purposes of God
- A church which reaches and multiplies across all boundaries: religious, ethnic and national
- A church that models Jesus

We believe that the local church is God's instrument to transform society. We believe that local leaders are to be entrusted with the privilege and responsibility of fulfilling our Core Values. This, in short, represents the theological and practical basis for the proposals that follow.

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 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, 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 Core Values

As people of Wesleyan/Arminian persuasion, focused on living holy lives to the glory of God, we will:

"love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength, and love others as much as we love ourselves." (Mark 12:30-31)

"go to the people of all nations and make them disciples of Jesus." (Matthew 28:19)

Our Purpose

To know God and to glorify Him by making Him known.

Our Strategic Priority

Multiplying godly, competent leaders

Our Profile of a healthy church

Every church a worshiping community

Every church an enfolding congregation producing disciplined, growing, holy people

Every church a reproducing congregation

Every church regularly reaching the lost for Christ

Every church engaged in our world missionary movement

Every church seeking justice and showing mercy to the poor and disenfranchised

Every church organizing to best accomplish its purpose and mission

Every church characterized by intercessory prayer

Our Non-Negotiables

We may not live in violation of the Scriptures.

We may not 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 their ordination vows.

Our leaders may not lead the church in ways which detract or divert from our mission.

Our Leadership Initiatives

Placing mission ahead of method, our pastors and churches are free to strategize and minister in ways which fulfill our Profile of a Healthy Church.

Our Vision for the Local Church

Every church a healthy church with Spirit filled leadership working a plan to fulfill our Profile of a Healthy Church.

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 Profile of a Healthy Church.

The Free Methodist Church

A healthy Biblical community

A holy people

Multiplying disciples, leaders, groups, churches

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)

The Strategic Priority of the Free Methodist Church is to multiply godly, competent leaders. Therefore, the Board of Bishops and every other general church department/entity must focus on this priority. We believe that Bishops should function in at least these three ways:

1. Invest in the multiplication of godly, competent leaders who mentor and equip others.
2. Form and nurture effective Free Methodist networks that enhance the fulfillment of our core values.
3. Promote the vision that every church be a healthy church with Spirit-filled leadership -- working a plan to fulfill our Profile of a Healthy Church.

Structuring for effectiveness in harmony with our vision

Board of Bishops (BOB) Equipping and mentoring godly, competent leaders with particular emphasis among denominational executives, superintendents, and Free Methodist network leaders.

World Missions (FMWM/USA) Fulfilling our Biblical Mandate to all people everywhere.

Light and Life Communications (LLC) Resourcing leadership and telling our story

Administration and Finance Maximizing stewardship of resources in harmony with priorities

Board of Administration (BOA) Setting policy and budgets to fulfill our Core Values, consulting on personnel matters,

Free Methodist Educational Institutions (AFMEI) Partnering with the church to prepare and multiply godly, competent leaders to engage the culture and change the world

Free Methodist Association of Human Service Ministries (AHSM) Ministering to those in special need and in life transition.

Free Methodist auxiliaries Men's Ministries International (MMI) and Women's Ministries International (WMI) offering and providing help as subsidiaries of the church.

Free Methodist Chaplains Association (FMCA) Exercising frontline ministry in spreading the gospel and giving pastoral care.

Free Methodist Foundation (FMF) Generating and managing resources to advance the cause of Christ through the Free Methodist Church

Free Methodist Networks (FMN) Flexible, multiplying, need-meeting networks that empower godly, competent leaders in Kingdom outreach and expansion. The FM Networks may include:

African American	National Student Ministries Team
Family/Age Level	Native American
Asian	Revitalization
Cell Transition	Superintendents
Church Planting	Urban
Haitian	250+, 400+, 600+ pastors
	Latin American

Practical Implications

Every church will be encouraged to develop a plan designed to meet expected outcomes.

Superintendents, Boards of Ministerial Education and Guidance, and FM Networks will be available to assist churches in strategic planning.

Every church and pastor will be encouraged to use our standard assessment process to regularly measure progress on the fulfillment of their strategic plan.

The Board of Bishops will regularly encourage and coach superintendents, leaders of the various FM Networks, and denominational executives.

The FM Networks will be developed by the Board of Bishops as needed, and will emerge out of real needs and upon the availability of godly, competent leaders for the network.

The FM Network leaders will select and mentor an apprentice so that multiplication will occur intentionally and with regularity.

The Board of Bishops, assisted by the leadership development clerical staff at the World Ministries Center, will process emerging pastors to ordination, coordinate efforts with the John Wesley Seminary Foundation (JWSF), the Association of Free Methodist Educational Institutions and other strategic priority (leadership) issues, in harmony the policies and mission of the Free Methodist Church of North America.

THE FM EMPOWERMENT PLAN *

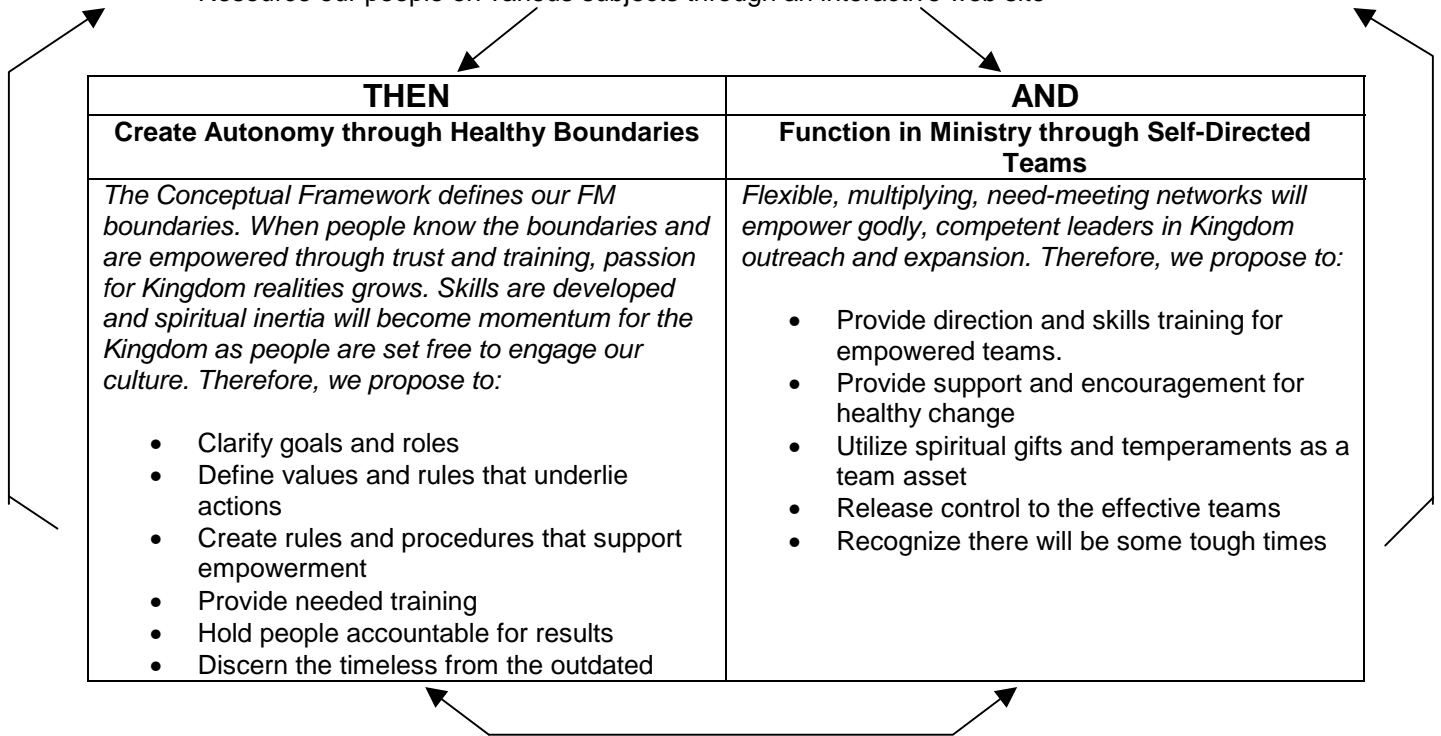
Equipping the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ. Ephesians 4:12

Start with --

Sharing Information with Everyone

Light and Life Communications is moving to electronic communications. Departmental web sites will be merged or linked to one master site. Instantaneous communications to the entire will help us create a new era of information sharing, wherein we provide access to all leaders at all levels to all pertinent team-building information. Therefore, we propose to:

- Share information about the church; helping people understand the mission.
- Build trust through sharing
- Practice mutual accountabilities
- View mistakes as learning opportunities
- Help people take personal responsibility for the health of the church
- Resource our people on various subjects through an interactive web site



Revision of concepts from Ken Blanchard, John Carlos and Alan Randolph, The 3 Keys to Empowerment.