

Earnest Christians On a 21st Century MISSION



Contents

Why Free	3
Why Methodist	3
Vision	4
Core Values	5
Non-negotiables Leadership Initiatives	6
Expected Outcomes	8-9
Free Methodist Entities and Partners	10-11

Why Free?

Historically, the Free Methodist Church was organized at Pekin, New York, August 23, 1860. The leader and first bishop of the new church was Benjamin Titus (B.T.) Roberts. He was a champion for equal rights (especially for women), writer, publisher, Christian educator, and holiness preacher. The influence of his character and ministry continue today.

In 1860, the “free” in Free Methodist emphasized certain basic freedoms found in the Scriptures:

- Human freedom, upholding the right of every person to be free, denying the right of anyone to hold slaves;
- Freedom and simplicity in worship;
- Free seats in church, so the poor will not be kept out or discriminated against;
- Freedom and openness in relationships and loyalties so the truth may always be spoken freely (avoiding vows of secrecy);
- Freedom of lay persons to be fully involved at all levels of decision making;
- Freedom from materialism in order to help the poor.

The biblical principles on which these freedoms are based are as important today as ever.

Why Methodist?

Motivated by love for God and people, we embrace the practices and disciplines of life that allow God’s grace to make us like Jesus.

We embrace spiritual disciplines that “train” us to love God and others. We walk together with others who encourage us and hold us accountable. We are intentional in “practicing” the ways of Jesus in serving, healing, and helping all who are in need. And we join with others to influence the world around us with God’s grace and power.

Vision

The Free Methodist Church has a unique history with a unique vision of how best to love God and make disciples. Namely, we focus on full salvation or holiness — living in the fullness of the Holy Spirit and loving practically, tangibly and profoundly.

In view of our mission, we embrace this full salvation and activating love, resulting in our vision, which is:

Simply put: to bring wholeness to the world through healthy biblical communities of holy people who multiply disciples, leaders, groups and churches.

We lead people into a dynamic relationship with Jesus Christ who makes them whole, and forms them into a Kingdom of God movement committed to wholeness of individuals and society.

For this reason we labor to:

- Address poverty
- Eliminate slavery
- Raise the dignity of all people
- Promote equality of women in all places
- Facilitate freedom in Christ for all persons.

Our Core Values

Grace expressed through love

- God's grace and kindness reaches toward every person, and so do we.
- God's grace makes us gracious and loving toward others, as Jesus was.
- God's grace saves us through faith that works through love.

Holiness expressed through transformation

- God calls us to be holy, as God is.
- God's holy people live set-apart for God's plans and purposes.
- God's people live like Jesus when the Spirit of Jesus renews them in the image of God's own likeness.

Effectiveness through equipped and engaged disciples

- Jesus calls disciples to follow him.
- Jesus' disciples live in purposeful relationship with Jesus as their Lord.
- Jesus' disciples enter into what Jesus is doing, and bear much fruit.

- 1. This chart represents the denomination’s commitment to placing mission ahead of method
- 2. Leaders are responsible for achieving the expected outcomes.
- 3. These are the parameters and outcomes expected in every Free Methodist Church.

Non-negotiables	Nine Strategic Priorities	Expected Outcomes
<p>We may NOT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● live in violation of the Scriptures● live in violation of the Articles of Religion, the Constitution, the Membership Covenant, or the Mission of the Free Methodist Church <p>Our pastors may NOT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● live in violation of ordination vows● lead the church in ways which detract from our mission	<ul style="list-style-type: none">1 Embrace All2 Disciple Deeply3 Cultivate Health4 Develop Leaders5 Multiply Ministries6 Go Global7 Honor Fruitfulness8 Engage Urban9 Partner Strong	<p>See elaboration on pages 8-9.</p> <p>Every Free Methodist Congregation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Prayer-Saturated● Worshipping● Discipling● Evangelizing● Reproducing● Culture-Engaging● World-Mission-Engaging● Purpose-Driven

Leadership Initiatives

Placing **mission** ahead of method, our pastors and churches are **free** to strategize and minister in ways which fulfill our **Expected Outcomes**.

Nine Strategic Priorities

- ① **Embrace All:** We will improve our reach to the poor and disenfranchised and create a normalcy for multicultural ministry by rewarding and celebrating churches that minister to the hurting, broken and people unlike themselves.
- ② **Disciple Deeply:** We will place the same priority on discipling and serving as we do on our services of worship. By valuing and measuring holiness, service and obedience, we will increase the fruitfulness of the good news in our communities.
- ③ **Cultivate Health:** We will work to improve the health of every local church by creating measurable expectations and regular assessments. We will create and utilize training materials that focus on church health.
- ④ **Develop Leaders:** We will raise up godly and competent leaders who support our vision and passionately make disciples. We will identify these leaders within our churches and provide opportunities for recruitment, internship and service.
- ⑤ **Multiply Ministries:** We will increase multiplication of disciples, leaders, groups, churches and ministries by highlighting exemplary leaders and by changing the way our churches view and report growth.
- ⑥ **Go Global:** We will increase the global and local influence of our churches by encouraging engagement with worldwide ministries and helping churches to better impact their communities.
- ⑦ **Honor Fruitfulness:** We will increase the number of growing and fruitful Free Methodist churches by encouraging and aiding successful leaders and their ministries. We will tell the story of these ministries to the rest of the denomination.
- ⑧ **Engage Urban:** We will increase Free Methodist church planting and ministry in U.S. urban centers, developing lasting ministries and local leaders that multiply themselves throughout our cities.
- ⑨ **Partner Strong:** We will encourage partnerships with like-minded ministries. These mutually beneficial relationships give us a unified voice on social and spiritual issues, as well as more focused skills to fulfill our mission and vision.

Our Expected Outcomes

Healthy Biblical Communities of Holy People will be:

1

Prayer-Saturated Congregations

- speaking to God on behalf of a lost world
- praying first, acting second
- interceding for individuals, rulers and nations to yield to the ultimate victory of Christ
- listening to the Holy Spirit and obeying Him

2

Worshipping Congregations

- celebrating the saving grace of God in singing
- encountering God in prayers
- reading and obeying the Word
- preaching the Word
- observing the sacraments

3

Discipling Congregations

- connecting all who wish to know Christ to groups or cells
- nurturing believers toward Christ-like, obedient love
- enfolding believers, welcoming them into membership
- bringing disciples into a life pattern of holy living through the transforming work of the Holy Spirit
- taking and sending disciples into the world to serve

4

Evangelizing Congregations

- befriending spiritually lost people
- presenting and explaining the gospel in culturally relevant ways
- inviting spiritually lost people to trust Christ as Savior

Reproducing Congregations

5

- developing the next generation of pastoral and lay leaders
- establishing cells as core group for new church plants
- planting new congregations

Culture-Engaging Congregations

6

- seeking justice for all
- showing mercy to the poor
- empowering the disenfranchised

World-Mission Congregations

7

- engaging in Free Methodist (FM) World Missions
- giving vital resources
- sending cross-cultural evangelists
- providing diverse support teams

Purpose-Driven Congregations

8

- organizing for essentials only
- focusing on mission and vision to shape all ministry
- surrendering to Christ's mandated Great Commandment and Great Commission (see page 11)

Free Methodist Entities and Partners

Free Methodist Global Ministries

From the earliest days Free Methodists have responded to a God who loves the whole world by becoming His messengers of love to the whole world. Free Methodists go as missionaries and partner with the international church in missions. The spectacular fruitfulness of this effort has resulted in a burgeoning Free Methodist global church reaching more than 80 world areas. We celebrate the maturity of the international church which has resulted in 16 General Conferences, all sharing a common constitution, the articles of religion, and a passion to work together for the good of God's Kingdom. Every Free Methodist Church is expected to be on mission with God; to be a part of the "Missio Dei." We seek both locally and globally to penetrate the darkness with the gospel of Jesus in ways that produce much good fruit.

FM World Missions serves Free Methodists as we make disciples of Jesus Christ among the peoples of the world.

The worldwide Free Methodist family includes more than 1 million members. Only 7 percent of Free Methodists are in the United States.

International Child Care Ministries (ICCM)

ICCM advocates for the spiritual, educational, physical and social development of children by partnering with the global Free Methodist Church through sponsorships, scholarships and creative initiatives. In this way, we serve more than 20,000 children in 31 countries and provide for such needs as education, meals, clothing and basic medical care. Children receive an opportunity for a better life, and the church is built up as well.

Auxiliary and Affiliated Organizations

A number of auxiliary and affiliated organizations also serve to advance the mission and vision of the Free Methodist Church – USA. A current listing may be found at fmcusa.org/ministries.

Finally, a growing number of collaborative and partner ministries help facilitate the global reach of the Free Methodist Church – USA. They include educational institutions, social service agencies, justice ministries, leadership networks and holistic service organizations through which Free Methodists embrace the world. For more information, visit fmcusa.org/partners.

Christ's Mandated Great Commandment and Great Commission

"God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age" [Matthew 28:18-20].

Board of Bishops USA



Bishop David Kendall



Bishop Matt Thomas



Bishop David Roller

770 N. High School Road | Indianapolis, IN 46214
(800)342-5531 | fmc_bishops@fmcusa.org

“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light” (1 Peter 2:9, NIV).



FREE METHODIST CHURCH USA

© 2014. This brochure is produced at the direction of the Board of Bishops by Free Methodist Communications, a ministry team dedicated to connecting Free Methodist churches and people with each other, with our God-given identity and unique mission, and with the needs of the world.

For more information and Free Methodist Church – USA ministry resources and to discover opportunities to interact with our church and people visit our website:
fmcusa.org