



CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

G L O B A L M I N I S T R Y C E N T E R

BOARD OF GENERAL SUPERINTENDENTS

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July 13, 2011

The Reverend David W. Kendall
Lead Bishop
Free Methodist Church of North America
World Ministries Center
770 North High School Road
Indianapolis, IN 46214-3756

Dear Bishop Kendall:

On behalf of the Board of General Superintendents and the members of the international Church of the Nazarene, it is my privilege to send greetings to the Board of Bishops, the General Conference delegates, and guests as the Free Methodist Church in North America celebrates its Sesquicentennial Anniversary at General Conference 2011 in Rochester, New York, USA.

Your conference theme, “Whole Gospel, Whole World, Whole Person,” exemplifies what it means to be a holiness church rooted in the Wesleyan-Arminian tradition. Anything that lasts 150 years has to have a very strong foundation. In the life of your principal founder, Benjamin T. Roberts, it is clear that God’s Word, a commitment to prayer, and a heart for others combined to give the Free Methodist Church strengths that endure to this very day. His desire for “simplicity, justice for common people, and radical discipleship” resonates with Nazarenes, who share these same values.

The vision of the Board of Bishops for G11 to focus more on “every person, every church, every means, and every place,” and less on polity and governance, is commendable. Putting first things first is an example for all church leaders preparing for conferences and assemblies.

A clarion call by you, Bishop David Roller, and Bishop Matthew Thomas to reimagine the Free Methodist Church had its origins more than 150 years ago. It dates back 2,000 years to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish (*Ephesians 5:25–27, NKJV*).

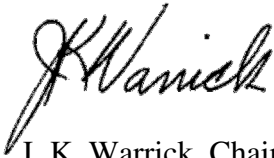
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This is what we pray for our Free Methodist friends and Nazarenes—that the holiness of the Church, of which this scripture properly speaks, will inspire everyone to live in the power and authority of the Holy Spirit.

The aim of the Free Methodist Church to work more cooperatively with other churches is received well by the Church of the Nazarene. Our 2009 General Assembly adopted a resolution to do the same thing with those of like faith. We look forward to continuing the conversations already underway.

In closing, we offer this prayer for the community of faith: “May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” Amen.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. K. Warrick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J" and "W".

J. K. Warrick, Chairman
Board of General Superintendents
Church of the Nazarene

JKW:sh