

Free Methodist Church

Board of Bishops
P. O. Box 535002
Indianapolis, IN 46253

fmcna INFO

TO: General Conference Delegates, Pastors, Superintendents, Ministers in Special Appointments and Relations, World Ministries Center Staff, Missionaries, Retired Bishops, Retired Ministers, AFMEI Presidents, AHSM Presidents, WMI President, MMI Executive Director, MMI President, FMF President, Chaplaincy Endorsing Agent

FROM: Joseph James, World Ministries Center Overseer
Hank Bode, Board of Administration Chair

RE: **FMCNA INFO** (Vol. 1, No. 2) May 2000

World Ministries Center Mortgage Paid in Full!

Our thanks to all who made the move to the new World Ministries Center possible (Board of Bishops, Board of Administration, Relocation Committee). Our thanks to the headquarters leaders and staff who, ten years ago, made the transition from Winona Lake to Indianapolis. Our thanks to all those who provided significant financial support in paying off the debt, including those who contributed through the Home Free campaign. Our thanks to the Free Methodist Foundation who led the Partners in Ministry Campaign, finalized the sale of the Winona Lake properties, and provided the recent grant of \$270,000 to complete payment of the debt on the WMC.

We give thanks to the Lord. All "Headquarters" properties have now been sold at Winona Lake. The World Ministries Center in Indianapolis is paid in full.

Personnel Updates

Rev. David Harvey, former Director of Growth Ministries, has been elected as the superintendent of the New York and Maryland-Virginia Conferences, and began serving January 1.

Dr. Larry Houck, former Director of World Missions, has accepted a position on the staff of Mt. Vernon Nazarene College, Mt. Vernon, OH. He began his new responsibilities as of January 1.

Dr. Gayle D. Beebe has been named the new president of Spring Arbor College. He will assume office July 1, 2000. Dr. Beebe comes from Azusa Pacific University as dean of the C. P. Haggard School of Theology.

Dr. Arthur Brown, senior pastor of the Pearce Memorial Free Methodist Church in North Chili, New York, has accepted the appointment as Director of World Missions for the Free Methodist Church of North America. Pastor Brown has been a key proponent of the church's mission movement throughout his many years of service. Along with his family and various others, he has visited, taught, and in other ways ministered on several of the church's mission fields. His heart for missions, administrative and pastoral skills contribute to a great future for the church's thrust in fulfilling God's Great Commission around the world.

Dr. Brown has pastored in Gowanda, NY, Wilmore, KY, and North Chili, NY. He also served as a stationed superintendent in the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference and as superintendent of the Genesee Conference. He began his new assignment as Director of World Missions on April 1 (1/3 time) and will move to Indianapolis and begin full time employment on July 1.

AFMEI Youth Names Round-Up

At their annual meeting in February, the Presidents and Board Chairpersons of our Free Methodist Colleges and Universities agreed to assist in locating all Free Methodist students so that they may benefit from FM student scholarships. Mr. David Ferrell of Central Christian College presented the proposal to contract for the gathering of the names and addresses of all youth connected to our US Free Methodist Churches.

The ultimate goal is for all AFMEI institutions to share in the data for the purpose of recruitment. Bishop Krober says in support of this project: "We all believe our schools have much to offer our youth. We wish to strengthen the tie between them and our denomination. This will assist the process and ultimately will result in more of them connecting to our churches and joining in our mission to know Christ and to make Christ known. We urge all pastors and youth workers to respond favorably, quickly and precisely to the letters of inquiry that will be coming."

Pastors, please be alert to the first mailing coming to all local churches in September 2000. The gathered information will be shared with all of our AFMEI schools. No commercial use will be made of the data. Superintendents, we appreciate your support in this initiative.

FM Radio Station Opportunity (see attached letter from Larry Roberts)

Social Security Info

From the Current News Summary, Dec. 2, 1999:

"Clergy who decided not to participate in the Social Security system have two years to change their minds. Priests, rabbis, and other clergy sometimes opt out of Social Security on religious grounds, but want to get into it as they near retirement age and need benefits such as Medicare coverage, Associated Baptist Press said.

"...Congress has created a two-year opportunity for clergy to get back into the system. They can join the program by April 15, 2002, then pay for 10 years before becoming eligible to receive benefits. Congress made a similar opportunity for ministers in 1986, but it is unlikely to happen again. "We don't believe that any future Congress is going to look kindly on reopening this issue somewhere down the road," Deirdre Halloran, an attorney for the U.S. Catholic Conference, said."

Board of Bishops Report

The Board of Bishops have met eight times since July for a total of twenty-nine days. In addition, they have met five times by conference call. Their work has included study and prayer, assigning areas of oversight, seeking God's direction for the Free Methodist Church, developing the White Paper for October BOA and the Conceptual Framework paper for the April BOA, planning leadership events, networking with key leaders and the BOA in laying plans for the future. Some specific decisions that may be of interest to you include:

Sponsored the Large Church Pastors Event (January 14-17, 2000) that reviewed the gift copy of the book entitled "*One Size Doesn't Fit All: Bringing Out the Best In Any Size Church*" by Gary L. McIntosh with the large church pastors and spouses.

Sponsored a Missions Forum (April 9) with the World Missions Director, Area Directors, and FMWM Executives on strengthening the partnership in our world missions endeavors. Another meeting is planned for October 14-15.

Approved a grant of \$10,000 to assist in completing the Cell Transition Network equipping materials that are aimed at helping churches move to a cell-based ministry.

Provided a copy of Wesley Duewel's book, *More God, More Power*, to each appointed pastor.

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Made plans to attend as delegates the World Methodist Council meeting, July 2001 in Brighton,

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England. Asked Allan Ellershaw to join us.

Nominated two Council Members: David Kendall, Mark Van Valin, with Wayne McCown and John Martin as alternates

Increased annual contribution to Christian Holiness Partnership (CHP) from \$2,500 to \$3,500 for this year, to be evaluated in the coming year.

Approved church planting grants in the amount of \$6,000 each to:

2nd year - The Bridge, Edwardsville, IL - Gateway

2nd year - Belmont L & L, Long Beach, CA - Southern California

2nd year - Faith Harvest Fellowship, Missoula, MT - Columbia River

2nd year - Brazilian FMC, Deerfield Beach, FL - Florida

1st year - The Spiritual Fitness Center, Santa Clarita, CA - Southern California

1st year - L & L Christian Fellowship, Bixby Knolls, CA - Southern California

1st year - The Bridge, Edwardsville, IL - Gateway

Made plans to participate in the International Youth Conference to be held in Ft. Collins, Colorado, July 22-27, 2000.

Approved a \$25,000 grant to enable Jesse Carvalho to be full time in coordinating the developing Brazilian (Portuguese speaking) leaders and the starting of new churches.

Provided a hard back copy of the *Reflecting God Study Bible* for every appointed pastor, missionary, and various others. Our rationale?

The strategic priority of the FMC is to multiply godly, competent leaders. This means that we must invest in leadership. The Board of Bishops believes that we must put UMC Home Ministries funds into that priority. The new NIV study Bible is the first of its kind in the main version-of-choice among FM's. We have long needed a Wesleyan/Armenian study Bible for our leaders. We believe that getting this into the hands of our leaders will result in better teaching and, hopefully, in members of the FMC purchasing the Bible since their pastor and professor is using it.

Placing a two page insert in at the front of the Bible will give our pastors and other leaders ready access to various items related to the FMC and to the AFMEI schools. We also hope that this gift will let our leaders know that they are cared for and valuable.

Called a Communications Task Force (Larry Roberts, chair) together (April 10-11) to strategize on how to implement the repositioning of Light & Life Communications. (Recommendations from the Communications Task Force are attached.)

Board of Administration Report

The Board of Administration met at the World Ministries Center in Indianapolis on April 7 and 8. Members present included: Eric Baird (Oklahoma); Carol Bartlett (Washington); Robert Bedford (Florida); Hank Bode (California); Forest Bush (California); William Cryderman (Michigan); Josh Fajardo (Florida); Steve Fitch (California); Byron Forbes (Texas); Zonda Haase (Ohio); Roger Haskins (California); Joseph James (Indiana); Gene Keene (Washington); Leslie Krober (Illinois); Mark Logan (New York); Pearson Miller (Indiana); Larry Roberts (Washington); Dan Shinabarger (Michigan); Vernon Snyder (New York); Richard Snyder (New York); Matt Thomas (Washington); Rob Turner (Michigan); Mark Van Valin (Indiana); Mark Whitlock (Illinois); Brenda Young (Ohio); Alex Marufu (Zimbabwe). Unable to attend: Hector Fernandez (New Jersey); Antoine Mahinja (Burundi). Here is a summary of the actions taken.

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Reports were received from the following:

Budget and Finance Committee — Gene Keene
Free Methodist Foundation — Stanley Thompson
Task Force to Review the Role of Bishops — Dan Shinabarger
Board of Bishops — Roger Haskins
Operating Committee — Joseph James
Book of Discipline Editorial Committee — Carol Bartlett
Nominating Committee — Byron Forbes
Communications Committee — Larry Roberts
World Missions Committee — Steve Fitch

The following actions were taken:

By mail vote on November 16, 1999:

Approved Budget and Finance Committee to finalize 2000 budget, with power to act.
Approved David Goodnight as member of Free Methodist Foundation board.
Approved Hank Bode as member of the FMCNA Board of Directors for 2000.

By mail vote on January 28, 2000:

Approved rewrite of general conference Paper No. 707.A regarding Affiliate Churches.
Approved additional members for the Committee on Free Methodist History and Archives as follows: Gerald Bates, Bill Mulwee, David Bundy (resource person).

The following actions were taken at the April 7-8 BOA meeting:

Empowered Budget and Finance Committee to proceed toward establishing an endowment fund to subsidize the Home Ministries operation.

Approved continued accreditation to the following social service agencies: The Birth Connection; Clawson Manor, New Life, Inc.; Deaconess Health Care Corporation; Heritage Village Family of Homes, Inc.; Life Line Homes, Inc.; Olive Branch Mission; The Retirement Village at Copper Lake; Warm Beach Senior Community; Woodstock Christian Life Services.

Accepted report that the Book of Discipline of each of the following general conferences has been reviewed and approved, completing the requirements for full general conference status: Burundi General Conference, South Africa General Conference, and Mozambique General Conference.

Adopted policy to be added to the Executive Handbook regarding processing organizational structure which impacts executive personnel as follows:

- a) Proposals shall be generated by or through the Board of Bishops to the Board of Administration for approval;
- b) Any proposal will be considered by the Board of Administration in executive session prior to communicating to executives or others;
- c) The Board of Administration shall provide counsel to the Board of Bishops regarding additional procedures.

Approved amended Standing Rules for the Board of Administration.

Approved recommendation from the Board of Bishops that the Yearbook be placed before the church electronically, in addition to hard copy.

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Approved endorsement of Robert Barnard of Wilmore, Kentucky, as the new Free Methodist Chaplaincy Endorsing Agent. (A special thanks to Bud Ansted for his tremendous service as Chaplaincy Endorsing Agent.)

Approved Enrichment Leave for Richard Snyder for January-March 2001.

Reviewed Board of Bishops' ruling regarding use of term "Board of Elders" in local churches (see attached ruling).

Ordered that general conference Paper No. 505.A (regarding pension plan participation) not be implemented and that instead the March 23, 2000 memo from Willadean Duncan be released to respond to the matter of Pension Plan participation by retirees and part time leaders under appointment.

Approved the following recommendation from the Board of Bishops:

"Whereas, Paragraph A/591.2 states that "Area Cabinets...may meet annually" and whereas the 1999 General Conference removed all specific purpose items related to the Bishop's Area Cabinet and whereas Bishops are meeting regularly with conference leaders and Free Methodist Network leaders, it is our view that the Bishops' Area Cabinet meetings have minimal value and do not justify the expense in cost or time; therefore we propose that Bishop's Area Cabinets not be held this quadrennium and we recommend that the Board of Administration propose to the next General Conference the disestablishment of Bishop's Area Cabinets."

Approved the recommendation that we accept the invitation of Seattle Pacific University to host the general conference in 2003, and further that we accept the tentative invitation from Roberts Wesleyan College for 2007. Dates to be announced later.

Approved the revised general conference Paper No. 908.A as follows:

Therefore be it resolved:

that Paragraph A/401.1.a, "Authority to Form" be edited to read:

"A church planting project may be sponsored by a local society, a conference or district, or duly constituted agency in any geographic area. When such planting (beyond normally assigned boundaries) occurs, the sponsoring body will work with the existing Free Methodist legal entities which are either in or supervising that location for purposes of coordination, consideration of legal issues and cultural sensitivities."

Be it further resolved:

that Paragraph A/427, "New Societies on Conference Boundary" be edited to read:

"When a church planting project, fellowship, or society is formed near or within a territory or population group also served by or assigned to a denominational entity other than its sponsoring agency, all parties shall seek to establish and enhance fellowship and connectional ties as noted in Paragraph A/401, sections 1, 2, and 3, while recognizing evangelistic effectiveness as the highest priority."

Ordered that whenever the Board of Administration takes action to amend policy in the *Book of Discipline*, Section B, that at the time of the recommended change the BOA also prepare the appropriate verbiage for the *Book of Discipline*, and that those changes to the Discipline be reported to the next general conference.

Approved a one-year license to SGM Company to publish M.O.D.E.L. Ministry materials under FMCNA copyright, with the requirement that SGM report, at the end of the year, what use has been made of the materials. Such license may be automatically extended for additional one-year terms,

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under the same conditions, unless either party gives the other party notice of its intent to terminate such additional extension.

Adopted drafts on roles of BOA committees. These will be reviewed at the October BOA meeting.

Removed the recommendation regarding the restructuring of the World Ministries Center from the table (October BOA). Approved the following recommendation:

“Recognizing the importance of an ongoing responsiveness to the needs of conferences and local churches we anticipate an ongoing need for realignment of executive and staff functions within the World Ministries Center. Our commitment is to align all denominational entities with the accepted conceptual framework which includes bringing every structure into the service of our mission. Therefore, we propose the following:

1. That there will be three denomination executives:
 - a. World Missions Leader
 - b. Communications Leader
 - c. Finance Leader
2. That the responsibilities of the Leadership Development Department and Growth Ministries Department be reconfigured and become the responsibility of the newly enlarged Board of Bishops.
3. That one of the Bishops continue to serve as the World Ministries Center Overseer.”

(Note: See “Rational on Restructure of World Ministries Center” paper attached.)

Requested the Board of Bishops to present measurable goals for Growth Ministries (e.g. FM Networks) and Leadership Development, soliciting input from the BOA, with a report to October BOA.

Affirmed the first part (2 pages) of the paper entitled “A Conceptual Framework for Working Together in the 21st Century” as a working document (see attachment).

Accepted the second part of the Conceptual Framework paper as a working structure of the FMCNA.

Requested the Board of Bishops to bring to the October BOA clarification of how to implement Paragraph A/449 in the *Book of Discipline* in view of actions taken at the October '97 BOA regarding executive employment policies.

Affirmed the Strategic Priority of the Board of Bishops (see Conceptual Framework paper).

Referred the proposal regarding the Equal Participation Plan back to the Budget and Finance Committee.

Adopted general conference Paper No. 606 (Service of Covenant Reaffirmation) and that it be included in the Pastor’s Handbook.

Approved Paper No. 609.A (membership) to be entered into referendum process as follows:

Therefore be it resolved that Paragraph A/153.4 read as follows:

“Persistent neglect of church relationship by a member, which in effect is voluntary withdrawal.”

(Editorial note: It was later discovered that the paper had not been voted on by the North American general conference and could not be entered into referendum vote. It will be referred to the next general conference for action.)

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Approved Paper No. 706.A (music and worship) as amended:

Therefore be it resolved that Paragraph A/378 be changed to read:

“The purpose of music in divine service is to inspire and to sustain worship. Vocal and instrumental music used in the service shall seek to contribute to reverence and exalted worship and not the display of talent, however excellent. Qualified persons whose character and life reveal scriptural principles and support the stands of the Free Methodist Church shall be selected to lead the music and to play the instruments in public worship.”

Approved Paper No. 710.A (archives and records management) as amended:

Therefore be it resolved:

to endorse the plans of the Committee on History and Archives to proceed with developing a formalized Archives and Records Management Program for the Free Methodist Church.

Be it further resolved:

that a fund be established to finance the vision,

And be it further resolved:

that archival procedures be developed for the organization, preservation and use of archival records following the standards and guidelines suggested by the Society of American Archivists.

Tabled the recommendation regarding the paragraph on Technology from the Study Commission on Doctrine report.

Received the report of the General Conference Findings Committee and placed it on the agenda for the October BOA meeting for further consideration.

Granted authority to the Board of Bishops to appoint a coordinator for the 2003 General Conference.

Requested the Board of Bishops to ensure ethnic representation on FM Networks as appropriate so that the vision and mission of the church will be communicated to more people groups.

FM Network Liaisons from the Board of Bishops:

Free Methodist Urban Fellowship -- Roger Haskins

Urban Network -- Roger Haskins

Latin Ministry Task Force -- Richard Snyder

African-American Task Force -- Roger Haskins

National Student Ministries Team -- Leslie Krober

National Children's and/or Family Ministries Team -- Richard Snyder

Haitian Task Force -- Richard Snyder

Committees elected or adjusted as follows:

Study Commission on Doctrine: Leslie Krober (chair), Richard Snyder, Joseph James, Roger Haskins, Paul Livermore, Dennis Wayman, David Kendall, Ruth Huston, James Miyabe, Matthew Thomas, Kim Davis, Frank Kline, Badeg Bekele.

Study Commission on Bioethics and Genetic Engineering: Leslie Krober (chair), Glenn Teal, Tim Teusink, Robert Cranston, Steve Weber, Chad Davis, James Mannoia II, Sobeyda Ellis.

Communications Committee: (replaced two and increased size by two) Larry Roberts (chair), Dan Laughlin, Mark Van Valin, Mark Whitlock, Joseph James, Richard Nelson, Linda Henson, Josh Fajardo, Brenda Young. Ex officio: Editor of *Light & Life* Magazine, Director of Light & Life Communications.

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World Missions Committee: (increased size by one) Steve Fitch (chair), Forest Bush, Jesse Carvalho, Hector Fernandez, Leslie Krober, Matt Thomas, David Colgan, Bill Cryderman. Ex officio: two international delegates currently serving, Director of World Missions.

Finally...

Please keep in touch. In the course of your work as leaders in the church, we covet your prayers, insights and partnership in leading the Free Methodist Church in becoming a healthy Biblical community, a holy people and in multiplying disciples, leaders, groups, and churches. Your insights and responses are always welcome and are deeply appreciated.

Please pray for the Board of Bishops

For wisdom as they preside at the annual conferences this summer

For insight as they nourish effective FM Networks

For strength as they partner with FM leaders around the world

For passion as they cast God's vision for the church.

Here is a final question that is on our hearts and minds. What kind of a church do we need to become in order for God to be able to bless us abundantly? What kind of people do we need to become to make that church a reality?

Dates for upcoming Board of Administration meetings:

Fall Meeting

October 12-14, 2000

Spring Meeting

April 5-7, 2001

Enclosures:

1. Rationale for the Restructure of the World Ministries Center
2. A Conceptual Framework for Working Together in the 21st Century
3. Statement on Board of Elders
4. Communications Task Force recommendations
5. Unique FM Radio opportunities (information from Larry Roberts and the Communications Committee).