

# Recommendations for changes to the FGBC Constitution and Manual of Procedure

December 15, 2011

## 1) Background:

The Fellowship Council is considering changes to the Constitution and Manual of procedure to more effectively fulfill the purpose of the FGBC and the covenant we agree to:

- i) Purpose: The Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches exists to encourage and enable member churches in equipping and uniting the saints in fulfilling the Great Commission.
- ii) Covenant: The sovereign congregations which are members of this corporation are united in accepting the Holy Scriptures as the sole guide and authority in all matters of faith, doctrine and practice.

These changes are being considered by the Structures Commission of the Fellowship Council and will be considered at the January 2012 Fellowship Council meeting. Recommended changes from the Council will be considered by delegates at the annual conference of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren churches.

## 2) Recommended Changes Categorized:

### a) Statement of Faith

- i) Remove wording that required uniform statement of faiths in member churches. (see C.III.two)
- ii) Remove the special procedure for amending the Statement of Faith. (see C.XII.one and C.XII.two)
- iii) Dated the Statement of Faith. (see C.III.Two)

### b) Membership Requirements

- i) Change "subscribe" to "agree to live harmoniously" (see C.IV.One.1)
- ii) Added the "Declaration of Common Identity" as option for agreement.
- iii) Add requirement that churches pursue the purpose of the FGBC (see C.IV.One.2)
- iv) Remove requirement that churches use "Grace Brethren" in their name or "otherwise indicate clearly its affiliation." (see C.IV.One)
- v) Remove the special membership requirement related to baptism and communion (see C.IV.One)
- vi) Clarified basis for dismissal (see C.IV.One.6)

### c) Fellowship Council

- i) Council Members must subscribe to the Statement of Faith or Declaration of Common Identity (see C.VI.Three)

### d) Moderator and Vice Moderator

- i) "Moderator" becomes "Executive Director" (multiple locations)
- ii) "Vice Moderator" becomes "Assistant Director" (multiple locations)
- iii) Role as moderator of business meeting – (see M.IV.One.1.c)
- iv) Remove the requirement for a vice moderator's address – (see M.IV.One.2.d)

### e) Document organization

- i) Move the following sections from the Constitution to the Manual of Procedure
  - (1) Cooperating Districts
  - (2) National Ministries
  - (3) Cooperating Ministries
  - (4) Miscellaneous

### f) National and Cooperating Ministries

- i) Change rules for removal of a National Ministry to a majority vote (see M.VII.One.4.)
- ii) Specify one way to meet qualification "controlled by members of FGBC churches" (see M.VI.Two.1.b.)
- iii) Add requirement that a cooperating ministry shows qualification every five years (see M.7.Two.4.)

### g) Districts

- i) Section for Districts is included with National and Cooperating Ministries. (see M.V.Three)
- ii) Remove requirement that cooperating districts only have FGBC member churches
- iii) "Northwest" district becomes "Pacific-Northwest" (see M.V.Two.3)
- iv) "Southern Ohio" district becomes "Tri-States" (see M.V.Two.3)

### h) General

- i) Remove reference to GBNAM (see M.I.One.1.)
- ii) Made various clarifications and removed redundancies
- iii) Capitalization of Fellowship Council, Secretary, and Treasurer throughout
- iv) Remove notification to all churches by mail of a Fellowship Council meeting – (see M.III.Four)