

EXPLORE

winfmc

Equipping individuals to become fully engaged members of the winfmc community.

win**101** committed & faithful

Explore how the ministries of winfmc achieve community through commitment to Jesus and faithfulness to His invitation and call.

win**201** community & covenant

Hear why we are encouraged to join in community in “covenant relationship” with one another as a church and as The Church.

win**301** vision & values

Understand our vision – where we are headed – and our values – the core ideals that enable us to achieve our vision.

win**401** passion & purpose

Discover your personality and gifts and reveal your passion and purpose to be engaged to live, love, and serve.

win301 vision & values

OUR PURPOSE

Our purpose answers the question WHY – why do we exist.

The Washington Free Methodist Church exists to live and love like Jesus and to help others do the same

Our purpose as a church comes from two very important truths – the two greats - that Jesus left all of His followers with.

The Great Commandment

Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no commandment greater than these."

Mark 12:30-31

The Great Commission

Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Matthew 28:19-20

OUR MISSION

Our mission answers the question HOW – how do we achieve what God has called us to.

Our mission is to live, love, and serve like Jesus

Our mission as a church reminds us of our purpose and keeps us focused on our vision and our values.

OUR VISION

Our vision answers the question of WHERE – where are we going

As a church we seek to become a community of committed and faithful followers of Jesus who live, love, and serve with passion and purpose.

Our vision as a church is our promised land – the goal to which God has called us to.

OUR VALUES

Our values answer the question WHAT – what tools will we use to help us achieve our vision.

As the Washington Free Methodist Church, we value Biblical Obedience, Engaged Worship, Servant Ministry, Intentional Discipleship, and Authentic Relationships

Our values as a church are the filter through which every ministry is evaluated.

Biblical Obedience – We will not compromise the Scriptures. We will obey the commands and honor the promises of the Bible.

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 3:16

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

James 1:22

Engaged Worship – We believe that worship is what we do as well as what we are. We will offer all that we do and all that we are to God as acts of worship at all times,

But the time is coming—indeed it's here now—when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for those who will worship him that way. For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.

John 4:23-24

I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.

Romans 12:1

Servant Ministry – We will serve others with humility and love. We will honor the needs of others above ourselves.

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.

Philippians 2:3-5

Jesus called them together and said, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

Matthew 20:25-28

Intentional Discipleship – We will be purposeful in our teaching, training, and sending to raise up disciples who raise up disciples.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

Matthew 28:19-20

Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.

Luke 9:23

We are Christ's ambassadors, as if God were making his appeal through us.

2 Corinthians 5:20

Authentic Relationships – We will be open, honest, and accountable in our relationships – inside and outside of the church – seeking peace and love.

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:2-3

A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.

John 13:34-35

The Free Methodist Way

Free Methodists are first and foremost a Kingdom people. Yet throughout church history, God has raised up distinct movements like ours to enrich the larger body of Christ. Building on the legacies of John Wesley and B.T. Roberts, but always discerning where God is moving today, our identity is shaped by values that are both historical and aspirational. Of the many values we hold dear, these five lie at the heart of our movement. We view them as a whole, each one bringing necessary balance to the others. In a time of rising polarization in our nation, we resist the pull toward both fundamentalism and theological liberalism — not out of a spirit of compromise, but from a radical commitment to what Wesley called “the middle way.” It is a path that takes the whole gospel seriously and continually calls us to “both/and” convictions in an “either/or” world. We call it The Free Methodist Way.

Life-Giving Holiness

God's call to holiness was never meant to be a burden, but a gift that liberates us for life that is truly life by delivering us from the destructive power of sin.

All who are born again are made right with God by the finished work of Jesus Christ and called to experience the fullness of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. Forgiven and filled, we approach life with confidence that we are acceptable to God even as He continues to transform our character and behavior to become more and more like Jesus. Life-giving holiness, then, is the fruit of full surrender to the loving reign of God over every aspect of our lives, establishing within us love that is truly love.

Leaving behind the legalism that once hindered our movement, The Free Methodist Way invites every believer to embrace the transforming work of the Holy Spirit that empowers us to love and serve God and others in joyful obedience.

Love-Driven Justice

Love is the way we demonstrate God's heart for justice by valuing the image of God in all men, women, and children, acting with compassion toward the oppressed, resisting oppression, and stewarding Creation.

We devote ourselves to our founders' deep convictions around matters of injustice as they took their stand against the evils of slavery, the oppression of the poor, the marginalization of women, and the abuse of power in the church. Our heart for justice continues and expands today, fueled by God's holy love for the unborn, the vulnerable, oppressed, marginalized, and people of all races and ethnicities.

The Free Methodist Way is not only to realize a better society, but that all may be reconciled to God and one another in ways that reflect God's just character.

Christ-Compelled Multiplication

The gospel of Jesus Christ — the message He proclaimed, the life He lived, and the ministry He modeled — set into motion a redemptive movement destined to fill the whole earth.

Jesus' approach to discipleship was primarily a relational one in which He poured His life into a few with the full expectation that they would follow His example. His aim was not merely the transmission of information, but the transformation of lives by empowering those who followed Him to do what He had been doing. His mission is now our mission. We believe this redemptive movement of multiplication applies to every believer and should permeate our Free Methodist culture at every level: the found reaching the lost, disciples making disciples, leaders developing leaders, churches planting churches, and movements birthing movements.

The Free Methodist Way is to see God's kingdom expand exponentially as ordinary people are equipped by God's power to do extraordinary things.

Cross-Cultural Collaboration

From the beginning, God's intent was to have a people from every nation, culture and ethnicity, united in Christ and commissioned to carry out His work in the world.

Today we celebrate the beauty of a multicultural and multi-ethnic church both in the U.S. and in over 100 countries around the world. In the U.S., we cling to the promise that we have been made one in Christ even as we dedicate ourselves to becoming a more diverse church that looks like the kingdom of God. Globally, we continue to send missionaries to other nations even as we rejoice that the nations are increasingly coming to us. Freely sharing our own gifts and resources, we are also challenged and inspired by the faithfulness, perseverance, ceaseless prayer, theological insights, and spiritual wisdom of our international brothers and sisters. Without question, we are better together.

The Free Methodist Way aspires to move beyond colonialism and ethnocentrism in favor of a collaborative partnership in God's global work in anticipation of the day when a great multitude from every tongue, tribe, people and language makes up the eternal throng before the throne of God (Revelation 7:9).

God-Given Revelation

We hold unwaveringly to our conviction that the Bible is the inspired Word of God and our final authority in all matters of faith and practice.

Drawing on our Wesleyan heritage of understanding truth through the lenses of Scripture, tradition, reason, and experience, we keep Scripture primary. While the church will always be tasked with authentically communicating and applying biblical truths with sensitivity to cultural dynamics, we do not subjugate the Bible's timeless truths to cultural norms or social trends.

The Free Methodist Way is to fully align our lives and our movement on the unshakable foundation of God's Word.

DENOMINATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Bishops

Bishops are the general overseers of the Church. The Board of Bishops provides primary pastoral leadership to the denomination with ecclesiastical authority to lead and direct the Church, and develop and articulate the purpose, vision, values, and expected outcomes of the Church. Each of the three Bishops serves one-third of the United States and represent the FMC in different world areas. Bishops are elected to four year terms with elections being held at our General Conference (every four years). Our current Bishops are Keith Cowart, Fraser Venter, and Kay Kolde. The Washington Free Methodist Church serves under the leadership of Bishop Cowart.

Annual Conferences

The FMCUSA is organized into Annual Conferences. Conferences are mostly geographical regions within the U.S. The Washington Free Methodist Church is a part of the Crossroads Annual Conference along with every Free Methodist Church throughout Indiana as well as the Free Methodist Churches in Illinois, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

Superintendents

Each Annual Conference elects a Free Methodist Elder as Superintendent. The Superintendents oversee vision alignment and implementation, leadership development, church health, church planting, and church expansion in their Annual Conferences. The Washington Free Methodist Church serves under the leadership of Superintendent Jennifer Finley.

Appointment System

Pastors of Free Methodist churches are not members of the local church, but instead are members of the Annual Conference and are appointed to local churches by the will of the area Bishop, through input of the appointed pastor and the local church leadership.

LOCAL LEADERSHIP

Word Ministries

Word Ministries [Students, Children, Prayer, Worship, Pastoral Care, Connections, Discipleship, Outreach, and more]. Our Word Ministries are led by our team of Ministers and Pastors.

Works Ministries

Works Ministries [Properties, and Finance]. Our Works Ministries are led by our Board of Trustees and Board of Finance and overseen by our Board of Administration.

Local Delegates

Delegates serve as liaison between the society and its appointed personnel, as well as between the conference and the society. Their primary tasks include: representing the society at annual conference; participating in conference activities; representing the society to the Superintendent; preserving unity within the body by promoting peace and harmony among the members.

NEXT STEPS: Vision & Values

1. Read through our "Membership Covenant"
2. Prayerfully consider becoming a covenant member of winfmc.
3. If you would like to know more about the values of Free Methodist Church USA, check out the Free Methodist Way at fmcusa.org/thefmway (or scan the QR code below).



Washington Free Methodist Church Membership Covenant

1. I have received salvation in Jesus and I have the assurance that God has forgiven my sins through Jesus.
2. I believe the Bible is God's written Word, uniquely inspired by the Holy Spirit, and I accept its authority for what I must believe and how I must live.
3. I will protect the unity of my church by acting in love toward other members, by refusing to gossip, and by following the leaders.

Have sincere love for other believers, love one another with all your heart.
1 Peter 1:22

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs.
Ephesians 4:29

4. I will share the responsibility of my church by praying for its growth and health, by inviting the unchurched to attend, by warmly welcoming those who visit.

To the church...we always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. 1 Thessalonians 1:1-2

So, warmly welcome each other into the church, just as Christ has warmly welcomed you; then God will be glorified.
Romans 15:7

5. I will serve the ministry of my church by discovering my gifts and talents, by being equipped to serve by my pastors, and by developing a servant's heart.

Serve one another with the particular gifts God has given each of you.
1 Peter 4:10

Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus...taking the form of a bondservant. Philippians 2:4-5, 7

6. I will support the testimony of my church by attending church and small groups faithfully, by living a godly life, and by giving consistently.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Acts 2:42

Let us not neglect our meeting together...but encourage one another.
Hebrews 10:25