

# Free Methodist Church

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

***fmcna* INFO**

October 28, 1999

MEMO TO: General Conference Delegates, Pastors, Superintendents, 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. 1)

You are reading the *first* issue of the Free Methodist Church of North America **FMCNA INFO**. You will notice that this is being sent broadly across the church. It comes from a desire to keep you well informed of developments taking place at the World Ministries Center and actions of the Board of Administration. You will receive this mailing at least twice a year (more often if it seems helpful) as part of our commitment to increased regular communication to leaders across the church. We welcome your reflections and your feedback on both the information shared and the directions taken. We covet your prayers as we seek God's direction in the days ahead.

## **World Touch Helps!**

We are thankful for a much-needed upgrade of the computer hardware and software to Microsoft 2000 at the World Ministries Center, with the assistance of World Touch. This new technology will ensure that we can operate efficiently in the new millennium. Gary Wolf was named the new Management Information Systems (MIS) Director for the World Ministries Center.

## **Winona Lake Properties Sold**

In case you had wondered - the former Free Methodist Headquarters properties in Winona Lake, Indiana, have all been sold. The proceeds have been used to assist in the purchase of the new World Ministries Center in Indianapolis. This, along with some significant gifts through the Free Methodist Foundation and regular payments on the mortgage through the Free Methodist Foundation, now leaves a balance of approximately \$390,000. The property is valued at approximately four million dollars.

## **A Change in World Missions**

Our thank you to Dr. Larry Houck for his five years of faithful service in World Missions. Larry Houck served as Personnel Director from June 1994 to the end of 1996. He began his work as Director of World Missions in 1997. Initiatives launched during his tenure include The Global Missions Network, Global Churches, Partnership Contracts and the Hands of Hope through a Non-Government Organization (NGO). World Missions continues to grow and has launched ministries in 10 new countries during the past few years. Dr. Houck completed his service as the Director of World Missions in October.

The Board of Bishops has asked Bishop Joe James to serve as the Interim Director. We invite you to pray with us for God's grace and guidance in these days of transition and for God's leading in the appointment of a new Director of World Missions.

## Meet the Board of Administration

The new Board of Administration met October 14-18, 1999 at Indianapolis. By action of the General Conference this board is downsized from 43 to 26 members. The aim is for more of a leadership board rather than a representative board. Fourteen are first-time members. There is an increased diversity on the board.

Members include: Eric Baird (Oklahoma); Carol Bartlett (Washington); Robert Bedford (Florida); Hank Bode (California); Forest Bush (California); William Cryderman (Michigan); Josh Fajardo (Florida);

Hector Fernandez (New Jersey); 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); Antoine Mahinja (Burundi).

Friday was a day of orientation for all board members. The Board of Bishops presented a White Paper proposing a restructuring of the Board of Administration and the World Ministries Center. Saturday and Monday were business sessions. Sunday morning the Board members worshiped in the seven Indianapolis-area churches. In the evening these churches came together for an Area Praise Rally at the West Morris Street Church. The Board of Bishops presented the "State of the Work" report through the testimonies of new Christians and board members sharing stories of what God is doing in our churches that are experiencing the eight Expected Outcomes.

- Every local church a worshipping community.
- Every local church an enfolding congregation producing disciplined, growing, holy people.
- Every local church a reproducing congregation.
- Every local church regularly reaching the lost for Christ.
- Every local church engaged in our world missionary movement.
- Every local church ministering to the poor and disenfranchised.
- Every local church bringing structures into the service of its mission.
- Every local church characterized by extraordinary intercessory prayer.

There was a great sense of openness with this Board, with times of worship and extended prayer. There was willingness to discuss even difficult and painful issues. One board member expressed encouragement and expectation in saying that they were "looking forward" to our next meeting in April.

- *Brenda Young writes*, "The willingness to listen and the appreciation of varied viewpoints was such a blessing to me and was a very real indication of the strong presence of the Lord. It was a stretching experience for me, and a highlight in my walk with the Lord to participate in the board meetings. I saw Christ's people reflect Him accurately."

- *Steve Fitch writes*, "The Spirit of the Lord moved in a way that was definitely not business as usual. We have been called to become a movement again. An awareness of the Spirit's call led our thoughts throughout the meeting. We can believe God for a wonderful ministry future. The challenge we need to accept is continued deep spiritual and practical change."

The following is a summary of the work of the BOA.

Reports were received from the following:

- Bishops' State of the Work-Roger Haskins (see attached)
- Board of Bishops — Roger Haskins
- Operating Committee — Joseph James
- Administration and Finance — Gary Kilgore
- Audit Report — Debra Ladyman
- Free Methodist Foundation — Stanley Thompson
- Association of Free Methodist Educational Institutions — Timothy Beuthin
- Women's Ministries International — Beth Webb
- Men's Ministries International — Jim Stetler
- Growth Ministries — David Harvey
- Light & Life Communications — John Van Valin, publisher
- Chaplaincy Endorsing Agent Harry (Bud) Ansted
- Benefits Committee - Earl Schamehorn
- Budget and Finance Committee — Gene Keene
- Department of World Missions — Clancy Thompson

The following actions were taken:

- Approved a cycle of General Conferences in the years 2003, 2007, 2011 with the year 2010-2011 as a year of celebration of our 150th anniversary to conclude with a General Conference celebration.
- Suspended Standing Rules and referred revision to the officers of the BOA with a report due at the spring meeting.
- Approved that the 1998 Home Ministries surplus, except for \$25,000 designated for technological upgrade, not be disbursed from cash flow reserve. This is due to the minimal balance remaining in the account after covering \$800,000 of medical claims related to the former self-insured health insurance plan.
- Approved up to 100% of an ordained ministers' pension as housing allowance for the year 2000.
- Amended the Defined Benefit Plan to provide a \$1000 death benefit to current and future retirees upon presentation of a death certificate.
- Amended the Defined Benefit Plan eligibility to be the same as insurance eligibility (currently 25 hours per week) for new part-time employees. Existing part-time employees would be grandfathered in.
- Amended the Defined Benefit Plan based on last year's recommendation that a yearly minimum contribution of \$500 be set for all pension participants.
- Approved other editorial changes to pension plan documents.
- Changed the name of the Pension Board Executive Committee to Benefits Committee.

- Approved a recommendation from the Benefits Committee regarding health insurance as follows:

Whereas, the prior plan was drastically underfunded by more than \$800 per participant during the final year, and

Whereas, the extremely high level of utilization of services has resulted in a significant increase in premium for 2000, and

Whereas, when the superintendents were requested to respond to the Board of Bishops to convey their suggestions concerning their recommendations as to how to respond to the higher premiums, an overwhelming majority of superintendents felt it is in the best interest of the conference and local church to be given the option to seek their own insurance plan, and Whereas, a tremendous amount of time and energy has been devoted to maintaining a group plan for the denomination and it is evident there is less and less interest in continuing such a program,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following recommendation from the Benefits Committee be approved:

That the Denominational Insurance Program be discontinued effective November 30, 1999 with the responsibility of providing coverage for participants shifted to each individual conference.

- Adopted the recommendations regarding restructuring the Board of Administration as follows:

1. We propose that there be no executive committee. With a smaller leadership board of twenty-six members we propose that all members participate fully in all of the board's decisions. Many board members in the past felt like a "rubber stamp" to the Executive Committee decisions. Executive Committee members heard the same reports two or three times in a row. With the full board acting as a board the informal communication processes/network will be strengthened since all board members will be informed of all the essential issues.

2. We propose that there be no commissions. A commission model creates a built-in

redundancy. Significant areas of reporting and understanding are missed by board members not on a particular commission. Without commissions, all board members receive the same (full) information and have the advantage of everyone's input on crucial policy decisions. It eliminates reporting at two levels, increasing efficiency.

3. These suggested changes would allow us to more effectively serve as a policy-making board. The board will not have the luxury of being over involved in the day to day operational and management details of the World Ministries Center. This will be left to competent leaders and support staff.

4. We purpose to be guided by the fact that the smaller the board, the higher the need for regular intentional communication to all stakeholders (World Ministries Center leaders, superintendents, pastors and key lay leaders). Such intentional communication should be calendarized, upgraded and put in multiple forms (e.g., printed, electronic, video) as the circumstance may best dictate.

5. We propose that the Board of Administration meet twice annually, with additional meetings and conference calls as needed, at the call of the chair.

6. The Board of Administration, Board of Bishops, and Operating Committee may create Task Forces (advisory groups/cadres) to provide counsel and insight on issues that require expertise in specialized areas (communications, computers, etc.), for planning special events and evaluating ministries. The very nature of a Task Force means it will not be ongoing, but will discontinue upon completion of the assignment. This will engage a broad range of gifted people in providing input on important matters pertinent to the work of the church.

7. In addition to Task Forces there would be a standing Nominating Committee, Budget and Finance Committee, Benefits Committee (Insurance/Pension), Missions Committee, Communications Committee and other committees as needed, to process annual reviews and offer guidance in preparing recommendations for the Board.

- Tabled the recommendation regarding the restructuring of the World Ministries Center.
- Approved recommendations regarding Light & Life Communications as follows (see attached news release):
  1. As the communications center of the Free Methodist Church, Light & Life Communications would facilitate increased internal access between church leaders, pastors, lay leaders and agencies through e-mail, networks, XLT (extended learning), video conferencing and other technology.
  2. Light and Life Magazine continues to tie our churches together in doctrine, purpose, zeal and story. Following many years of declining subscriptions, the magazine has stabilized, changed format, and subscriptions are increasing. Even though it is still being subsidized, the magazine will continue as one of the centerpieces of communication for LLC and the FMC.
  3. Opportunities in mass media communication through such avenues as radio, television spots, and campaigns for broad external exposure are before us. These opportunities allow "marketing" the church and expressing the Gospel in more economical and technological ways than previously available.
  4. Attention to doctrinal and denominational resources both in print, CD-ROM, video and other media, will enhance our missional identity and the education of our people.
  5. Web presence is an external means of promotional communication and will provide multiple opportunities in an increasingly electronic age to articulate the ministry of our denomination, and churches, and penetrate untapped segments of our culture with witness and evangelism.
- Recommended State of the Work report be included in the *Light & Life Magazine*.
- Confirmed Stanley Thompson as president of the Free Methodist Foundation for year 2000.
- Elected Stanley Thompson for three-year term as a Free Methodist Foundation director.
- Elected new members to the Free Methodist Foundation Board of Directors as follows: Joseph James, Larry Roberts, Nancy Ezell, Norman Leenhouts, Lloyd Ganton and Robert Bedford.
- Requested the Board chairman to meet with Stan Thompson of the Foundation to explore ways to eliminate the mortgage on the World Ministries Center.
- Approved allocation of net profits received from King Trust, NA in the following manner: up to the first \$150,000 annually added to the FMCNA cash reserve and the balance to the FMCNA quasi endowment to be managed by the BOA.
- Approved establishment of a policy that any bequests to the FMCNA which do not contain specific designation would be handled in the following manner: up to the first \$150,000 annually added to the FMCNA cash reserve and the balance to the FMCNA quasi endowment to be managed by the BOA.
- Referred a proposal from Josh Fajardo regarding ethnic ministries in the church to the Board of Bishops for consideration and dialogue with a report to the spring meeting.
  1. That a position or department (Multi-Cultural Ministries) be created at the World Ministries Center that would cooperate with each of the departments, create a team of ethnic leaders (council) that would help accomplish the task of leadership development, providing resource materials (multiple languages), and networks for each ethnic group.
  2. Create a committee on the BOA to be called "Multi-Cultural Ministries." This committee would work closely with the "Multi-Cultural Ministries Department" at the World Ministries Center and perform as other committees currently function on the BOA.

3. That the BOA create a task force to research the time frame for implementation and report to the next BOA meeting.

- Approved the Korean Free Methodist Church to become a full annual conference on the condition that a mutual understanding be reached relative to the trust clause of the Constitution and the Korean property practices.
- Approved the Constitution of the Nigerian Annual Conference.
- Designated the Area Bishop, Missions Area Director, Director of FMWM, and one other qualified person to review Disciplines for Mozambique, South Africa, and Burundi General Conferences.
- Approved the Book of Discipline for Burundi General Conference, subject to final review by the committee by November 1, 1999.
- Approved the Book of Discipline for South Africa General Conference, subject to final review by the committee by November 1, 1999.
- Approved the Book of Discipline for Mozambique General Conference, subject to final review by the committee by November 1, 1999.
- Approved new missionary appointments as follows:
  - 6 new appointments (Cornfields, Cullison, Sittig, Winckles)
  - 2 reactivations from Service Record (Teusink)
  - 6 in process for approval (Betcke, Honda, Massengill, Stotts, Witters)
- In regards to the funding of the United Ministries for Christ - Home Ministries budget, approved, in principal, the concept of an Equal Participation Plan, with the specific percentage formula to be determined by the Budget and Finance Committee, after considering the input from the Board of Administration related to deductions and exclusions.
- Approved audit reports.
- Referred the financial statements from the various Association of Human Service Agencies (AHSM) to the Budget and Finance Committee for review, with the power to act.
- Instructed the Budget and Finance Committee to explore the establishment of an endowment for Home Ministries and report to the spring meeting.

Actions taken on General Conference papers referred to the BOA as follows:

- Reported Paper No. 102 (election of four bishops) had been implemented.
- Rejected Paper No. 108 (increase number of bishops from three to five).
- Adopted Paper No. 109 and will be included in the working rules of order:

THEREFORE BE FT RESOLVED:

that all Bishops Emeriti be granted an honorary seat within the bar of the 1999 General Conference.

- Paper No. 214.A (study of Administrative District concept). Requested the Board of Bishops to make a statistical review of the four bishops' areas with a report back to the Fall 2000 BOA meeting.
- Referred Paper No. 305 (Steps to Ordination) to the Board of Bishops for refinement with a report back to the BOA.
- Referred Paper No. 505-A (regarding retired ministers and the pension plan) to the World Ministries Center Overseer,

Bishop Joseph James, to work with Human Resources and the Benefits Committee, and to report back to the Board of Bishops.

- Referred Paper No. 602.A (regarding curriculum development) to the Study Commission on Doctrine to be implemented by the Board of Bishops.
- Referred Paper No. 607 (membership matters in the Book of Discipline) to the Discipline Editorial Board.
- Approved Paper No. 906 (small churches) as amended:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Paragraph A/851.3, line seven and following, be amended to read:

"In the event that membership of a society declines below a minimum of ten supporting adult full members or is deemed by the conference Board of Administration to be incapable of adequately supporting the society, the conference Board of Administration may authorize the conference Board of Trustees to supervise the property."

- Referred Paper No. 908.A (Church Planting) to the Board of Bishops.
- Deferred action on Papers 606, 609, 706.A, 710.A until the spring meeting.

Committees were elected as follows:

- **Benefits Committee:** Pearson Miller (chair). Dale Woods, Sr., John Davis, Greg Delamarter, Earl Schamehorn.

- **Book of Discipline Editorial Committee:** Carol Bartlett (chair), Roger Haskins, Joseph James,

Leslie Krober, Richard Snyder, Barbara Fox, as directed by general conference, plus Bill Smout, Helen Kaufmann, and Allan Ellershaw.

- **Budget and Finance Committee:** Gene Keene (chair), Robert Bedford, Bill Crothers, Larry Roberts, and Byron Forbes. Ex officio: World Ministries Center Overseer, Joseph James; Treasurer, Gary Kilgore.

- **Committee on Women in Ministry:** Joseph James (convener), Linda Adams, Lucia Delamarter, Mark Logan, Charles Young, and Beth Webb.

- **Communications Committee:** Larry Roberts (chair), Steve Hards, Dan Laughlin, Mark Van Valin, Mark Whitlock, Dan Riemenschneider, Joseph James. Ex officio: Editor of *Light & Life* Magazine, Director of Light & Life Communications.

- **FMCNA Board of Directors:** Joseph James (chair), Robert Bedford, Carol Bartlett, Gary Kilgore.

- **Nominating Committee:** Bishop Richard Snyder, Brenda Young and Mark Van Valin were elected. Ex officio are: Chair Hank Bode, Vice chair Byron Forbes (chair), Secretary Carol Bartlett.

- **Study Commission on Bioethics and Genetic Engineering:** Glenn Teal, Dr. Bob Cranston, Dr. Tim Teusink, Dr. Steve Weber, Dr. Margaret Cottle.

- **Task Force on Developing Fourth Track Ordination:** Tim Beuthin (convener), Roger Haskins, Gerald Bates, Steve Fitch, David Harvey, Gonzalo Cruz, Ramon Felix Mendez, Francisco Aranda.

- **Task Force to Review Role of Bishops:** Dan Shinabarger (chair). Hank Bode, Steve Fitch, Paul Livermore, David McKenna, Brenda Young, with Bishops as honorary members.

- **World Missions Committee:** 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.

**Dates for upcoming Board of Administration meetings:**

Spring Meeting: April 6-8, 2000

Fall Meeting: October 12-14, 2000