

# Contents

## 2003 Book of Discipline

	Par.	Page
<b>Introduction</b>		
Purpose and Character of the Free Methodist Church		
The Biblical Concept of the Church		1
Historical Heritage and Perspective		2
The Needs of Persons		5
Distinctive Principles		6
<b>Chapter 1</b>		
The Constitution of the Free Methodist Church		
Preamble	100	9
Articles of Religion	101-131	9
Membership	150-160	20
<b>Chapter 2</b>		
The Constitution (continued)		
General Organization	200-204	25
Restrictive Rules and Methods of Amendment of the Principles of Free Methodism	225-228	26
Interrelation of General Conferences	250-252	27
Constitution of the Free Methodist World Conference	253	30
<b>Chapter 3</b>		
The Christian Journey		
The Goal of the Christian Journey	3000-3010	39
The Way of Salvation	3100-3170	40
Genuine Christian Character	3200-3260	45
Christian Life in the Modern World	3300-3470	48
Resources for Churches	3500	67

## Chapter 4

### General Administration

General Conference Free Methodist Church of North America	4000-4070	69
Bishops	4100-4200	73
Board of Administration	4300-4320	80
Finance and Pension	4350-4380	87
Free Methodist Communications	4400-4410	92
Free Methodist World Missions	4500-4580	93
Free Methodist Foundation	4600	100
Chaplains	4700	101
Association of Human Service Ministries	4750	102
Educational Institutions	4800-4860	103
Auxiliary Organizations	4900-4910	108

## Chapter 5

### Annual Conferences

Preamble	5000	109
Organization	5010-5080	109
Officers	5100-5150	112
Standing Boards and Committees	5200-5270	118
The Ordained Ministry	5300-5350	125
Elder's Orders	5400-5470	131
Conference Membership Transfers and Termination	5500-5520	136
Special Cases of Appointments	5600-5660	140
Located Elders and Deacons	5700	142
Evaluation of Ministry Effectiveness	5800	143

## Chapter 6

### The Local Church

Preamble	6000	147
Mission and Vision	6010	149
Characteristics of the Living Church	6020-6070	150
Membership	6100-6150	153
Local Church Administration	6200-6250	157
Standing Boards and Committees	6300-6340	160
Property and Finance	6400-6450	168

	Par.	Page
Local Ministerial Candidates	6500	174
Deacons	6600-6610	176
Pastoral Staff Assistants	6700-6730	178
Formation of New Churches	6800-6850	182

## **Chapter 7**

### **Church Discipline**

Preamble	7000	189
Discipline and Restoration of an Ordained Minister	7100-7240	189
Discipline and Restoration of a Lay Member	7300-7330	197
Church Trials	7400-7450	199
Citation of a Society or Annual Conference to Show Cause	7500	203
Insolvencies and the Settlement of Disputes	7600	204

## **Chapter 8**

### **The Ritual**

Baptism	8000-8050	207
Holy Communion: The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper	8100-8120	217
The Solemnization of Matrimony	8200-8210	222
The Burial of the Dead	8300-8310	226
Ordination of Elders	8400	229
Consecration of Deacons	8500	236
Dedication of Churches	8600	242
Ministerial Membership	8700-8720	243
Lay Membership	8800-8830	246

## **Chapter 9**

### **Appendixes**

Articles of Incorporation of the Free Methodist Church of North America	9000	251
Bylaws of the Free Methodist Church of North America	9100	255

## **Index**

265