

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. 5) November 2001

Board of Bishops Report

The Board of Bishops has met four times since the May 2001 report, as well as meeting once by conference call. Some specific decisions that may be of interest to you include:

- ✓ Produced a Vision Poster and brochure entitled "Working Together in the 21st Century" which are being mailed to all churches.
- ✓ Completed revision of Ministerial Education and Guidance Board Manual and distributed to all MEG Boards.
- ✓ Posted newly developed Pastoral and Church Evaluation forms on the website.
- ✓ Approved church planting grants in the amount of \$6,000 each to:
 - 1st year - Moreno Valley Arabic - Southern California
 - 1st year - John Wesley CPP, Ft. Lauderdale, FL - South Atlantic
 - 2nd year - North Hudson Brazilian, North Bergen, NJ - New York
 - 2nd year - Light & Life Bixby - Southern California
- ✓ Approved Wallace Mapes (Keystone) as General Evangelist.
- ✓ Approved that General Evangelists will be required to submit annual report and be endorsed annually by the Board of Bishops.
- ✓ Approved that the Board of Bishops will not review or consider any divorce clearance cases less than 30 days prior to the annual conference in which they are being considered.
- ✓ Reviewed minutes of the Task Force on Women in Ministry meeting.
- ✓ Reported new names for annual conferences:
 - a. Gulf Coast Conference: Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, and the Florida panhandle west of the time zone.
 - 2. New South Conference: Kentucky, Tennessee, North and South Carolina

3. South Atlantic Conference: Florida, east of the time zone line, Georgia, and the Bahamas
 4. Arizona Light & Life Conference
- ✓ Took the following action: The Board of Bishops are not comfortable with our churches and publications giving preaching/teaching/writing privileges to persons who have been suspended or whose divorces have not been cleared through the appropriate conference and denominational channels. Therefore, we expect that all leaders and ministries in the Free Methodist Church respect this concern by not granting preaching/teaching/writing privileges to such persons.
 - ✓ Proposed a task force to review on a rotating basis our six affiliated John Wesley Seminary Foundation schools (Fox, Wesley, Azusa, Northeastern, Greenville LAMP, and Asbury). The proposed task force will be composed of Dean Cook, chair, Wayne McCown and John Van Valin. They will be requested to conduct a review of Wesley Biblical Seminary in 2002.

Board of Administration Report - October 12-13, 2001

The Board of Administration met at the World Ministries Center in Indianapolis on October 12 and 13. Members present included: Eric Baird (Mid-America), Carol Bartlett (Pacific Northwest), Robert Bedford (South Atlantic), Hank Bode (Southern California), Forest Bush (Sierra Pacific), William Cryderman (Southern Michigan), Josh Fajardo (South Atlantic), Stephen Fitch (Southern California), Byron Forbes (Sierra Pacific), Zonda Haase (Ohio), Roger Haskins (Western Area), Joseph James (Central Area), Gene Keene (Pacific Northwest), Leslie Krober (Heartland Area), Mark Logan (Genesee), Pearson Miller (Wabash), Larry Roberts (Columbia River), Dan Shinabarger (East Michigan), Richard Snyder (Eastern Area), Vernon Snyder (Susquehanna), Matthew Thomas (Columbia River), Rob Turner (East Michigan), Mark Van Valin (Wabash), Brenda Young (Ohio), Jimmy Tsai (Taiwan). Excused absences were approved for Hector Fernandez (New York), Mark Whitlock (Gateway), and Alex Marufu (Zimbabwe).

Reports were received from the following:

- ✓ Free Methodist Communications -- Douglas Newton
- ✓ Free Methodist World Missions -- Arthur Brown
- ✓ Administration and Finance -- Gary Kilgore
- ✓ Operating Committee -- Joseph James
- ✓ Free Methodist Foundation -- Stanley Thompson
- ✓ Board of Bishops -- Richard Snyder (see State of the Work Report on website at www.freemethodistchurch.org)
- ✓ Women's Ministries International -- Beth Webb
- ✓ Men's Ministries International -- Jeff Johnson
- ✓ Budget and Finance Committee -- Gene Keene
- ✓ Benefits Committee -- Pearson Miller
- ✓ Communications Committee -- Larry Roberts
- ✓ Missions Committee -- Matthew Thomas
- ✓ Audit Report -- Debra Ladyman from BKD (formerly Olive) auditing firm

- ✓ Task Force on Reformatting Book of Discipline -- Byron Forbes
- ✓ Task Force on Role of Bishops -- Dan Shinabarger
- ✓ Study Commission on Doctrine -- Leslie Krober
- ✓ Nominating Committee -- Byron Forbes
- ✓ Association of Human Service Ministries -- David Bates and Donald Cutler
- ✓ Association of Free Methodist Educational Institutions -- James Mannoia
- ✓ Denominational Endorsing Agent -- Robert Barnard
- ✓ General Conference 2003 Coordinator -- Robert McDowell

Personnel Update:

- ✓ **Rev. Gerry Coates** has been hired as the Free Methodist Communications Administrator at the World Ministries Center.

The following actions were taken:

- ✓ Welcomed Jimmy Tsai (Taiwan) as new Board of Administration member, replacing Rev. Antoine Mahinja who is now a member of the Burundi General Conference and no longer eligible for membership on the North American BOA.
- ✓ Approved formation of a task force to study the relationship between FMCNA and AFMEI. Members: Pearson Miller, convener, Stephen Fitch, Vernon Snyder, Forest Bush, Richard Snyder, Leslie Krober, and Byron Forbes.
- ✓ Deferred action until April 2002 meeting on the request from AFMEI school, Roberts Wesleyan College, regarding its relationship with the FMCNA.
- ✓ Confirmed Stanley Thompson as president of Free Methodist Foundation for year 2002.
- ✓ Elected members to the Board of Directors of the Free Methodist Foundation with terms to expire December 31, 2004 as follows: Robert W. Mansur, Larry P. Roberts, G. Roger Schoenhals, and Glenn E. White.
- ✓ Elected Helene Kahlstorf as member of the Study Commission on Bioethics.
- ✓ Approved merger of African American Scholarship Fund and the Ethnic Scholarship Fund into a new Fruitful Leader Grant/loan and Fruitful Leader Scholarship Fund. Eligibility and Qualifications are as follows:

Eligibility and Qualifications

Applicants must be members of the Free Methodist Church who have proceeded at least as far as a Local Ministerial Candidate in ministry preparation. Priority will be given to fruitful leaders from the emerging cultures in the USA who are pursuing God's call and ordination in the Free Methodist Church.

Steps for approval of a grant/loan or scholarship

Complete Application Form and send to Leadership Development Office
 Submit required recommendations
 Approval by Leadership Development Office

Grant/loans or scholarships may be provided for ministerial studies in

Free Methodist Colleges or Universities, accredited undergraduate and graduate degree programs, J-term, regional J-term or correspondence courses, required courses toward

ordination, Bible Colleges, extension, on line, non-traditional or non-accredited studies.

Priority will be given to ministerial leaders pursuing studies that strengthen a Wesleyan-Arminian foundation.

Grant/loans are provided at the same level as John Wesley Seminary Foundation grant loans for accredited undergraduate and graduate studies.

Scholarships are provided for non-accredited studies such as J-term, extension, on line, non-traditional studies and may be applied toward tuition/travel/housing/meals "actual" expenses up to \$150 per approved course.

Payback: No payback is required for a Fruitful Leader Scholarship. Service payback for a Fruitful Leader Grant/loan is based on 20% per year for up to five years of full time appointed service in the Free Methodist Church following completion of studies.

- ✓ Approved audit reports for year ending 12/31/00.
- ✓ Approved the audit firm of BKD to perform the 2001 audit with request that audits for 2002 be put out for bid.
- ✓ Approved spousal travel reimbursement policy.
- ✓ Received report from the Budget and Finance Committee with recommendation to retain separate general church corporations (John Wesley Seminary, Inc., Free Methodist Publishing House, and General Missionary Board). Future assets and contracts of these corporations will be written and conducted in the name of the Free Methodist Church of North America.
- ✓ Approved formation of task force to review mission, vision, purpose, and bylaws of The Free Methodist Foundation.
- ✓ Approved recommendation to obtain legal opinion to determine responsibilities and liabilities, if any, of the BOA, individually and as the FMCNA, relative to The Free Methodist Foundation, the King Trust Charitable Gift Fund, and the King Trust Company.
- ✓ Approved up to 100% of an ordained minister's pension as housing allowance for the year 2002.
- ✓ Approved the change in minimum contribution to Defined Benefit Plan for church plants from \$425 to \$500 per year, effective January 1, 2002.
- ✓ Approved semi-annual valuation on the Defined Contribution Plan, effective December 31, 2001.
- ✓ Approved rewrite of pension plan documents to bring in line with current language and approved actions.
- ✓ Received material on Fourth Track Ordination (now called Apollos Model).
- ✓ Expressed appreciation to Steve Fitch and the task force for the fine work done in developing the Apollos Model ordination materials.
- ✓ Approved release of \$140,000 from quasi-endowment funds to Free Methodist World Missions for urban ministry development in Asia.
- ✓ Elected Roger Haskins as member of the Communications Committee, replacing Joseph James.
- ✓ Approved Oakdale Christian High School, One Accord Initiatives (under the sponsorship of Gerry Homes), and Parish Nursing for membership in the Association of Human Service Ministries.
- ✓ Approved 2002 Church Calendar. (Attached)

Dates for upcoming Board of Administration meetings:

Spring Meeting	April 12-13, 2002
Fall Meeting	October 24-26, 2002

We welcome your comments, reflections, concerns. You may contact us by:

FAX	317-241-8897
Phone	800-342-5531