



The Free Methodist Church in Canada

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March 1, 1996

Dear Pastor:

Either through the Herald or through your local church, you may have heard that we have taken *steps "to building the ideal legislative process"*. We wanted to extend a special invitation to all ordained ministers with the Canadian Free Methodist church to join in the process.

The intention is to restate our vision from the document voted on two years ago, and to identify what *key* components need to be identified within that vision to meet our denominational objectives. The key to our existence in Canada is that we exist to **Empower** the local church for **Kingdom Growth**. We've been using the acronym - **EKG**.

You will find enclosed, a workbook, a handout called "The Process", and a summary of our denominational core values. We invite you to go through the workbook and identify the key issues we face as a denomination. Questions 1 & 2 of the workbook can be assisted by reviewing our core values. The remaining questions are intended to direct you through the process of brainstorming.

There is a video which guides this process. You may contact the pastor of your local church should you wish to borrow this tape for your viewing.

We thank you in advance for your input and your assistance in building the agenda for Conference '96.

Please forward your responses to the Ministry Centre by March 31, 1996.

Sincerely,

Mary-Elsie Fletcher
Director, Ministry Advancement

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The Process

1 The February Team Meetings:

- Open the issue
- Invite the pastor's to the process
- Walk through the agenda building steps
- Collect the information and plan to report it back

2 Do a mailing with the non appointed clergy

- Explain the process
- Walk them through the steps
- Collect their responses

3 Repeat the process with the national BOA

4 Encourage Pastors to use the video with official Boards

- Once again, walk them through the process
- Collect the information

5 Lead article in the Herald in March

- invite everyone to the process
- collect the feed-back
- remind people of the Free Methodist policy of opening the process to every member to direct those petitions to the BOA for organizing and prioritizing

6 On April 15.. Post the list

- report it in the April EKG
- report it in the April Team meetings

7 Create the Study Processes with power to recommend

8 Mail Proposals on September 14

9 Vote on October 26, 1996

Our Core Values

Persons

- All persons are made in the image of God and possess intrinsic worth
- All persons have a need to know Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord
- All persons can be saved to the uttermost
- All persons have unique gifts to contribute to the Kingdom of God

Church

- The church is the foundation for the growth of the kingdom of God on earth
- The church is the primary context for developing believers
- The church is called to minister in Jesus' name to all peoples.
- The church is to worship and serve God.

Growth

- The Scriptural mandate is for every church to grow qualitatively and quantitatively
- The Scriptural mandate calls for evangelization of the unreached
- The Scriptural mandate calls for every Christian to grow in grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ
- The Scripture supports sacrificial giving in support of Christian ministry efforts

Team

- The team approach presupposed the diversity of spiritual gifts and personal competencies within the churches
- Teamwork is built on our theology of ministry
- Teamwork maximizes the leadership resources of the church

Learning

- Learning can lead to excellence
- Learning can lead to innovation
- Learning can increase skill
- Learning can develop effective leaders

Integrity

- Integrity for the people of God finds its basis in the character of God
 - Integrity establishes a framework for all relationships
 - Integrity establishes the character and quality of the organization
 - Integrity establishes a guiding force for all strategies, actions and programmes
 - Integrity establishes the appropriate use of time, money, and energy
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Agenda Building Steps

*Building the Ideal Legislative Process for
Conference, October, 1996*

Strategic Planning Workbook

Step One - **What is the denominational purpose/vision?**

The video will review our vision. The following is provided for you to jot down notes as you watch the video to help you focus your later answers.

Step Two - **How does our strategy separate responsibilities
between the local church and the denomination?**

Again, the following is provided only for your convenience as we build the process.

Brainstorm in your groups and jot down whatever answers you feel are relevant.

Step Three - **What major challenges will your local church face in
the next five years?**

Use this book freely to list your ideas...

Step Four - **Which of these challenges (from Step Three) will need to be faced locally?**

Step Five - **Which of these challenges (from Step Three) might be addressed (in Part) by the denomination?**

Step Six - **Please identify the three challenges (from Step Three) which are most important and then number by priority.**

Step Seven - **What are the major issues which will be faced by the denomination in the next five years which might not be evident within the local church?**

Step Eight - **In your Opinion, which three from Step Seven are the most important issues? Please number these by priority.**

If you are completing this workbook in a regional group, please submit your completed book to your group leader. Any individual workbooks may be directed to:

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