

Minutes of The 1996 General Conference
The Free Methodist Church in Canada
October 25 - 28, 1996

The Third General Conference of the Free Methodist Church in Canada met at the Regal Constellation Hotel in Toronto from October 25 to October 28, 1996.

On Friday evening, October 25, 1996 at 7:00 p.m., before the Conference was called to order, a service of worship was led by Victor Stonehouse and a worship team.

Bishop Gary R. Walsh read selected passages from the first two chapters of the Acts of the Apostles, and preached on the theme, *"The Community of the Spirit: There is no substitute for the Presence of God "*

At the close of the service of worship, Bishop Walsh called the General Conference of the Free Methodist Church in Canada to order.

Organization of the Conference

MOTION PASSED

Dr. Wayne McCown serve the Conference as Parliamentarian.

MOTION PASSED

David Ashton serve as Secretary and Greg Pulham as his Assistant Secretary.

MOTION PASSED The service of worship be recorded in the minutes.

Attendance was checked by inspection throughout the days of the conference. Requests from various people, asking to be absent for parts of the conference, were processed by the Secretary.

Adoption of the Standing Rules

MOTION LOST

We amend rule #10 dealing with rules of debate, and ask that each person be succinct in their comments.

MOTION LOST

Standing Rule #9 (dealing with the deadline for resolutions) be replaced with a new deadline of Saturday, October 26, 1996 at 7:00 p.m.

MOTION PASSED

The Standing Rules as circulated be adopted.

MOTION PASSED

The agenda as proposed be approved.

The Head Teller and the Head Scrutineer were identified as Jim Hicks and Eldon Kay respectively.

Honourary seats were granted to the Missionaries of the Canadian Church.

Report of the Ministerial Education and Guidance Committee

A partial report (items 1, 3, 4, 6) of the Ministerial Education and Guidance Committee (MEG) was given by Lloyd Eyre.

Question 1, Who are to be admitted as Ministerial Candidates?

Questions paragraph 715.4 were asked of William Keller and Donald Miller who answered in the affirmative.

MOTION PASSED William Keller be received as a Ministerial Candidate.

MOTION PASSED Donald Miller be received as a Ministerial Candidate.

MOTION PASSED

Jordan Cooper be received as a Ministerial Candidate, subject to responding affirmatively to the questions in Paragraph 715.4

Question 3. Who are to be admitted into full membership?

Kenton Bandy, Stephen Bond, Jay Mowchenko responded affirmatively to the questions of 720.3.

MOTION PASSED

Kenton Bandy be received into the Conference and recommended for ordination as Deacon.

MOTION PASSED

Stephen Bond be received into the Conference and recommended for ordination as Deacon.

MOTION PASSED

Jay Mowchenko be received into the Conference and recommended for ordination as Deacon.

Question 4. Who have been received by transfer and from which conferences?

Each of the candidates had previously answered the questions required for membership and Deacon's orders. (Paragraphs 350, 715.4, 720.3)

MOTION PASSED

Ronald Anthony, Salvation Army, be received as a Deacon.

MOTION PASSED

Jennifer Bonar, Salvation Army, be received as a Deacon.

MOTION PASSED

Anita Jaster, Salvation Army, be received as a Deacon.

MOTION PASSED

Murray Jaster, Salvation Army, be received as a Deacon.

MOTION PASSED

Stephen Jones, Baptist Convention of Ontario/Quebec, be received as an Elder.

MOTION PASSED

Mervin Saunders, Baptist Convention of Ontario/Quebec, be received as an Elder.

MOTION PASSED

Oscar Simpson, Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada, be received as a Deacon.

Question 6. Who are to be elected and ordained Elders?**MOTION PASSED**

Michael Allen be elected to Elder's orders.

MOTION PASSED

Dean Angell be elected to Elder's orders.

MOTION PASSED

David Barbour be elected to Elder's orders.

MOTION PASSED

Lorraine Buffam be elected to Elder's orders.

MOTION PASSED

Marc McAlister be elected to Elder's orders.

State of the Work Report

The State of the Work Report was presented by Bishop Walsh. Before presenting the report, he commented on an anonymous distribution of a communique which claimed errors in the published comparisons between the "Giving Stream" items from 1994 and 1995. Bishop Walsh reminded the Conference of the apology which had been published in the *Herald* and the *EKG Report*. He stated that, in addition to the inaccuracy reflected in the January/February 1996 issues of the *Herald* and *EKG Report*, any attempt to compare the two paradigms was unwise because the categories were simply not comparable. He stated that no duplicity or confusion was intended.

The State of the Work Report took the form of a REPORT CARD on the well-being of the church.

MOTION PASSED

Extended time be granted to conclude the report.

MOTION PASSED

The State of the Work report be received.

Announcements were given and the Conference recessed at 9:30 p.m. after singing the Doxology. Members of the Conference were encouraged to participate in any of the three study team meetings that evening. (See agenda)

The Conference reconvened on Saturday, October 26, 1996 at 7:30 a.m.

Victor Stonehouse and the Worship Team led the Conference in worship.

Stanley Hanna had several people lead in prayer throughout the service of worship.

Dr. Catherine Stonehouse of Asbury Theological Seminary read from Deuteronomy Chapter 6, and then spoke on the theme, "*Making Disciples - Empowering Kingdom Growth*."^f

The Election of A Bishop

Bishop Walsh called the meeting to order and then vacated the chair during the election of Bishop, designating Vice-Chair of the Board of Administration, Olwen Sigsworth to act as chair.

Olwen Sigsworth asked the Conference to prepare a ballot for the election of a Bishop. Ballots were collected, later the report of tellers indicated that Bishop Gary R. Walsh had received 241 ballots out of 285 cast. Bishop Walsh was declared elected.

Bishop Walsh reassumed the chair. He announced that Bishop David Foster had requested retirement at the time of his 65th birthday, February 1997. He further stated that the North American Board of Administration had announced the election of Dr. Kevin W. Mannoia, Superintendent of the Southern California Conference as Bishop David Foster's successor. Note was also made that Dr. Larry Houck, had been appointed as the new Director of World Missions.

Bishop Walsh took a few moments to explain the process of voting on the four Referendums. (See the document entitled "*The Referendum Process* ")

Report of the Connectionalism Study Committee

John Vlainic presented the report of the Connectionalism Study Committee.

1. The Constitutionality Issue

Recommendation 2,6.1, was presented. *"Be it resolved that the Canadian General Conference reject the Resolution re: 'Actions conflicting with membership and ordination vows'".* (See appendix B in the Connectionalism Reports pg. 15-16)

MOTION LOST

The original resolution be read aloud in the presence of the body.

Alvin Hill, representative to the Constitutional Council, spoke on the basis of his experience in the Constitutional Council.

Questions were raised about ratifying the Board of Administration's decision to appoint study committees.

MOTION PASSED

The Connectionalism Report be tabled until the decision of the Board of Administration to appoint study committees be rectified.

MOTION PASSED

The action of the Board of Administration in appointing the five study commissions be approved.

MOTION PASSED

The Connectionalism Report be taken from the table.

MOTION PASSED

Resolution regarding actions conflicting with membership and ordination vows be rejected. (See 2.6.1 pg. 16 on report)

The motion was approved with 236 out of 299 cast in favour of rejection of the original resolution and confirmation of the Connectionalism Study's recommendation.

2. Clergy Personnel, Education Guidance and Placement

Recommendation 2.1.2.1 was presented. "A standing committee of the General Conference to give leadership to the clergy personnel work of the denomination be formed, with the name 'The Ministerial Education, Guidance and Placement Committee'"⁹.

MOTION PASSED

The vote on this matter be taken before recessing.

It was also decided by common consensus to vote by ballot. The tellers reported later that the motion received 241 out of 295 cast.

The conference recessed for a brief break.

John Vlainic continued the report of the Connectionalism Study Committee.

MOTION PASSED

The MEGaP committee will be composed of not less than 24 persons and not fewer than 16 persons, equally divided among clergy and lay persons. (Recommendation 2.1.2.2)

MOTION PASSED

The Recommendation (2.1.2.3) which read, *"It will be free to function in four regional sections, each of which may act on behalf of the MEGaP"* be amended to read, *"It will be free to function in all four sections, each of which may act on behalf of the MEGaP with no less than 16 members and no more than 24 members (2 clergy, 2 lay, 2 alternates from each region)."*

MOTION PASSED

The amended motion be adopted.

MOTION PASSED

The Director of Church Services will chair the whole and the sections. (Recommendation 2.1.2.4)

MOTION PASSED

Each section will elect a vice-chair. (Recommendation 2.1.2.5)

3. The Free Methodist Foundation

MOTION PASSED

The Free Methodist Church in Canada establish a parallel Foundation under the name of The Free Methodist Foundation in Canada with the mission, purposes/objectives and organizational structure outlined in sections 2.2.2 through 2.2.4 above. (Recommendation 2.2.6.1)

The votes in favour were 285 out of 294 ballots cast. As a result of questions regarding the content of 2.2.5, it was agreed by consensus that the title be changed to *"Financial Scenario"* to make it clear that this was not a proposed budget for the Foundation.

Herb Van Essen led in a prayer of thanks to God.

MOTION PASSED

The Director of Administrative Services, in conjunction with legal counsel, be directed to prepare the draft Application for Incorporation and draft General Operating By-Law for approval by the BOA prior to submission to the Federal Government for incorporation. (Recommendation 2.2.6.2)

This action was approved by a ballot vote of 295 out of 297 ballots cast.

MOTION PASSED

Five foundation board members be authorized to sign the Application for Incorporation on behalf of the Free Methodist Church in Canada and to act as its first Board of Directors, the names of such individuals to be submitted by the Nominating Committee of the General Conference to the Board of Administration for approval at its next meeting. (Recommendation 2.2.6.3)

This action was approved with 284 of 285 ballots cast in the affirmative.

4. Funding The Denomination**MOTION PASSED**

The core ministries of the Free Methodist Church in Canada be financially supported by local societies remitting a tithe (10%) of general budget receipts. (Recommendation 2.3.1.1)

5. Future General Conferences**MOTION PASSED**

The General Conference of the Free Methodist Church in Canada meet approximately every two years. (Recommendation 2.4.1.1)

MOTION PASSED

The next General Conference be held in Eastern Canada (i.e.: Ontario) at a time and place to be determined by the BOA 9. (Recommendation 2.4.1.2)

MOTION PASSED

Time be extended to finish the Connectionalism Study Committee report.

MOTION PASSED

The 1997 and 1998 Core Budgets be built to subsidize the travel costs, and that any costs not covered by the Core Ministries Budget be carried by a travel equalization plan. (Recommendation 2.4.1.3). A suggestion was received that pastors' retreats be scheduled for the intervening years.

MOTION PASSED

The report of the Connectionalism Study Committee be received.

The Conference recessed for lunch at 12:15 p.m. with instructions to return at 1:05 p.m. for the celebration of worship. John Foley led in prayer.

Report of the Board of Administration

Norman Smith presented the report of the Board of Administration (BOA).

MOTION PASSED

The recommendation from the BOA entitled "*The Canadian Response to the Constitutional Council*" be adopted. The action was approved with 282 out of 287 ballots cast.

MOTION PASSED

The entire report from the BOA be received.

Report of the Communications Study Committee

Lorraine Buffam brought the report for the Communications Study Committee.

MOTION PASSED

The committee presented the following motion as a substitute for recommendations 4.5 and 4.6 in its printed report: *'Whereas the Herald continues to meet the needs of a significant target group, and whereas the bi-monthly format has substantially reduced the amount of the subsidy, and whereas a variety of mediums are required to effectively meet the diversified audiences represented within the FMCC, the study team on communications recommends to the General Conference of 1996 that the Herald continue on a bi-monthly basis, but that other forms and formats of communication be investigated by the Office of Ministry Advancement. '*

MOTION PASSED

The Communications Study Committee amended Recommendation 5.1 to read, *'Whereas computers are rapidly becoming essential tools of communication in all levels of business and commerce, and whereas E-mail will open the door to inexpensive, immediate connections between the Canadian Ministries Centre and the local church; the study team on communication recommends to the General Conference of 1996 that the BOA encourage, and, as much as possible, assist all Free Methodist churches in Canada to achieve electronic communication capability including a minimum of Fax and E-Mail.'*¹⁾

MOTION PASSED

The amended motion be adopted.

MOTION PASSED

The report of the Communications Study Committee be received.

Report of the Leadership Study Committee

Keith Elford presented the report of the Leadership Study Committee.

MOTION PASSED

The 1996 General Conference reaffirm its commitment to the six core values outlined in the Strategic Planning Presentation of December 1994 as values that will guide leadership development strategies of the denomination. (4.1)

MOTION PASSED

The 1996 General Conference adopt the four principles of local church leadership development (2.2.1). (4.2)

MOTION PASSED

The national church leadership team be asked to continue to research each of the possibilities for resourcing local church leaders outlined in section 2.2.2 in the beige paper on Leadership and implement those which are feasible. (4.3)

MOTION PASSED

The national Ministerial, Education, Guidance and Placement Committee review the topics raised in sections 2.3 and 3 of this beige paper on Leadership (The Education and Training of present and potential pastors, and the Appointment System) with a view to refining present policies and strategies and developing new approaches. (4.4)

MOTION PASSED

The 1996 General Conference approve the *"Here is Help for Your Search Committee"* paper as a working document. (4.5)

MOTION PASSED

The General Conference approve the *"Pastors in Transition"* paper as a working document. (4.6)

MOTION PASSED

The MEGaP Committee develop policy related to interim pastors. (4.7)

MOTION PASSED

The Study Commission on Doctrine develop guidance related to character requirements for local church leaders giving attention to principles provided in the New Testament. (4.8)

MOTION PASSED

The Management Committee consider increasing the \$750 moving expense allowance, for retiring ministers. (4.9)

Modification of several sections in the Leadership Report of an editorial nature were noted on the handout *"Leadership Paper Additions."*)

MOTION PASSED The report of the Leadership Study Committee be received.

There was some discussion relating to cases of pastoral hardship, severance policy, and salary guidelines. These matters will be addressed by the Board of Administration.

At 3:05 p.m. the Conference recessed.

Reports from Affiliated Ministries

The Aldersgate College Foundation Report was brought by Vern Frudd, Chairperson of the Board.
The Lome Park College Foundation Report was presented by Paul Johnston, President.

Written reports from colleges and camps, Child Care and Aldersgate Homes were included in the Book of Reports for information.

MOTION PASSED

These reports be received.

Report of the Nominating Committee

The Nominating report was presented by Jim Hicks.

MOTION PASSED

Jim Hicks be granted an honorary seat

MOTION PASSED

At each election, new appointments to a board or committee should be approximately one third of the members of that board or committee and not more than two thirds. (1.1)

MOTION PASSED

The majority of the members of any nominating committee be persons outside of the boards or committees for which nominations are being developed. (1.2)

MOTION PASSED

Future General Conference Nominating Committees consider the question of persons serving on more than one key committee or board of General Conference. (1.3)

It was noted that the election of the next nominating committee must be done without nomination, and so section 2.8 needs to be removed from the Nomination Ballot.

MOTION LOST

The vote for the Nominating Committee be considered only as a nominating ballot, with the tellers compiling the results by ordination/lay status and by region, and then the nominating committee will bring back a ballot to be used as an electing ballot.

MOTION PASSED

Nominations for the Nominating Committee be accepted from the floor, and be added to the ballot of candidates for each board or committee. Delegates will vote for the appropriate number of candidates from each board or committee. Regional and lay/clergy requirements for each board or committee will be satisfied by choosing eligible candidates with the highest number of votes.

Nominations were received from the floor, the vote was taken and the results of the Ballot were read out on Monday morning, 232 persons out of 270 ballots cast, voted for the slate originally presented by the Nominating Committee, and they were declared elected.

The Conference recessed for the day at 5:00 p.m.

The Conference reconvened on Monday, October 28, 1996 at 7:30 a.m.

The Conference reconvened on Monday, October 28. (Sunday morning worship services were held in area churches; the afternoon service was a service of Communion and Ordination with Bishop David Foster speaking; and in the evening there was a reception honouring retired pastors). Bishop Foster, who is now entering retirement, was given a plaque thanking him for his contribution to the church in Canada.

MOTION PASSED

The worship events of Sunday and Monday be included as part of our recording of events.

The Conference gathered at 7:30 a.m. for worship led by Victor Stonehouse and the worship team.

Prayer was offered by several people.

Bishop Emeritus, Donald N. Bastian read from Exodus 33:12ff and preached on the theme, "*Pleading for the Presence.*"

Included in the service of worship was a report from Kevin Kay entitled "*In Memorium* " where those who passed away since last General Conference. They included:

<u>Ministers</u>	<u>Spouses</u>	<u>Missionaries & Lay leaders</u>
Gerald Kemp	Delia Babcock	Ronald Collett
Edwin R. Sparks	Janet Bosko	Velma Cooke
C.E.L. Walls	Essie Boston	Leslie A Freeman
William J. T. Hicks	Aleta Burnham	
James A. Robb	Ora Robb	
Benjamin A. Sutton	Olive Warren	
	Olive Casement	
	Delia Bock	
	Carol Dyer	

Report of the Missions Study Committee

Doris Meredith presented the Missions report. A ribboned and coloured bulletin was handed out, followed by a parade of persons bearing the flags of Canada, the Canadian Provinces and all of the countries in which the Free Methodist Church is located. The National Anthem was sung in both official languages, with a member of The Royal Canadian Mounted Police in attendance.

Dr. Doane Bonney, the retiring Director of World Missions spoke to the Conference about the mission program of the Free Methodist Church around the world. Ian Van Norman gave thanks on behalf of the Conference to Dr. Bonney and presented him with a plaque in his honour. Flowers were also presented to Mary-Elsie Fletcher for her assistance to the Missions Study Committee and a miniature replica of the flags displayed was presented to Bishop Walsh.

MOTION PASSED

The Global Ministries Team (GMT) be established as a permanent committee **of the FMCC to promote, facilitate and coordinate global missions across the Canadian Church.** (4.3)

The Director of Ministry Advancement will chair the GMT. In this capacity the DMA will delegate responsibilities to individual members and monitor performance, moderate communications among members, ensure a superior level of missions publicity and promotion, including regular and effective use of *THE HERALD* and *EKG* periodicals.

The GMT will be composed of four or more members with geographical representation. The GMT will meet via telecommunications. Starting at General Conference 1998, members will be elected with a maximum of 3 consecutive terms. The DMA will be consulted regarding any vacancies.

The Board of Administration (BOA) will appoint the first members of the GMT at the first sitting of the newly elected BOA. Preceding these appointments, the DMA will solicit input and present a report to the Global Evangelization Committee (GEC) of the BOA which includes:

- a statement identifying the responsibilities of the GMT and how they will be effectively allocated among the membership of the GMT.
- a draft slate of nominations.

MOTION PASSED

By mid 1997, the DMA and Missions Study Team Chairperson (1996 Conference) will solicit input and prepare a report to the GEC, which analyzes all reasonable options for effectively strengthening the Canadian identity of the missions program of the FMCC. The GEC will consider the policy implications of the options and establish a procedure for the preparation of any further plans and recommendations to be brought to General Conference in 1998. (Recommendation 5.3)

MOTION PASSED

Recommendation 6.3 be amended to read, *"All missionaries shall have the primary responsibility/or fund raising as his/her ability allows with God's help. A missionary shall be entitled to raise up to 10% surplus for any given year which will be carried into the new year for the designated account. Any surplus beyond 10% be re-designated in equal shares to any missionaries requiring assistance with their support. The DMA may limit the promotion of special projects in any fiscal year until all the missionaries are fully supported."*

MOTION PASSED

The amended motion be adopted.

MOTION PASSED

The report of the Missions Study Committee be received.

Continuation of Nominating Committee Report

The tellers reported on the results of the Nominating Committee ballot cast on Saturday afternoon. The body was tested for its intention in using ballot 2.0 of the Nominating Committee Report. It was unanimously understood as approval of the slate of nominations that the Committee had been presenting.

Election of Nominating Committee**MOTION LOST**

The names of the current Nominating Committee not be given to the conference to aid them in their voting.

Paragraph 665 in the *1993 Book of Discipline* was read to explain why the British Columbia region was given a lay ballot, rather than a clergy one in 1996.

MOTION PASSED

In choosing a Nominating Committee, for this time only, the positions that are not filled on the first ballot be filled by the BOA.

Miscellaneous Actions

Bishop Walsh once again reviewed the four-item ballot that is to be used to vote on the four constitutional issues.

MOTION PASSED

We stop on the hour and pray during the balance of our deliberations.

Subsequently, prayer was offered by Doug Dawson, Lorraine Buffam and Bishop Walsh close to the top of each hour.

Report of the Study Commission On Doctrine (SCOD)**MOTION LOST**

Item 7, concerning the membership issue, in the SCOD report, be the first item for consideration.

MOTION LOST

The Standing Rule limiting debate to three persons for and against the motion be suspended.

Lee Barbour presented the report of the Study Commission On Doctrine (SCOD)..

The Articles of Religion (pg. 3-10 of report)**MOTION PASSED**

Reinstatement of Historical Articles of Religion be approved.

After considerable discussion, a ballot vote was taken on the Constitutional Referendum regarding reinstatement of the Historical Articles of Religion (revised in more modern language). Since this is one of the last referenda with aggregate voting at both the General Conference and Annual Conference levels, the votes of this Conference were recorded as both General Conference and Annual Conference ballots.

The following results were reported later:

Canada East — 87 for, 52 against;

Canada Great Lakes — 34 for, 27 against;

Canada West — 31 for, 16 against;

Canada Pacific — 5 for, 12 against;

Canadian General Conference — 157 for, 107 against (to be prorated to 75 votes — see *Response to Constitutional Conference*, Items 3.1 in Board of Administration Report).

Baptism & Dedication of Infants (pg. 11 -16 of report)

MOTION PASSED

The paper on Baptism and Dedication be received.

Women in Ministry (pg. 17-25 of report)

MOTION PASSED

The paper stating our position on Women in Ministry be ratified.

Aids and the Local Church (pg. 28-40 of report)

MOTION PASSED

The position paper on AIDS be received.

David McMaster asked that it be noted that he voted "no" to this paper, owing to it not being sufficiently comprehensive.

Reducing Child Abuse (pg. 41-58) and **Responding to Sexual Abuse** (pg. 59-72 of report)

MOTION PASSED

The paper Reducing Child Abuse be approved as the policy statement of the Free Methodist Church in Canada and recommended to local churches and camps as a guide for developing their own policies.

MOTION PASSED

The paper Responding to Sexual Abuse be approved as the policy statements of the Free Methodist Church in Canada, and recommended to local churches and camps as a guide for developing their own policies and procedures.

Because of the expiration of time, the balance of the SCOD report was delayed until after lunch.

Miscellaneous Business

Bishop Emeritus Donald N. Bastian requested the personal privilege of bringing a new resolution to the floor.

MOTION PASSED

We suspend our rule that new resolutions are not to come before the body.

MOTION PASSED

"Whereas, full disclosure reporting tends to keep the trust levels of an institution's constituency high; and,

Whereas, mth the dissolution of Annual Conferences in Canada, the checks and balances inherent in traditional Free Methodist structures have been removed from our systems of reporting; and,

Whereas, The Free Methodist Church both in the United States and Canada has followed an open book policy regarding the reporting of funds; and,

Whereas the body assembled here has not yet received a financial report as an item of business; and,

Whereas, technology makes regular reporting a fairly easy undertaking; therefore,

Be it resolved, that at least once a year, and more often if feasible, every official board receive a report of all giving and expenditures in a format as easy-to-under stand as possible and that the report detail items such as individual expense accounts, salaries, settlements, board costs, General Conference expense, etc., and,

Be it further resolved, thai each Official Board receive a report at least quarterly of the giving of each church showing contributions to core ministries, giving streams and other donations; and,

Be it further resolved, that Official Boards receive an annual detailed statistical report on membership, attendance, church plantings, church closures, etc. "

The Conference recessed for lunch at 12:00 noon and reconvened at 12:50. Lynne Phipps returned thanks for the noon meal.

After lunch, Lee Barbour continued the presentation of the SCOD report.

Membership

MOTION PASSED

Ballot #5 of the SCOD report, which reads, "I vote to approve the referendum from the Free Methodist Constitutional Council to revise the Membership Covenant as found in sections 7.6.1 on pages SCOD-98 and SCOD-99 " be adopted.

The tellers reported:

Canada East — 103 for, 34 against;

Canada Great Lakes — 55 for, 6 against;

Canada West — 44 for, 2 against;

Canada Pacific — 18 for, 0 against;

Canadian General Conference — 220 for, 42 against (to be prorated to 75 votes — see *Response to Constitutional Conference*, Items 3.1 in Board of Administration Report).

SCOD Ballot #6 which reads, "*I vote to approve the proposed conditions and procedures of membership as found in sections 7.6.3 and 7.6.4 on pages SCOD-100 and SCOD-101,*" was brought to the floor.

MOTION PASSED

On page 101, the 4th paragraph be amended to read "*lives of its members and the governance of the church.*"

MOTION PASSED

On page 100, 7.6.4, "*and approval by the Official Board*" be added.

MOTION PASSED

On page 101, the 4th paragraph be amended to read *"Do you accept the Book of Discipline of the Free Methodist Church."*

MOTION PASSED

On page 100, paragraph 7.6.3 and 7.6.4, *"prerequisites"* be substituted for *"conditions"*.

MOTION PASSED

On page 100, paragraph 7.6.3, delete the word *"only"*.

MOTION PASSED

SCOD ballot #6 amended with the following words: *"Acceptance of this membership process be conditional upon the ratification of the new covenant being accepted by the referendum vote. "*

MOTION PASSED

The amended SCOD **motion #6 be adopted.**

MOTION PASSED

The SCOD report be received.

Miscellaneous Business

Ian Van Norman requested some moments of personal privilege and asked for a reconsideration of the vote on the recommendation brought by Bishop Emeritus Donald N. Bastian on "full disclosure".

MOTION PASSED

(moved and seconded by individuals who had voted for the original motion)

The motion which was presented by Donald N. Bastian under personal privilege prior to lunch be reconsidered.

The vote to reconsider was carried by over two thirds of those voting.

MOTION PASSED

We refer the concern for "full disclosure" to the Board of Administration for study.

Constitutional Council Referenda (Continued)

Ballots were taken on the remaining referenda from the Constitutional Council.

MOTION PASSED

Item C (Referendum on the Constitution for the World Council), that dealt with the World Conference Constitution be approved.

When the tellers brought the tally the results were:

Canada East — 131 for, 2 against;
Great Lakes — 57 for, 1 against;
Canada West — 44 for, 1 against;
Canada Pacific — 18 for, 1 against;
Canadian General Conference — 250 for, 5 against.

MOTION PASSED

Item D (Discipline statement on the Rights of Full Members), that dealt with the amendment of Paragraph 150 in the *Book of Discipline* (A/152.1 in the *North American Book of Discipline*) be approved.

When the tellers brought the tally the results were:

Canada East — 128 for, 3 against;
Great Lakes — 56 for, 2 against;
Canada West — 45 for, 1 against;
Canada Pacific — 17 for, 1 against;
Canadian General Conference — 246 for, 7 against.

Report of the Ministerial Education Guidance and Placement Committee. Part II

Lloyd Eyre presented the balance of the MEG report and on a series of motions, the following lists of persons found in the Book of Reports were approved:

- Question 2. Ministerial Candidates
- Questions. List of Deacons
- Question 7. List of Elders
- Question 8. Missionaries with Honourary Membership
- Question 9. Located Ministers
- Question 10. Ministers on Leave of Absence
- Question 11. Retired Ministers
- Question 12. Withdrawn from Conference and Denomination
- Question 13. Persons granted a Certificate of Standing
- Question 14. Permitted to withdraw under charges or complaints
- Question 15. Those expelled
- Question 17. Among those who have died, add the name of Philip Singh.
- Question 18. The number of ministerial candidates and ministers in full standing is 299.

The Appointments were noted. They were included only for information. Fred Hubert's name should be listed among the chaplains; Thunder Bay Detention Centre.

MOTION PASSED

The entire MEG report be received (minus item #16).

Chapter 7 of the *Book of Discipline* was referred to by Bishop Walsh who underscored that the care of the flock is crucial. He also reported on Question #16 that inquiries regarding the character and performance of the ministers.

MOTION PASSED

The Ministerial Education and Guidance Committee considers the character and performance of each of the members of the General Conference on an ongoing basis and is satisfied that they are acceptable, with the one exception of Wayne Dawes who is currently under suspension.

Report of the Growth Study Committee

The Growth Study Committee report was given by Doug Griffin.

MOTION PASSED

Recommendation 1 regarding a vision statement for the Canadian General Conference be adopted.

MOTION PASSED

Recommendation 2 regarding the development of a Mission's statement be adopted.

MOTION PASSED

Recommendation 3 regarding implementation of church renewal and church planting strategies be adopted.

MOTION PASSED

Recommendation 4 regarding church renewal models be adopted.

MOTION PASSED

Recommendation 5 regarding short and long term goals be adopted.

Testimony and exhortation that provided high inspiration were spontaneously given by Cam Taylor, Gene Whitehead and Mary Nwagbugbo.

MOTION PASSED

Report from the Growth Committee be received.

Miscellaneous Business

E. A. Cooper asked to present a motion dealing with the issue of Pornography. By common consent that was allowed.

MOTION PASSED

"In view of the wide accessibility of pornographic material, both printed material and videos, and to which has been added the wide accessibility of the computer Internet with its ease of anonymous feasting on the pornographic display carried,

In view also of the demoralizing effect of pornography on family relationships and on the level of respect in which all female lives are held,

We therefore ask for a study to be made by the study Commission on Doctrine, with the intent not only of arriving at a strong statement regarding our position as a church, but also of suggesting steps of influence to counteract the distribution of such materials, and to cancel the legislation that permits the pornographic traffic to exist. "

Report from Ballot to elect a Nominating Committee

127 votes needed to elect a person to the Nominating Committee.

3 persons were confirmed on the first and only ballot.

CE (Canada East)	Stanley Hanna	186 votes, and elected.
CGL (Canada Great Lakes)	Betty Humphrey	186 votes, and elected.
CW (Canada West)	Vern Munshaw	197 votes, and elected.

The BOA would take the result of the voting into account as they fill in the unfilled positions.

Randy Miller made note that there had been questions raised concerning the leadership of the denomination.

MOTION PASSED

The General Conference express a vote of confidence for the National Leadership Team.

The vote was expressed in a rising vote of thanks and sustained applause.

Complimentary Resolutions

Complimentary Resolutions were offered by Robert Buchanan who gave thanks to the many participants. He named each person who had contributed to the Conference and the results were applause to all!

MOTION PASSED

The Complimentary Resolutions report be received.

MOTION PASSED

The Conference be adjourned after the benediction, with the agreement to meet at the call of the chair.

MOTION LOST

In the future any SCOD item be published six months in advance of the General Conference.

Ron Alexander asked for prayer as the Weyburn church plans new ventures in ministry.

Closing comments were made by Bishop Walsh.

It was noted that the 1995 audited financial statements were available on tables near the entries, and that the 1996 statements would be available near the beginning of the new year.

Closing prayer and benediction were offered by Bishop Walsh and the third General Conference was closed by Victor Stonchouse and the worship team leading us in singing the song of praise, "*Such Joy...*"

Respectfully submitted,

David N. Ashton, Secretary

2.6 APPENDIX B: RESPONSE TO RESOLUTION RE: ACTIONS CONFLICTING WITH MEMBERSHIP AND ORDINATION VOWS

A resolution was received from a group of members of the Bramalea Free Methodist Church (Doug Nicholls, Alison Nicholls, Shiela Kelly, Debra Wilbur, Jim Wilbur, Shelley Alexander, Dean Alexander, Carolyn Gonyou, Douglas Gonyou), Ann Ward from Warkworth, and K. Lavern Snider (see attached) which questions the constitutionality of this present meeting. It reflects a passion for institutional and personal integrity which we all affirm. However, it is unfortunately based on misunderstandings of the present constitutional status of the Canadian Church. See the clarifications in the "Whereas" section below. Therefore the Connectionalism Study Committee is recommending that this resolution be rejected.

2.6.1 Recommendation

WHEREAS the process for change with the General Conference of the Free Methodist Church in Canada is constitutionally legitimate because paragraph 250.5.1 of the Book of Discipline contemplates an amendment being brought into effect prior to approval when it states that if the constitutional council rules that an act is in conflict with the Constitution, the "implementation of said act shall automatically be suspended: (actions not already implemented cannot by definition be "suspended"); and,

WHEREAS the Constitutional Council, having thoroughly reviewed the Transitional Bylaw and the Strategic Plan, has not ruled either our change process or our new structure unconstitutional; and,

WHEREAS the Chair of the Constitutional Council, Bishop Gerald E. Bates, confirms the legitimacy of this present body as the current Canadian General Conference, during this transitional phase (see attached letter); and,

WHEREAS, though the former structure eliminated deacons from eligibility for General Conference membership, their exclusion was an outcome of structural considerations and not of any perception that they lacked competence for important decisions; and

WHEREAS the Strategic Plan, which has formed the Transitional Bylaw and thus the new configuration of the General Conference, is designed to shift major decisions as close to the local church as possible; and.

WHEREAS this newly configured General Conference is the only denominational structure that is currently legal (according to the Canadian Act of Parliament) and constitutional (according to the Transitional Bylaw), though it is recognized that the transitional phase will come to an end; and,

WHEREAS the resolution re: "actions conflicting with membership and ordination vows" is in error in that the minutes of the Constitutional Council *do*, specifically refer to the Transitional Bylaw; and,

WHEREAS the Constitutional Council did not disapprove our action, but instead did "affirm the Transitional Documents of the Canada General Conference as outlined in their Transitional Bylaw and their Strategy Plan" not-with-standing the two conditions, which are being addressed at this General Conference; and,

WHEREAS though it was not clear in the minutes, it was the Constitutional Council that recommended that the due process of seeking approval be extended to give further opportunity to experience the new configuration; and

WHEREAS, though our process was legitimate, as indicated above, we have nonetheless anticipated the need for increased freedom to contextual™ Free Methodist ministries into every culture of the world by having our Board of Administration and our Study Commission on Doctrine do extensive preliminary work in studying Chapter two of the Constitution with a view to proposing a referendum vote which would result in constitutional change (this process has now been suspended since the four bishops from North America have offered to give leadership to the effort by recommending a joint task force to study said chapter); therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Canadian General Conference reject the Resolution re: "Actions conflicting with membership and ordination vows."

CONNECTIONALISM BALLOT 2.6.1

I vote to approve this recommendation to reject the resolution re: actions conflicting with membership and ordination vows.

___ YES ___ NO

