

The Rev. George H. Freeman
General Secretary of the World Methodist Council

World Methodist Council
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George H. Freeman was elected as General Secretary of the World Methodist Council at the Council's meeting in Brighton, England, in July 2001. The Council is composed of representatives from 76 denominations throughout the world that share a common Methodist/Wesleyan heritage. The World Methodist family is currently in ministry in more than 132 countries. The Council was formed in 1881 in London, England, and meets every five years.

The World Methodist Council is the only Christian World Communion that brings together the people called Methodist. Currently there are more than 39 million believers in the 76 different member churches. These churches are in ministry with more than 75 million persons around the world.

The World Methodist Council's activities and programs include supporting Methodist education, strengthening family life in the various cultures, a dynamic program of world evangelism, developing worship and liturgical life in the church, supporting ministries by and with youth across international lines, providing an annual program of pastoral exchange, presentation of the annual World Methodist Peace Award, sponsoring the Oxford Institute for Methodist Theological studies, maintaining the World Methodist Museum at Lake Junaluska, NC, oversight of the Epworth Old Rectory in Epworth, England (boyhood home of John and Charles Wesley), and working with the World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women as well as the World Fellowship of Methodist and Uniting Church Men.

George Freeman was born in Pulaski, Virginia and was educated at Emory & Henry College and Candler School of Theology at Emory University. Ordained in the Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church in 1969, he has served as pastor of the Bonsack-Lithia and Woodlawn congregations on the Roanoke District, for thirteen years at River Road UMC on the Richmond District, and for six years as Superintendent of the Charlottesville District. In 2002 Emory & Henry College honored him with the degree of Doctor of Divinity.

George and his wife Virginia have two children. Their daughter, Angela, is married to Ken Massey. They live in Charlottesville and have George and Virginia's only grandchildren, Sam age 5 1/2, Georgia age 3 1/2, and Ty, 1 1/2. Their son, Matthew and his wife, Sarah, live in Richmond, Virginia. George and Virginia live at Lake Junaluska, North Carolina, with their dog "Buddy."