

The Free Methodist Church  
of  
North America

THE  
**BOOK OF DISCIPLINE 1999**

Part A  
Doctrines, Character, and Ritual  
of the Free Methodist Church

Part B  
General Administration

“Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood” (Acts 20:28).

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## FOREWORD

At approximately four-year intervals the Free Methodist Church of North America assembles in a deliberative body called a General Conference. Ministerial and lay delegates from the annual conferences, located across North America and in many parts of the world, along with the bishops, come together to renew their mission, care for denominational business, and examine their *Book of Discipline*. Representatives of the institutions and ministries of the Church as well as denominational executives and their staffs bring reports and add their insights to the business.

At this time Free Methodists pray especially to God for guidance, debate the issues and act upon them, listen to the Word of God preached, set new directions, renew friendships, fellowship together, and, in all, worship God.

This *Book of Discipline* represents the fruit of the 1999 General Conference. For the first time the agenda of the conference was submitted to the scrutiny of the mission statement of the denomination:

*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.*

The book is, therefore, a blend of history, roots, and intentional contemporary mission. It is the ecclesiastical and organizational manual of the church. It represents, also, the vision of the Free Methodist people as they define themselves and the earnest Christian life under the banner of Jesus Christ and try to serve Him faithfully in the world.

While published in one book, there are two parts. Part A contains the doctrines, character, and rituals of the Free Methodist Church. Part B deals with structure and administration.

— The Editors

Note: The Constitutional issues which are approved as a result of the referendum process going on as this book goes to press will be made available in page-size format when the voting results are declared by the Constitutional Council.

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