**Manual Edits to Print – November 2017**

**¶630.3.1.11 *Polygamy***

In some of our mission districts polygamy is a current reality. This statement seeks to give guidance to these contexts and to those who come to Canada from those contexts.

When individuals involved in a polygamist marriage confess Jesus Christ as their Saviour and testify to their desire to follow him as Lord, the Free Methodist Church responds graciously while remaining faithful to the biblical “one man and one woman” vision of marriage. (Genesis 2:24; Matthew 19:4-6).

In polygamy, a man has entered into legal covenants with more than one women and, as an honorable person, he must honor his promises. He must provide for the welfare of his wives. The church gives the family the responsibility to determine whether they will all continue to live together. As the children grow, the parents will rear them to understand and embrace a Christian view of marriage and the family.

The husband must take an interest in all of his children as a Christian father and provide for the well-being of all of his children. Such believers living in polygamous relationships cannot be given positions of leadership within the church. (1 Timothy 3:2, 13; Titus 1:6)

### **2**. **¶630.3.2 *Education of Children***

*The Free Methodist Church views the education of its children as a parental responsibility (Deuteronomy 6:5-9; Ephesians 6:4). Part of that responsibility may be delegated but not relinquished to public, private or Christian institutions of education.*

The church wishes to support public schools and recognizes the responsibility that Christian teachers, parents and students have to be a positive influence in the world. We support parents in their decisions regarding the education of their children whether it be to use public school, Christian schools, or homeschooling.

In the public school setting, the church wants a Christian worldview to be given fair consideration. We therefore advocate for the inclusion of teaching materials that present a worldview consistent with a Christian perspective on matters such as justice, human sexuality, cosmology, etc. If assignments and activities conflict with the values of our families, we may request that our children be excused from them. When such conflicts arise, we request that the student’s academic standing not be jeopardized and that alternative assignments be given.

**3. ¶630.3.4.2 *War and Military Enlistment***

We believe, that military aggression, as an instrument of national policy is indefensible (Isaiah 2:3-4). The destruction of life and property, and the deceit and violence necessary to warfare are contrary to the spirit and mind of Jesus Christ (Isaiah 9:6-7; Matthew 5:44-45). It is, therefore, our duty as Christians to promote peace and goodwill, to foster understanding and mutual trust among all people, and to work with patience for the renunciation of war as a means to settle international disputes (Romans 12:18; 14:19).

We believe that military service is a matter where the consciences of our members must be respected (Acts 4:19-20; 5:29). We further acknowledge, as Christians, our responsibility to intervene when there is massive, extreme or violent injustice. While we must support our nation in addressing such perils, we do not believe that this must necessarily take the form of active military service. Therefore, we claim exemption from all military service for those who register officially with the church as conscientious objectors to war.