



## Ricardo Gómez

Nominee for Bishop

Hello, my name is Ricardo Gómez. I currently serve as area director for the Free Methodist Church in Latin America. I was first introduced to the Free Methodist Church in 1999 when I came to Mount Vernon, Washington to study English. What impacted me the most was the love of the community. Even with very limited English, I was welcomed as a stranger.

Through those relationships, I discovered Free Methodist history and Wesleyan theology and I felt at home. I grew up Catholic in Colombia. At 14, I accepted Christ in a Pentecostal Foursquare Church, after witnessing the radical transformation of my father. Coming from those two traditions, Wesleyan theology became a beautiful middle way for me. Rooted in liturgy and alive in the Holy Spirit, bringing together a brilliant mind and a warm heart for service to the world. That practical theology is why I love the Free Methodist Church.

I was ordained in 2004 in the Pacific Northwest Conference, and in 2006, my family and I began serving full-time with the Free Methodist World Mission in Latin America. Over the years, I planted a church in Santiago, Chile, served in leadership formation and theological education. For the past 7 years, I have been overseeing the ministry in 18 Latin American countries.

God called me when I was 14 years old. He persuaded me with His grace and love. Early on, I was baptized by the Holy Spirit and that experience shaped my entire walk with the Lord. My calling has never been to a role, but to obedience and dependence on the Holy Spirit. My desire is to help others flourish and live into their God-given potential.

My wife, Beth, is from Kentucky, where we met and married. For 23 years, we have served side-by-side. Her gifts and talents complement mine and vice versa. Our children, Juliana and Jonathan, grew up on the field in Chile and Colombia and now reestablished their lives in United States. Both are active followers of Jesus and university students.

God has graciously provided me with tools for His grace. I earned my bachelor's degree at the Biblical Seminary of Colombia, and later a master's in theology and a PhD in intercultural studies at Asbury Theological Seminary. My formation is shaped by Scripture, Wesleyan theology, and the mission of God.

For more than 33 years, He has shaped my ministry to diverse experiences, always in community. In recent years, our team in Latin America has seen a movement of discipleship take root and multiply. This is a prayer-shaped lay movement that deeply depends on the Holy Spirit.

If elected Bishop, my mission to participate with God in restoration for the United States, that is my goal. What I have seen God do in Latin America, forming healthy leaders, multiplying disciples and transforming communities through the love of the church, I believe He is able to do here as well.

I see a Free Methodist Church grounded in life-giving holiness, committed to multiplication and open to collaboration across generations and cultures. A church less focused on maintenance and more devoted to prayer, spiritual vitality and God's mission. I believe faithfulness will lead to fruitfulness.

For many years, Proverbs 3:5-6 has guided my life. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight." This scripture reminds us we are here only by God's grace. So, I offer myself to this process in obedience to God. I long for the Free Methodist Church, whatever the outcome. My prayer is that we would walk humbly with God, love people deeply and faithfully join the Holy Spirit in bringing wholeness to the world.