

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
Larry Roberts, Board of Administration Chair

RE: *fmcna INFO* (Vol. 4, No. 2) December 2004

This is a tremendous time in the life of our church! We stand amazed in the presence of Jesus, our Lord & King, as we witness just a few of the miraculous things He is doing. Churches are growing. People are becoming disciples and making disciples. Our “One More Soul” vision is becoming a reality. The Board of Administration spent considerable time, again at its latest meeting, focusing on our strategies associated with the vision. Already more than \$500,000 has been pledged for the ministries associated with our strategic plan. The B.O.A. took actions to begin investing these funds in local churches beginning in the coming year. Our first step will be to double the amount given in 2-year grants to church plants. We also hope to give a \$25,000 grant to at least 4 local churches during 2005, to allow them to break through barriers and grow to the next level.

The following is a brief update for you, the leaders of our church, regarding other actions taken recently by the Board of Bishops and the Board of Administration.

Board of Bishops Report

Significant actions of the Board of Bishops since the spring issue include:

Approved insertion of screening document in Superintendent and MEG Board Manuals.

Approved funds to assist with translation of Book of Discipline into Portuguese.

Approved sending The Truth About Same-Sex Marriage book to conference superintendents.

Worked on plans for regional Free Methodist Leadership Conferences with the theme of “One More Soul” – a gathering of pastoral and lay leaders with the Board of Bishops.

March 21-23, 2005	Spring Arbor, Michigan
April 21-23, 2005	Des Moines, Iowa
September 19-21, 2005	Oak Glen, Yucaipa, California
October 3-5, 2005	Warm Beach, Stanwood, Washington
March 8-10, 2006	Tampa, Florida
May 7-9, 2006	MINE, Lancaster, Pennsylvania

Approved church planting grants in the amount of \$3,000 each to:

1st Year Grants

Stapleton, CO, New Life – Rocky Mountain
Gilbert, AZ – Arizona
Toledo Nueva Vida – Ohio
Akron Believers Fellowship – Ohio
Kent, Bread of Life Ministries – Ohio

Naples Gospel Power – South Atlantic
Marietta, GA, Brazilian – South Atlantic
Flint, MI, The Master’s Hands – East Michigan
Leonard, MI, Grace Way Christian Fellowship – East Michigan
Light & Life Christian Fellowship, Oahu, Hawaii – Southern California
Hispanic CPP via New Berlin FMC, Milwaukee, WI – North Central
Corinth, ME, Church of Hope – New England

2nd Year Grants

Silverton/Dillon, CO, ONE Community Church – Rocky Mountain
Denver, CO, SouthLink FMC – Rocky Mountain
Colorado Springs, CO, Fresh Wind Community – Rocky Mountain

Board of Administration Report – October 21-23, 2004

The Board of Administration met at the World Ministries Center in Indianapolis on October 21-23. The following members were present: Jesse Carvalho (New York), John Davis (Maryland-Virginia), John Ellis (Secretary), David Fisher (North Central), Byron Forbes (Sierra Pacific), Peggy Gabriel (New York), Zonda Haase (Ohio), Roger Haskins (Western Area), Joseph James (Central Area), David Kendall (Great Plains), Leslie Krober (Heartland Area), Chet Martin (Wabash), Gary Martinez (South Atlantic), Pearson Miller (Wabash), John Minshall (Rocky Mountain), Mitchell Pierce (Genesee), Larry Roberts (Columbia River), R. Dan Shinabarger (East Michigan), Richard Snyder (Eastern Area), Charles Toy (East Michigan), Matthew Whitehead (Pacific Northwest), Mark Whitlock (Gateway), Brenda Young (Ohio), Jean Marc Zamor (Haiti), and Godfrey Lungah (Malawi). Rob Turner (Southern Michigan) was excused.

In addition to the work done on the One More Soul campaign, as mentioned earlier in this report, the B.O.A. took the following actions:

Approved the formation of, and the Constitution for, the Provisional General Conference of the Free Methodist Church of India.

Approved that the proposed AHSM Constitution be submitted to boards of directors of the agencies for review.

Requested Board of Bishops to review accreditation processes for AHSM agencies, with report to April BOA meeting.

Requested Dan Fisher to formulate a survey and circulate to superintendents for input regarding AHSM agencies requests.

Approved formation of a task force to study FMCNA auxiliaries.

Approved chair and vice chair to work with Board of Bishops to finalize document to be used in evaluation of bishops.

Approved merger of West Virginia Conference with Wabash Conference, effective summer of 2005.

Approved recommendation regarding Regional Sitzings of the General Conference as follows:

- a. To discontinue regional sittings;
- b. To provide funding for the following persons to attend General Conference: (1) all suffragan bishops with equal lay delegates from the Provisional General Conferences; (2) one elder and one lay delegate from each annual conference of mission origin (i.e. conferences not part of a provisional general conference).

- c. Additional elected delegates from the annual conferences may attend according to the Book of Discipline (Pars. 4030 and 4040), provided the conference or the individual pays.

Agreed to send a summary report on the Alpha Omega insurance matter to general conference delegates, by email through conference superintendents.

Approved Home Ministries and World Missions budgets for 2005.

Approved JWSF accreditation for Greenville College LAMP program for four years.

Approved Enrichment Leave for Joseph F. James, June 11-September 8, 2005.

Elected Mitchell Pierce as BOA representative from the East, and elected him to membership on the Board's Communications Committee.

Accepted the resignation of Steve Fitch from the BOA.

Elected General Conference Steering Committee as follows:

- Vickie McFerran, General Conference Coordinator, chair
- Mark Van Valin, Spring Arbor senior pastor
- Art Brown, Exec. Director of FM World Missions
- Gary Kilgore, Exec. Director of Administration and Finance
- Gerry Coates, Interim Exec. Director of FM Communications
- Larry Roberts, BOA Chairman
- Joe James, WMC Overseeing Bishop
- Pastor Debbie Somerville, Greenville, IL
- Ruth Logan, Churchville, NY
- Pastor Al Poteat, Oklahoma City, OK
- Pastor Juan Cordova, Waukegan, IL
- Rebecca Schnell, Temperance, MI

Nominated John Van Valin to the Council of the College, John Wesley Theological College of Budapest, Hungary.

Elected the following to the Board of Directors of the Free Methodist Foundation, beginning January 1, 2005:

- Robert Mansur and Kerry Hettinger for one-year terms
- Linda Adams for a two-year term
- Larry Roberts, Paul Killinger, William Crothers, and Evan Collins for three-year terms

Approved monthly housing allowances for ministerial denominational leaders for 2005.

Approved to add full amount of 2004 Home Ministries Surplus to the Cash Flow Reserve account.

Approved document entitled "Suspected Misconduct, Dishonesty, Fraud and Whistle-Blower Protection Policy, World Ministries Center, FMCNA."

Approved up to 100% of an ordained minister's pension as housing allowance for the year 2005.

Reviewed pension plan documents and updated for consistency.

Approved the operational arrangements under which the Benefits Committee will function and that these be recommended to the 2007 General Conference.

Noted that Gretchen McLaughlin has resigned as president of Women's Ministries International.

Approved Gerry Coates as member of the Strategic Planning Implementation Task Force. Other members include: Larry Roberts, Byron Forbes, Roger Haskins, Joseph James, Leslie Krober, Richard Snyder, Gene Keene, Norm Leenhouts, Tim Burkhart, Art Brown.

Approved continued accreditation for the following Human Service Ministries: The Gerry Homes, Warm Beach Senior Community, Deaconess Hospital, New Life-Clawson Manor, The Birth Connection, Oakdale Christian High School, Woodstock Christian Life Services, Life Line Homes, Olive Branch Mission.

Dates for upcoming meetings:

Spring Board of Administration meeting	April 14-16, 2005
Fall Board of Administration meeting	October 20-22, 2005
2007 General Conference	July 7-13, 2007

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

FAX	317-241-8897
Phone	800-342-5531
Email	fmcbishops@aol.com

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For additional information, visit our website at www.freemethodistchurch.org

One More Soul...

Seeking to know God and make Him known, we commit to leading people to Christ in every church! Under God, as partners together, we will...

In North America

- Invest in leadership development to see 800 Free Methodists answer a call to pastoral or missionary ministry, encouraging each church to own the goal of at least one called person 2004-2007.
- Identify and recruit at least 40 additional significant, visionary and passionate leaders for pastoral ministry in the Free Methodist Church.
- Invest in 120 new church plants through giving a \$12,000 grant to each, plus training and coaching leaders.
- Invest in one growing, visionary church in every annual conference by providing a \$25,000 grant during 2006-2007 for new or expanded, mission-focused ministry.
- Produce and promote discipleship materials tied specifically to our vision, mission and expected outcomes.

Through World Missions

- Mobilize 100 new Free Methodist missionaries: 66 International, 34 North American.
- Train 375 ministerial candidates and provide seminary training for 8 top leaders.
- Invest incentive funds to help provide 375 church facilities.
- Plant our first Free Methodist Church in 75 mega-cities (one million plus).
- Develop a ministry center in 12 strategic gateway cities.

The Board of Bishops and Board of Administration have invited the Free Methodist Foundation to be a strategic partner in helping to reach this vision. We will be inviting committed friends and major donors of the Free Methodist Church to invest a total of ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) to fulfill the vision of reaching **One More Soul...**

**Free Methodist Church of North America's Strategic Plan ...
by December 31, 2007**

Note: the first day of each month is a day of fasting and prayer

January 2	Fasting and Prayer for the famine stricken (Bishops' Famine and Relief Offering)
January 3-8	Continuing Education January Interterm (J-Term 1)
January 10-15	Continuing Education January Interterm (J-Term 2)
January 16	Men's Ministries International Sunday
January 16	Sanctity of Life Sunday
January 21-23	Emerging Church Leader Forum
February	World Missions Compassion Month
February 5-7	Free Methodist National Prayer Weekend (Sponsored by MMI & WMI)
February 22-24	AFMEI Annual Meeting
February 20	World Missions Compassion Sunday
March	Celebrating Christian Holiness
March 4	World Day of Prayer
March 14-15	"Search for the FM Soul" Symposium – Indianapolis
March 20	Palm Sunday
March 21-23	Bishops School for Renewal – Spring Arbor, MI
March 24	Maundy Thursday
March 25	Good Friday
March 27	Easter
April 3	John Wesley Seminary Foundation Sunday
April 14-16	Board of Administration
April	Wesleyan/Holiness Clergy Women's Conference – Cincinnati
April 21-23	Bishops School for Renewal – Des Moines, IA
April 24	Free Methodist Colleges/Universities Sunday
May	National Family Month
May 6	National Day of Prayer
July 5-9	National Quiz Finals – Greenville College
July 30-Aug. 4	International Youth Conference (IYC)
August 23	Founding Date, Free Methodist Denomination (1860)
September	WMI Awareness Month
September 11	WMI Sunday
	Free Methodist Colleges/Universities Prayer Emphasis
September 12-14	New Pastor's Orientation (Starting Strong)
September 15-17	Bishops/Superintendents' Consultation
September 23-25	Graduate Student Theological Seminar
September 26-29	International Council of Bishops
October	Clergy Appreciation Month
October 2	World Communion Sunday
October 12-14	Consultant Training Event
October 20-22	Board of Administration
November	Thank Offering Month for Missions (WMI)
November 6	Day of World Missions Sunday
	International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church
November 27	Membership Sunday
December 25	Christmas