

**Resolution to Establish a Freedom Stewardship Ministries Program and Structure within the CRE
(Passed by the 2019 Conference of Restoration Elders, June 24, 2019)**

Whereas, individuals and families within Restoration Branches are experiencing tremendous stress because of high-interest rates associated with consumer debt, and

Whereas, this past year we have, as a church, been reminded to bind ourselves together with a covenant, and

Whereas, specific messages have been brought to individuals and branches about coming out of debt, and

Whereas, there are a number of individuals, in conjunction with the CRE Stewardship Council, who have been exploring how to implement a program that would address the critical issue of supporting church members to become free of consumer debt; and

Whereas, these efforts have resulted in the preliminary development of a program that would be known as, “*Freedom Stewardship Ministries*” (*FSM*); and

Whereas, this program proposes to assist participating members to address their consumer debt through education, financial support, and being responsible for their actions; and

Whereas, the involvement of Restoration Branches in supporting members to overcome the bondage of consumer debt is recognized as critical to the success of any effort being proposed to address this issue; and

Whereas, there are a number of Restoration Branches who have expressed an interest in becoming affiliated with a program such as *FSM*, and

Whereas, this affiliation would involve a formal arrangement with these Restoration Branches that would include, minimally, their agreement to support the education and counseling of their participating members, promote and support the program both, in principle, and financially as possible, and identify a representative to represent their interest in implementing the *FSM* program; and

Whereas, there is significant interest in establishing an *FSM* program and structure within the CRE that would support the implementation of such a program;

Therefore, be it resolved that this conference supports the establishment of consumer debt reduction program to be known as *Freedom Stewardship Ministries (FSM)* within the organizational framework of the CRE; and

Be it further resolved, that this conference supports the establishment of an *FSM* representative membership council, to be known as the, *FSM Affiliation Council (FSMAC)*, comprised of 1 representative from each affiliated Restoration Branch, which Council will have oversight responsibility of an *FSM* program operating board, to be known as the, *FSM Operating Board (FSMOB)*, *FSM* program operating guidelines, and along with CRE Officers and the Coordinating Council, *FSM* fiscal concerns; and

Be it further resolved, that the CRE officers and Coordinating Council will develop and have signed *FSM Restoration Branch Affiliation Agreements* as soon as possible; and

Be it further resolved, that an organizing meeting of the affiliated Restoration Branch representatives be held as soon as possible to set the program structure in order, including how often the *FSMAC* will meet, the size, membership, and operational authority of the *FSMOB*, and electing the members and officers of *FSMOB*; and

Be it further resolved, that the initial tasks of the elected *FSM* Operating Board will include establishing guiding values and principles for the *FSMOB* and *FSM* program, identifying specific goals and objectives for the *FSM* program, defining the operational details of the *FSM* program, and establishing sound fiscal operational practices, controls, and accountability in conjunction with CRE officers, to be presented to the *FMSAC* and the CRE Coordinating Council for their review and approval; and

Be it further resolved, that the CRE Treasurer, with the *FSM* elected treasurer, will establish a separate *FSM* Fund and bank account, to account for all of the financial activity associated with the program; and

Be it further resolved, that the *FSMOB* will prepare an article for the Tidings of Zion by December 30, 2019, detailing the *FSM* program, and will prepare a report for the 2020 Conference of Restoration Elders summarizing the activities and outcomes of the *FSM* program.