



# Understanding who we are: *Six Strategic Priorities*

***Our Free Methodist Churches are committed to six interlocking priorities that express our ministry focus in Jesus Christ and direct our behavior out to our communities***

**Vital Churches:** Our first and highest call is to build the church of Jesus Christ. Our churches reflect the freedom of the Holy Spirit to guide our worship and our lives as we experience the transforming presence of God. We lead with a humble dependence on the Holy Spirit who gives fresh, healthy and holy church life; who brings new disciples, new baptisms, new members, new ministries and creates new expressions of mercy and holistic community outreach in his power.

**Kingdom Expansion:** Equal effort is pledged to strengthening the existing church and to the holistic recruiting, equipping, and sending of new church planters. Planting new churches, exploring new models, forging new paths for ministry to people groups both unreached and newly disenfranchised, through satellite congregations, emerging ministry points, bi-vocational leadership, the re-scripting of house churches for a new generation, and a willingness to wisely lead into the unknown in order to fulfill the gospel-call.

**Missional Leaders:** The harvest always needs well-disciplined workers. We train leaders to identify and recruit leaders from every walk of life, and teach them to equip, resource, and empower these workers, quickly and accountably, for kingdom expansion. We assert our commitment and fundamental conviction to develop godly, competent leaders. We deploy this leadership through women, ethnic groups, cross-cultural and young leaders, with an unequalled passion today so that future generations have the resources to continue the harvest tomorrow.

**Global Missions:** Going into all the world has never been so conceivable in light of the connected realities of a global community. We train our missionaries in fresh ways to fulfill the commission of God to the world that launches from an inter-connected system. We train our local leaders in a methodology of spiritual support, financial investment, and relational connectivity. We train our leaders to recruit new missionaries by understanding how to discern the Spirit-call on a life and by deploying them city by city, country by country, and people by people in harmony with our commitment to a social, educational, and mercy driven call.

**Advocates of Justice and Creation Care:** With the authority of the scriptural mandate to be a voice for those who have none, including creation itself, we champion the cause of justice for women, children, the poor, and victimized. We join in strategic partnership with like-minded, Christ-hearted people to fight the injustice allowable by law but abhorrent to God. We shed light in the darkness, to bring healing to the lives of the broken, and to offer freedom in Jesus' name. We heal creation through reforestation and responsible lives.

**Transformed Communities:** The call to holiness and wholeness of person is demonstrated by selfless and sacrificial love for the people loved of God. We are a people who pray for the peace of the city and are peacemakers on the city streets. We are a people called of God to believe for God's ongoing revelation while being God's healing instruments for individuals, families, and communities. We are the gracious beneficiaries of God's forgiveness and grace and we are His plan for delivering the same to those who would be His. We are a Kingdom people who serve the mighty King – We are a people who answer the call to live what we believe.



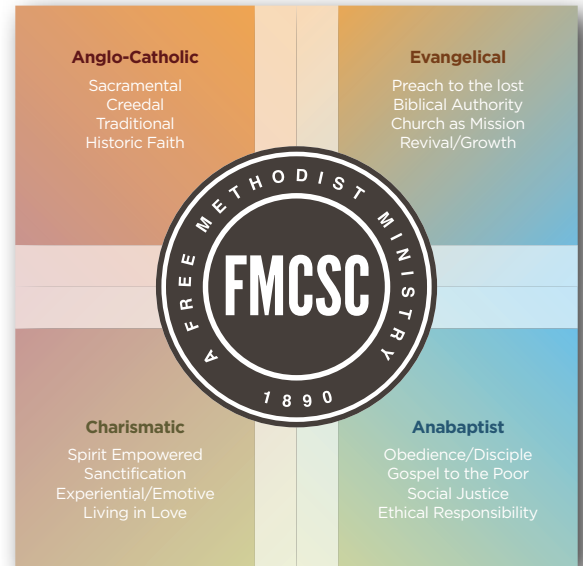


# Understanding who we are: *Five Essential Freedoms*

***The Free Methodist Church in Southern California is a vibrant movement of God's people through this dynamic and historic representation of the Church of Jesus Christ***

FMCSA is an evangelical denomination coming from the Anglican/Methodist tradition. We therefore affirm the importance of our relationship with God and others as we express our "theology of love." This basis on *Loving God with all our heart, soul, strength and mind and loving others as we love ourselves*, causes our churches to form a close community of people who share life together while we serve the larger community and world. Our six priorities are expressed on the opposite side.

**The FREE of the Free Methodist church was birthed from five core freedoms:**



**Freedom of all races to worship and live together.** The FMC were and are abolitionists. We worked for the freedom of the slaves in 1860 and participated in the civil rights movement of the 1960's. We formed abolitionist groups to free the slaves in our own nation and we have created an abolitionist movement today to set slaves free throughout the world: [www.setfreemovement.org](http://www.setfreemovement.org)

**Freedom of women to be treated equal in the church, at home and in the world.** The FMC ordains women to serve in the church and teaches equality in marriages. In harmony with a long tradition of equal opportunity for women to serve in the church from the days of the early church meeting in house to today's recognition that God calls and gifts women as well as men to serve His church, we affirm God's call and equip God's leaders to serve.

**Freedom of the poor to be treated with dignity in the church and in the world.** The FMC ended the practice of requiring the poor to sit in the "free pews" at the back of the sanctuary and made all pews "free." This commitment to leave socio-economic distinctions and prejudices outside the sanctuary and invite all people into true fellowship and acceptance is an ongoing commitment of our church.

**Freedom of the laity to be given authority and decision-making positions within the church.** The FMC ended the clergy domination of the church and opened up a consistent partnership with clergy and laity working together to do God's work. This elevation of laity to use their spiritual gifts alongside those given pastoral gifts enriches all aspects of life in the church and protects against institutional abuse.

**Freedom of the Holy Spirit in worship.** The FMC gives freedom to each local congregation to follow the Spirit's leading on how they worship. Some Free Methodist Churches worship in liturgical style with daily office, while others worship in charismatic style with praise choruses. A few have taken this freedom to create a blended style of worship that brings together a community of people of all ages and creates a family of God that accepts both sacramental liturgy and the Christian year as well the most recent of praises choruses and prayer services. Worship includes not only the music of praise and the study of Scripture but also the sharing of life in community.

**We invite you to join this loving community of Christians.**  
[www.fmcsa.org](http://www.fmcsa.org)