

**The Free Methodist Church - USA**

2015

# Book of Discipline

*“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).*

Free Methodist Church – USA *2015 Book of Discipline*

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## Foreword

Foreword:

This 2015 Book of Discipline presents the history, theological roots, and global contemporary mission of the Free Methodist Church – USA (FMCUSA). It is the ecclesiastical and organizational manual of the church. It includes the Common Constitution (chapters 1 & 2) of the global Free Methodist Church, of which the FMCUSA is a founding member.

The FMCUSA meets every four years for celebrative worship, to align ourselves with our mission and vision, to address critical issues, and to listen to the Spirit's leading for the future. In keeping with the Methodist tradition these meetings are called a "General Conference."

In July of 2015 the FMCUSA celebrated its 37th General Conference in Orlando, Florida. Ministerial and lay delegates from the annual conferences of the United States and annual conferences of mission origin, together with the bishops, gathered under the banner of "Whole Church." One responsibility of the General Conference is that it processes any changes to the Book of Discipline, and reviews previous changes which have been approved by its Board of Administration. Those changes are included in this 2015 edition.

We commend this book to you, not as a dry reference volume, but as a contemporary expression of how this part of the Body of Christ both inspires and organizes itself for effective ministry under the direction of the Holy Spirit, as together with other Christian traditions we live and serve our Lord in the neighborhoods of our world.

- The Editors

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<sup>1\*</sup> Although the Church's corporate name is The Free Methodist Church of North America, by action of the Board of Administration (April 2011) the Church now does business as The Free Methodist Church – USA.