

Agenda - 2017 in Seal Beach CA

1. Wednesday
 1. 6:00 Dinner together at Yucatan Grill - right across the street from the hotel. 550 Pacific Coast Hwy.
2. Thursday
 1. Breakfast - comp. at the hotel
 2. 8:00 - Devo's
 3. 8:15 - Executive Directors Review
 4. 8:25 - [Approve Minutes of the July 2016 meeting](#)
 5. 8:27 - National Ministry Reports (10 minute report, 5 minute Q&A)
 1. Grace College and Seminary - Bill Katip - [report](#)
 2. Eagle Commission - John Schumacher - [report](#)
 3. Social Concerns - Don Shoemaker - [report](#)
 4. Go2 - Nathan Bryant - [report](#)
 5. Women of Grace, USA - Viki Rife - [report](#)
 6. GBIF and R.I.P. - Ken Seyfert - [report](#)
 1. Motion to approve our next endorsing agent: The Fellowship Council (Board of Directors) of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches appoints Colonel Mark Penfold to serve as the endorsing agent for the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches to the United States Department of Defense and the Veterans Administration effective June 1, 2017.
 7. BMH - Liz Gates - [report](#)
 8. Encompass - Dave Guiles - [report](#)
 9. AGBM - Joel Richards
 10. CE National - Ed Lewis - [Report](#)
 11. E-Net Report from Tom Julien - [Report](#)
 6. 9:45 - Break
 7. 10:00 - Continue National Ministry Reports
 8. 12:00 - Lunch (working - at the church) - all Nat Org. Representatives welcome for lunch
 9. 1:00 - Fellowship Council Historical review (Tom Avey)
 10. 1:30 - Identity Initiative Discussion
 1. Should we amend the constitution to use the Identity Statement? Now? Later?
 2. How...
 1. What adherence language should it use?
 2. Should the constitution include the full Identity Statement or just reference it?

3. What should the "4th Cluster" be and how should it be used?
 4. How are we going to clarify the "encourage" word in the CCCI about ordinances?
 11. 2:30 - Break
 12. 2:45 - The Rebranding Initiative - [report](#)
 13. 6:00 - Dinner - Walt's Wharf - 1 block from the church
 14. 7:30 - Optional Task gatherings
3. Friday
1. Breakfast - comp. at the hotel
 2. 8:00 - Devo's
 3. 8:30 - Discussions continue
 4. 9:45 Break
 5. 10:00 - Finance Commission Recommendations
 1. [Financial Review of 2016](#)
 2. [Budget report for 2016](#)
 6. 10:30 - New Churches Membership Apps - The Membership Team is intentionally waiting to make recommendations on these.
 1. [Chelsea Michigan](#)
 2. [Layland Ohio](#)
 3. [Lexington Ohio](#)
 7. 10:45 - Break
 8. 11:00 - Executive Director Reports
 1. Access2017 (Keith)
 2. Access2018? - (Avey/Minier)
 3. Focus Retreats in 2017/2018 (Cruise/Avey)
 9. 12:00 - Lunch with SoCal young leaders includes all board members who would like to stay for lunch

Resources:

- [FGBC Constitution and Manual of Procedure](#)
- [Charis Commitment to Common Identity](#)
- Dave Guiles presentation on Centered Sets at Focus Retreats - [long version](#) - [short version](#)
- Video by Steve More - "[How the next Generation is Redefining Loyalty and How it Changes Everything!](#)"
- [Why Rebrand? \(video\)](#)

1 **Fellowship Council Meeting July 23, 2015 Newark, NJ**

2
3 PRESENT: Bartley Swatasky (Exec Dir. 2013-16), Kevin Pinkerton (B-'19), Tim Hodges (B-'18), Clancy Cruise
4 (B-'15), Dan Thornton (C-'16), Mark Lingenfelter (B-'18), Joe Cosentino (B-'17), Greg Serifino (A-'18),
5 Richard Todd (A-'16), David Kennedy (C-'15), Michael Saldivar (B-'16), Phil Bryant (A-'15), Roy Halberg (A-
6 '19), Larry Orme ('19), Tom Avey (Fellowship Coordinator), and Greg Howell (Recording Secretary).
7 Absent: Randy Weekly (C-'17)--facing foot amputation in August, and Matt Householder (A-'17).

8
9 MINUTES

10
11 A MOTION PREVAILED to accept the minutes of January 2015 at Seal Beach, CA as published on the FC
12 website.

13
14 RATIFY JANUARY ACTIONS

15
16 A MOTION PREVAILED to Ratify the motion to recommend Clancy Cruise for Executive Director for 3 years
17 and Keith Minier as assistant for at least 1 year beginning after 2016 Conference.

18
19 FINANCIAL

20 HOUSING ALLOWANCE

21
22 A MOTION PREVAILED to set Tom's housing allowance at \$35,000 for the calendar year 2016

23
24 Tom pointed out that the Budget doesn't include a Brotherhood Mutual rebate as in the past because the
25 company has stopped that practice. Some states have challenged the practice so they are coming up with
26 another system.

27
28 The budget incorporates an added \$1 to base to provide more support for conference.

29
30 2016 CONFERENCE

31
32 Location: Toronto Canada. 2016 is the 20th anniversary of GB Canada. We were in Toronto in 1996 to
33 celebrate the beginning of church planting in Canada. The hotel rate of \$165/night sounds high but the
34 current Canadian exchange is \$.77 on the USD. We will again offer discounts for teens and younger adults.
35 This seems to have contributed to the presence of increasingly more families in recent years. Tom reported
36 that GBIF gave \$6,000 and more have committed to help financially.

37
38 Bartley commented that we may need to change our thinking about the Fellowship office, combining
39 communication, church-planting, etc. This could be more economical and centralized.

40
41 A memo about the membership fee is part of the statistical form so local church leaders can understand
42 why the fee and what it is used for.

43
44 If the cost of Conference is going up, we need to face facts and change accordingly and sell that there is
45 value to it. It is not really a delegates' conference, but a pastor's conference since
46 80% of attenders are paid for by their church.

47
48 Bartley noted that young leaders like a big city, but it adds logistical problems with children.

49 We need to realize that Conference is like Christmas, so we need to help the family get to
50 Conference/Christmas. What connects us most is relationships.
51
52 We have been missing relational connections with the decline of Grace Seminary. So we need to recreate
53 ways like Momentum to foster relationships.
54
55 What if we give lead pastor discounts (like Israel tour leader) or 3 leaders and the 4th one is free?
56
57 Who's going to argue about how we are stewarding the money and valuing new leaders? We should aim at
58 guys we want there not just discount those who are already coming. Some of the older guys "don't get it."
59 If we don't invest in young leaders, we're done!
60 We need to clarify about who young leaders are for Conference (families or leaders)--staff rather than
61 families. May have to do both since our real goal is to build relationships.
62

63 A MOTION PREVAILED to recommend the printed budget to delegates.

64
65 A MOTION PREVAILED to keep the \$1 increase but incentivize who needs it (subsidized help) based on who
66 normally wouldn't come. Tom Avey and the Executive Director will determine how to apply these funds
67 towards this goal.

68
69 We should identify the purpose of Conference. Relationship doesn't sell conference, but it is the reason
70 which draws participants.

71
72 NEW ADDITIONS

73
74 A MOTION PREVAILED to recommend New Calvary GBC—(Haitian) to the delegates for admission as a
75 member church of the FGBC.

76
77 A MOTION PREVAILED to recommend to the delegates that SEED-NET--Nathan Wells, Pastor, be admitted
78 to the membership of the FGBC.

79
80 It is in a lower income housing area (accomplished by different funding streams than Vision Ohio). Mid-
81 level leadership development occurs in the starting of these groups.

82
83 A MOTION PREVAILED to recommend Kalahari to the delegates for approval as a Cooperating Ministry of
84 the FGBC.

85
86 Discussion included that it has operated for several years being organized and led by Zack Pinkerton , of the
87 Fremont GBC and includes youth from several districts. It was started to be cheaper and shorter than
88 Momentum, but definitely an FGBC thing. The Membership Committee has communicated with Ed Lewis
89 who says it is cooperative not competitive.

90
91 A MOTION PREVAILED to recommend GROW NEW ENGLAND, (Jack Brown, director) to the delegates for
92 approval as a Cooperating Ministry of the FGBC.

93
94 New England is hard soil. This motion sparked discussion about the need for a central church planting
95 office/director (GO2 really doesn't/can't do this). Does our recommendation/approval of multiple church-

96 planting ministries support cooperative activity or help people/organizations not work together? What
97 kind of cooperation do we need? (Nathan should attend FOCUS)

98

99 MEMBERSHIP TEAM--list concerns, qualifications, come back after break

100

101 Ordaining women chaplains—Chaplains Endorsing Agent, John Schumacher--

102

103 Discussion: Military chaplains are under authority (different than Sr/Solo pastor). --might affect staff
104 members in local churches also. It may be worth having a study committee. Could that include women
105 chaplains? (yes under military authority and under Endorsing Agent) Nurture 2nd tier leadership. It would
106 be better for policy to come thru FC rather than AGBM. Why not just make a statement for chaplains?

107

108 A MOTION PREVAILED to form a study committee made up by Structures Committee to study Scripture and
109 the needs of the Fellowship to come up with a recommendation regarding 1)whether to pursue some
110 official authorization for professional ministry workers who serve "under authority", 2) whether that could
111 include women and specifically women chaplains, and if so, 3) how to proceed (recommended next steps).

112

113 A MOTION PREVAILED to charge the Structures Committee with initiating the formation of the "Under
114 Authority" study committee including representatives from the Encompass task force, AGBM, and Grace
115 Seminary.

116

117 CHARIS--task force, global expression of our identity will meet in Thailand, November 2015 to harmonize
118 the items in the 1st & 2nd baskets/clusters.

119

120 Dave Guiles reported that he now has the input from all of regions. He is most concerned about North
121 America. Keith Shearer estimates that we could lose 5% on either end. Dave reiterated that the primary
122 goal isn't to keep everybody, but to leave something the next generation can embrace.

123

124 Some of the major concerns that have been expressed:

125

126 -bread & cup in the context of a meal (some 3rd world congregations have held off even having
127 communion because they haven't had food and some haven't had water).

128

129 -how dispensational it looks (should it be clearly pre-trib?) Is doctrine prescriptive or descriptive?
130 Who we are or who we should be? Some want a statement on the country of Israel. Nobody's
131 going to get everything they want. But what is it that really makes us a family? That's what the
132 Charis convention will determine.

133

134 19 countries have registered involving 35 delegates. The group will study the draft in the 3 principle
135 languages (English, French, Spanish) and will vote in November. This will be the global expression of what
136 being Grace Brethren is and then each delegation will take back to their countries to ratify. This will be like
137 when the Commitment to Common Mission was ratified. This should all transpire within a year and then
138 be reviewed every 5 years. Dave Guiles said he would be shocked if it is not approved at Charis, probably
139 unanimously.

140

141 There is some complexity: 1) the Haitians will not be represented, because they have never met together.
142 Therefore they did not convene to select delegates. 2) We have a presence in 34 countries but not
143 necessarily churches in all those countries, so not all "Grace Brethren" will actually be represented. 3) We

144 may have a period of time where both the Statement of Faith and the Identity Document will operate in
145 parallel. Eventually the Statement of Faith will likely be a great historical document, much like the
146 Message of the Brethren Ministry. The 5 year review provision will correct the static and include those not
147 able to be involved this first time. Spiritual descendants of our movement are equal ambassadors at the
148 round table. Theology will get more and more accurate as we look through different cultural eyes. It won't
149 be a perfect document, but will be reviewed in 5 yrs. We need to trust ourselves and trust the Holy Spirit.
150

151 The steering committee will propose to Charis that this will be on the agenda every 5 years even if every
152 country has no changes. It may be imperfect, but it is in process. It reflects a massive cultural change. We
153 should have our Charis delegates at our January meeting.

154
155 VISION CONFERENCE 2016 in TORONTO: 2016 is the 20th anniversary of the beginning of GB Canada. We
156 will meet in the Sheraton Centre right downtown. It is a good place for families. Theme: Margins (ministry
157 in a post-Christian world) Christians are not in the majority in North America. Speakers that can speak to
158 the theme. Rooms are \$165/Canadian = about what it is this year (exchange rate is about .77). US citizens
159 will need passports which take about 6 weeks to process. Dates are July 22 evening to 25th, Monday whole
160 day—travel can be Tuesday.

161 Fellowship Council will meet Friday July 22

162
163 FOCUS—Clancy

164 Favorite movie “Band of Brothers” you will be better together. Face to face, breathe the same air, get
165 together. Long-lasting relationships. Retreats will be more learning from each other and spending time
166 together. Not as heavy as last couple years when we were working on the Identity document.

167
168 Enduring Visionary Leadership Community did not meet face-to-face in 2014. They did a conference call to
169 keep connected. They will meet this year (2015). They will re-assess church planting, leadership training
170 and integrated ministry and look for ways to see all three tracks move forward together. Need to
171 champion these areas in our local churches more.

172
173 TASKS

- 174 1. Structures—Ordination (Under Authority) committee & response to Charis doc
- 175 2. Membership—evaluate national ministries, not just doing what they are doing
- 176 3. TA & Bartley—will determine who gets subsidized help to conference.

177
178 Respectfully submitted,
179 Gregory M. Howell, recording secretary
180

Grace College and Seminary



**Fellowship Council Update
February 2, 2017**

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Stable but Fragile!

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New record enrollment of 2,333 students!



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Enrollment Progress

New Students	Total Enrollment
2016: 495	2016: 2,333
2014: 473	2014: 2,185
2012: 438	2012: 1,821
2010: 290	2010: 1,773
2008: 346	2008: 1,508

2015/16 Financial Summary

SOA – Change in Net Assets

Unrestricted (Checkbook) – Deficit	\$ (1,408,743)
Temporarily Restricted (Savings) – Surplus	2,821,728
Permanently Restricted (Retirement) – Surplus	824,532
Total Consolidated Surplus	\$ 2,237,518



Track Groundbreaking

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**First track
meet will
be held
April 29,
2017**

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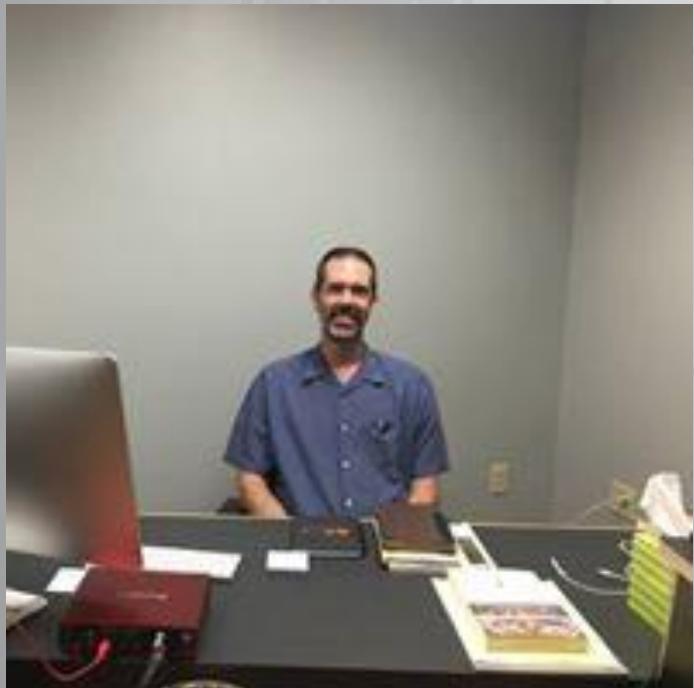




Omega Dorm

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Worship Arts



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Prayer Ladies Room- McClain 3rd Floor

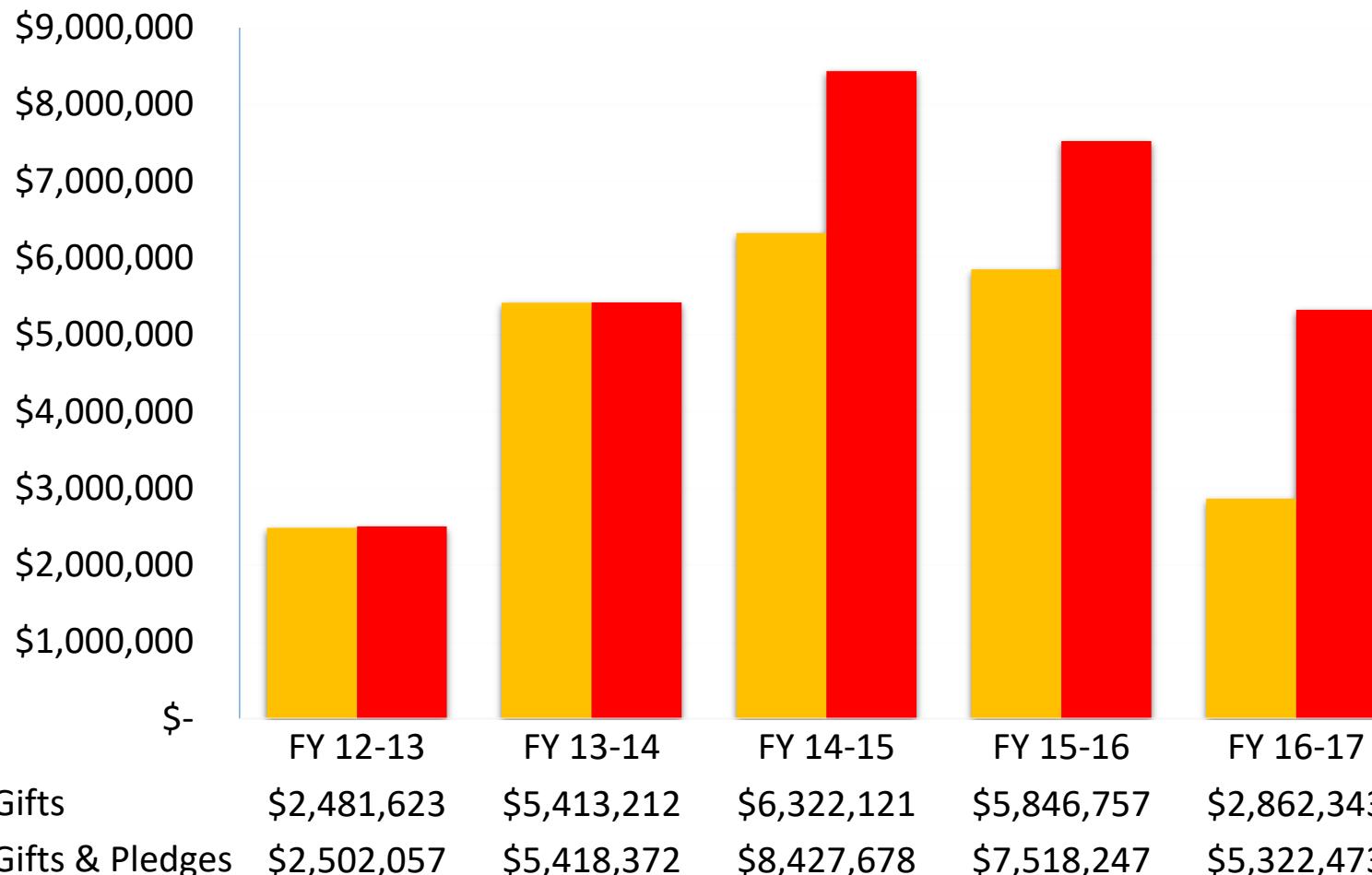


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Concept - Exterior



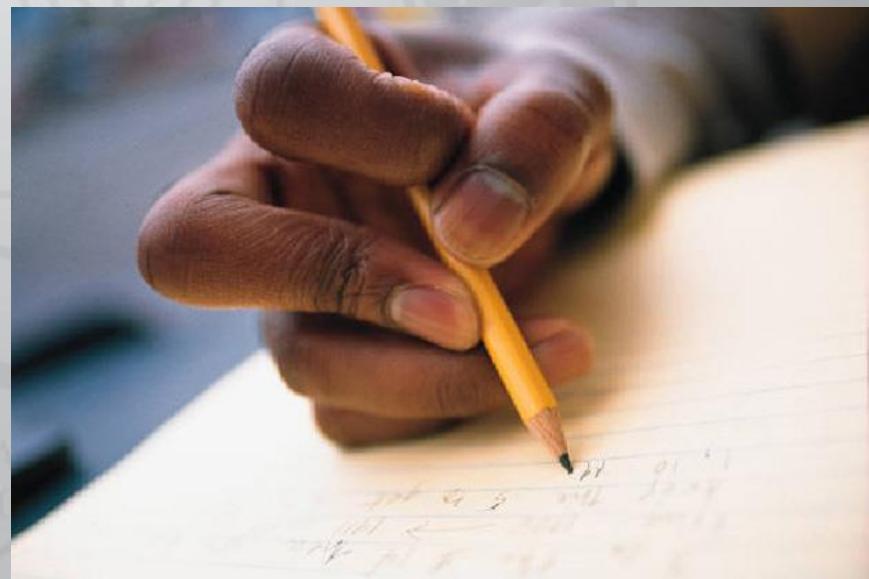
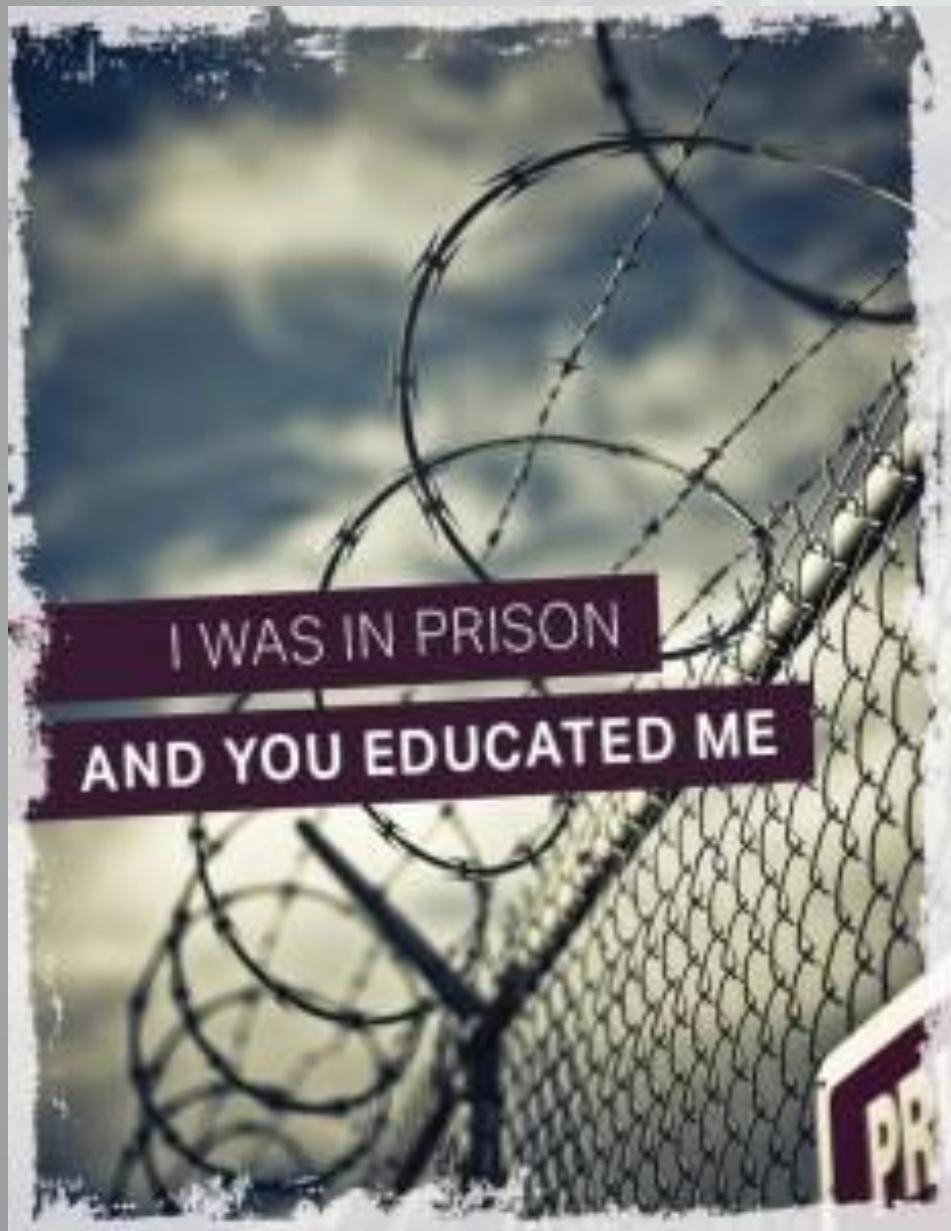
5 Year Giving History



A S P I R E

A red graphic resembling a spire or a tall, thin triangle pointing upwards, positioned between the letters 'P' and 'I' in the word 'ASPIRE'.

THE CAMPAIGN FOR GRACE COLLEGE & SEMINARY



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A Pentecostal Response

to

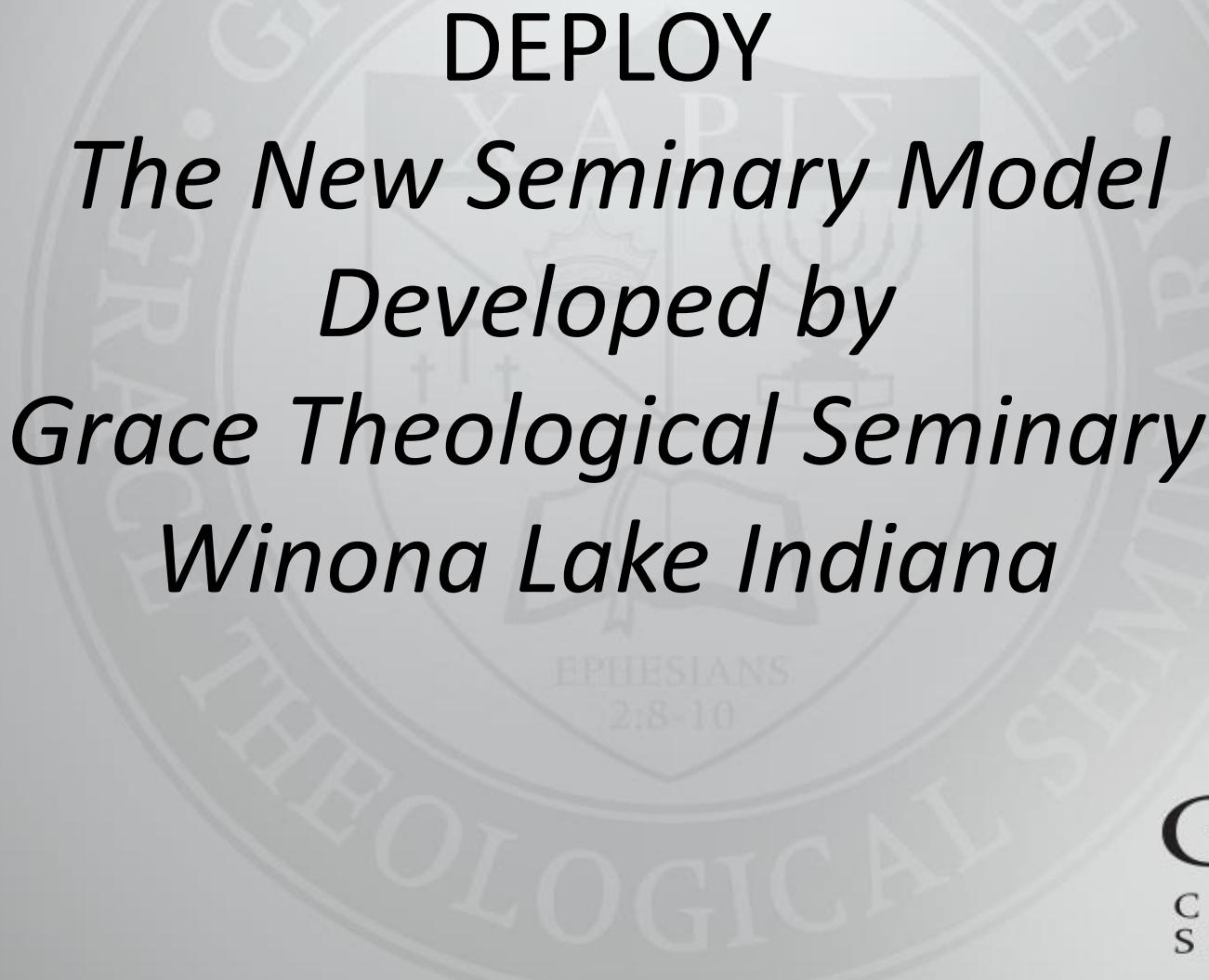
California Senate Bill 1146:

Religious
Freedom of
Christian
Colleges

upciorg.wordpress.com



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DEPLOY

The New Seminary Model

Developed by

Grace Theological Seminary

Winona Lake Indiana



A faint watermark of the Grace College & Seminary seal is visible in the background. The seal features a circular design with the words "GRACE COLLEGE & SEMINARY" around the perimeter. In the center, there is a shield with various symbols, and above the shield, the Greek letters "XAPIΣ" are displayed.

Key question we considered at
our Trustees Meeting Fall, 2014

How can the seminary provide quality,
affordable, Bible-centered theological
training to individuals in ministry
without requiring them to relocate to
Winona Lake?

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Three initiatives were pursued during Spring and Summer 2015:

1. A gathering of seminary leaders in Chicago.
2. A gathering of twelve pastors, several representatives from the Board of Trustees, and the Leadership of GTS, hosted on campus. Follow up phone calls were made to each after the meeting.
3. A cluster of recent graduates from the online Masters in Ministry degree.

Non-negotiables for the new model

- Be ATS and HLC accredited
- Be affordable for students and financially feasible for Grace Seminary
- Work within rural, urban, and suburban contexts
- Be mentor saturated (FT credentialed faculty, pastoral, spiritual life)
- Be theologically sound and academically rigorous
- Be competency based (Not just theological knowledge/content but knowledge plus a demonstration of competence – doing)
- Genuinely partner with churches, meaning work with churches with staff who are called, gifted and desire masters' level theological education

Key Action Steps from now until a 9/1/17 Launch:

- Hire and train the new Associate Director of Deploy
- Submission of the Deploy petitions to accrediting agencies (ATS – submitted 10-31-16; HLC submitted by 1-31-17). Petitions will be reviewed by the Boards of Commissioners in spring, 2017.
- In the process of raising an additional \$300,000 for start up costs. Already have \$125,000 for operations, a \$200,000 endowment scholarship gift (Woodside Bible Students) and a \$100,000 scholarship gift for Grace Brethren students in Ohio.
- Once we gain accreditation approval, we will be investing \$100,000 in marketing and promotion in the first year.
- Train and engage our initial four Hub sites: Woodside Bible Church (Troy, MI), Wooster GBC (Wooster, OH), Grace Polaris (Columbus, OH), Connection Church (North Chicago).

Strategic Planning

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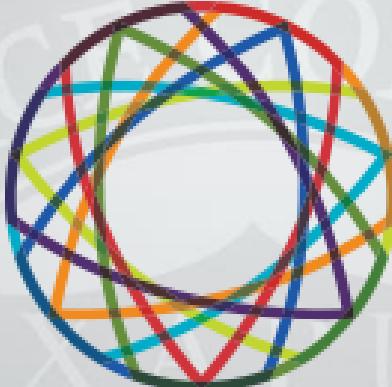
Strategic Planning Biblical Mandate

“The simple man believes anything, but a prudent man gives thought to his steps.” Proverbs 14:15

“Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.” Proverbs 15:22

“Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed.” Proverbs 16:3

“In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps.” Proverbs 16:9



CREDO

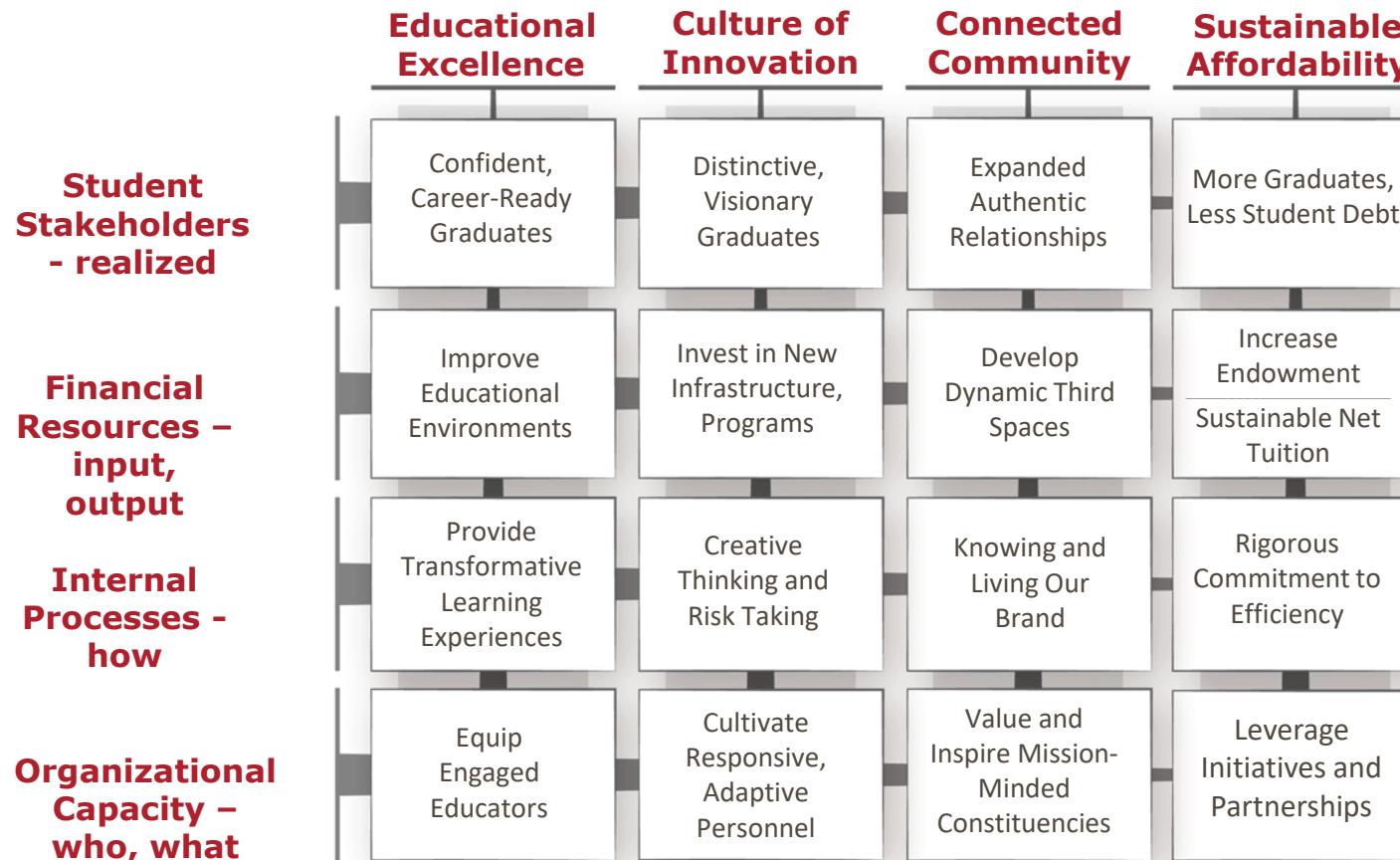


Strategic Planning Timeline

2016 and 2017

- April - Sr. Administrators' Retreat with CREDO
- August 15 - Sr. Admin and Board Team
- August 18 – Faculty and Staff (finish with lunch)
- Fall – Community, Alumni, campus meetings
- November 1-4, Board Retreat
- Steering Committee and Theme Groups
 - Strategic growth; Culture of innovation; Expand influence
- Jan/Feb, 2017 - Community check points
- March 23-24, 2017 Board Approval
- Implementation

Grace aspires to be an innovative, Christ-centered community providing real-world preparation through an affordable and excellent educational experience.



Mission and Values

Theme: Goal

Student Stakeholders

How the theme is realized

How our stakeholders reflect the success of the theme.

Financial Resources

Input - investments made by the institution to reach the strategic goal

Output - additional revenue achieved by reaching the strategic goal

Internal Processes

"How"

- How we do what we do
- Processes

Organizational Capacity

Do we have the Who & What?

Answer it for the theme

- People
- Programs
- Stuff



Nancy Peugh (1942-2016)

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Barbara Manahan (1941-2017)

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A huge THANK YOU to the churches
and people of the FGBC for
the great heritage, and for:

- Prayer
- Financial Support
- Assistance with Student Recruitment
- Partnership in Mission



Thank You!

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**To the Members of the
Fellowship Council
Status of Chaplains and the Activities of
the Endorsing Agent
January 16, 2017**

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS:

This report will update the status of our chaplains. It also includes any information I have regarding chaplain prospects and status of chaplain candidates.

VISITS TO CHAPLAINS AND TRAVELS COMPLETED AND ANTICIPATED:

COMPLETED:

Physical problems have kept me pretty much immobilized since the end of June but I am happy to report that I am getting better. I did visit JBLM (Joint base Lewis McCord and not only visited our chaplains there at that time (Graham, Murray and Winbolt). Graham has since been moved to Fort Jackson. I will be returning in late January to JBLM to interview a new potential chaplain candidate (nephew of Jeff Bogue and a Grace Brethren member). I also hope to interview a new prospect *(the pastor at Cherry Valley) **This information should be considered confidential at this time, PLEASE.*

ANTICIPATED:

I will have visited JBLM, mid-January, attended NCMAF (National Conference to Military Armed Forces) in early January, JBLM mid-January and this meeting in early February. There will likely be several visits prior to my being replaced as Chaplain Endorsing Agent on June 1, 2017 by Chaplain Mark Penfold.

CHAPLAINS DEPLOYED (and) Returned:

Richard Hurst: Returned from Afghanistan and reassigned to Chaplain Advanced Course at Fort Jackson, NC.- reporting in January 2017

David Mvondo: Returned from Korea and now in Vilseck, Germany, with family.

PROMOTION INFORMATION:

None announced for the near future.

CHAPLAIN UPDATES:

ARMY:

James Murray: Remains at JBLM, Ft. Lewis, WA

Billy Graham: Reassigned to U.S. Army Chaplain School and Center, Ft. Jackson, SC

James Schaefer: Fort Benning, GA

John Jacobsen: Fort Riley, KS.

Mark Penfold: Remains at US Army Training Center & Ft. Jackson, SC. Retires in April and becomes the FGC Chaplain Endorsing Agent on June 1

Carl Phillips: Reassigned to Wiesbaden, Germany

Charles Pridgen: Reassigned to Ft. Stewart, GA.

Pete Stone: Remains at Ft. Campbell, KY. Will be reassigned this summer. Location unknown as of the writing this report.

Richard Hurst: Advanced Course for chaplains at Fort Jackson, NC, with orders to be reassigned to Korea this coming summer.

NAVY:

Justin Hayes: Presently on Ship duty from his base in Florida

AIR FORCE:

Phil Smith: Travis AFB CA (see **NEW CHAPLAINS** below)

George Youstra: Remains as Staff Chaplain to the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

NEW CHAPLAINS COMING ON BOARD;

We keep growing and I am requesting that you remember these men and their families coming on board.

Phil Smith, Captain, Chaplain, US Air Force:

Phil had previously worked with George Youstra at Beale AFB and has since been assigned to Travis, AFB, north of San Francisco. He knew his endorsement was not reflective of his doctrine of theology and this led him to seek endorsement with FGBC. He is a member of the FGBC in Auburn, CA.

Cameron Michael, CH (1/Lt) US Army:

Cameron is a member of Grace Community Church of Fremont, OH, where he is serving as a campus pastor. Cameron has been notified that he has been selected for active duty and will report to the US Army Chaplain Center and School at Fort Jackson, SC, in January to attend Chaplain Basic Training.

Jonas Winbolt, Chaplain Candidate (1/Lt), US Army:

Active duty at the end of January, 2017.

The above men have impressed me with their Christian maturity, their theological depth and their passion for military ministry. They are/will be a rich addition to our already great chaplain team.

RESERVE CHAPLAINS:

John Arnoldbik

Mike Landers
JP Prado
Jeremy Pfeister
Daniel Rosenberg
Scott Shaffer
Steve Shank (CH. Candidate)

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION: (See roster for current information.)

Mike Jones (part time) No changes
Charles Card (contract) No changes
Jack Galle (full time) No changes

FAREWELL

I take the opportunity for a final word to this group. I have been honored to serve the FGBC now for almost 22 years as your Chaplain Endorsing Agent and it has been a tremendous honor and will be a cherished memory. Thank you deeply for our encouragement and support. I started when we had 4 chaplains on active duty. This was done in the summer of 1995 when I retired from active duty. We have grown significantly (25 as of the writing of this report) and only recently several more have been in contact with me about coming on board. I plan to include an updated Chaplain roster with this report. The transfer of Mark Penfold to the endorser position will occur on June 1.

Respectfully Submitted,
For Dr. Larry Chamberlain, Assoc. Endorser.
Dr. Don Shoemaker, Assoc. Endorser
Ken Seyfert, CEO, Grace Brethren Investment Foundation



Dr. JOHN W. SCHUMACHER
CH (COL) USA, Ret.
Chaplain Endorsing Agent, NFGBC

NATIONAL FELLOWSHP OF GRACE BRETHREN CHURCHES

Active Duty, Reserve, Veterans Affairs

CHAPLAIN ROSTER

Current as of January 16, 2017

CHAPLAIN ENDORSING AGENT, FGBC

Dr. John W. Schumacher (Martha)
6289 W. Donald Dr.
Glendale, AZ 85310
Home: 623-561-5485
John's cell: 602-526-5810
Martha's Cell: 602-525-7587
chaplainschumacher@cox.net

NOTE: All emails to military email addresses must have a subject entered in the subject block or it will not go through.

ARMY

Major Billy Graham (Robin)

Readiness Center, USACHS
Ft. Jackson, SC 29207
Mil. Email: wiliam.e.graham8.mil@mail.mil
Work cell: 803-751-9084
Mailing address: 4110 Moseby St
Suite 83
Ft. Jackson, SC 29207
Physical location: Weston Lake Campground
Hopkins, SC 29213
Home Email: grahams.est1990@gmail.com
Billy's cell: 616-560-5853
Robin's Cell: 616-560-5702
Birthdays: Billy – 24 July Robin – 8 August

Captain Richard Hurst (Star)

(Advanced Course in Jan. '17)

Mil. Email: richard.r.hurst.mil@mail.mil
Home: 9770 Mountain Rd.
Cascade, CO 80809
Home Email: chaplainhurst@gmail.com
Richard's cell: 719-445-8143
Star's cell: 719-900-3166
Star's Email: starhurst777@gmail.com
Skype: Chaplain.downrange777
Birthdays: Richard – 24 Dec Star – 23 August

Captain John Jacobsen (Marlene)

1-63D AR, 2BCT, 1ID
Fort Riley, KS 66442
Mil. Email: john.g.jacobsen.mil@mail.mil
Work cell: 785-307-6109
Home: 205 Highland Grove Dr.
Manhattan, KS 66503
Home Email: jjake62@live.com
Home phone: 785-370-8154
John's cell: 402-507-7125
Birthdays: John – 3 March Marlene – 12 June

1/Lt. Cameron Michael (Kerrie)

(Basic Course in Jan. '17)

502 Sugar St
Paulding, OH 45879
Home Email: cmichael@gracecom.net
Cell: 419-307-4817
Birthdays: Cameron – 9 March

Captain James Murray (Ashley)

4-160th Special Operations Aviation Regiment (SOAR)
Joint Base Lewis-McChord, WA 98433
Mil. Email: james.d.murray62.mil@soar.army.mil
Home: 1893 Hoffman Hill Blvd.
DuPont, WA 98327
Home Email: chmurray217@gmail.com
Second Email: jim.ashley04@gmail.com
James' cell: 803-603-4588

Ashley's cell: 803-218-8414
Skype: chmurray217
Birthdays: Jim – 25 Sept. Ashley – 27 Dec.

Major David Mvondo (Whitney)
2d Cavalry Regiment Chaplain
Vilseck, Germany
Mailing address: CMR411, Box 5424
APO, AE 09112
Mil. Email: david.mvondo.mil@mail.mil
Work cell: 01622675492
Home: 1A Pfarrer-Seiler Strabe
92249, Vilseck, Germany
Home Email: mrmvondo@hotmail.com
David's cell: Ger. 016098637165
917-572-6354
Whitney's cell: Ger. 01719304098
917-575-0646
Skype: mrmvondo.iraq
Birthdays: David – 30 May Whitney: 21 June

Colonel Mark Penfold (Robin)
Garrison Chaplain
US Army Training Center & Ft. Jackson
Bldg. 4356
4356 Hardee Street
Ft. Jackson, SC 29207
Mil. Email: mark.penfold@us.army.mil
Also, mark.a.penfold.mil@mail.mil
Work: 803-751-6326/3121 (DSN 734)
Home: 208 Victory Landing Loop
Columbia, SC 29206
Home Email: armychapfam@hotmail.com
Mark's cell: 757-784-6297
Robin's cell: 757-784-1022
Birthdays: Mark – 25 April Robin – 3 October

Major Carl Phillips (Deanna)
Resource Manager
USAG, Wiesbaden, Germany
Mil. Email: carl.m.phillips3.mil@mail.mil
Mailing Address: CMR 467, Box 1793
APO, AE 09096
Home Email: cndlphillips@hotmail.com
Home phone: 0611 9411 8192
Carl's cell: 719-322-7340
Birthdays: Carl – 28 Sept. Deanna – 4 Dec.

Captain Charles Pridgen (Ada)
Battalion Chaplain
92nd Engineer Battalion
1913 W. 15th St.
Ft. Stewart, GA 31314
Mil. Email: charles.k.pridgen.mil@mail.mil
Work: 912-435-0830/2419
Home: 2 Redbud St.
Ft. Stewart, GA 31315
Home Email: pridgencksr@hotmail.com
Charles's cell: 443-764-9819
Birthdays: Charles – 1 July Ada – 2 May

Colonel James Schaefer (Elizabeth)
Installation Chaplain
Ft. Benning, GA 31905
Mil. Email: james.e.schaefer.mil@mail.mil
Work: 706-545-3970
Home: 601 Baltzell Ave.
Ft. Benning, GA 31905
Home Email: schaeferfamily4@yahoo.com
James' cell: 706-575-7206
Elizabeth's cell: 804-892-0190
Birthdays: James – 29 July Elizabeth – 29 Dec.

Captain Pete Stone (Monica)
TF 1-160th SOAR (A)
7280 Nightstalker Way
Ft. Campbell, KY 42223
Mil. Email: peter.p.stone.mil@soar.army.mil *
(Only use as secondary contact address)
Home: 1052 Ishee Drive
Clarksville, TN 37042
(PRIMARY CONTACT EMAIL)
Home Email: peterpaulstone@gmail.com
Pete's cell: 931-561-3976
Monica's cell: 334-546-9355
Monica's Email: monibravo@gmail.com
Skype: peterpaulstone
Birthdays: Pete – 12 June Monica – 10 Aug.

1/Lt Jonas Winbolt (Lisa)
Active duty as of January 23, 2017
JBLM (Joint Base Lewis McCord) WA
Mil. Email: jonas.a.winbolt.mil@mail.mil
Home Email: jawinbolt@gmail.com
Jonas' cell:
Lisa's Email: classicalcrew@gmail.com

Lisa's cell: 951-529-4668

AIR FORCE

Captain Philip Smith (Penny)
Chaplain, 60th Air Mobility Wing
Travis AFB, CA 94535
Mil. Email: philip.smith.31@us.af.mil
DSN (312)837-3943, COMM. (707)424-3943
Home: 421 Cannon Dr.
Travis AFB, CA 94535
Home Email: psmitty24@yahoo.com
Phil's cell: 469-230-3330
Penny's Email: penny_marie32@yahoo.com
Birthdays: Phil 16 June Penny – 9 June

Colonel George Youstra (Rose)

Chief, Religious Affairs Division
Joint Staff Chaplain, Office of the Chairman,
The Joint Staff
Pentagon, Washington DC 20301
Mil. Email: george.t.youstra.mil@mail.mil
Home: 4904 Red Fox Drive
Annandale, VA 22003
Home Email: chaplainustra@msn.com
George's cell: 719-205-1181
Rose's cell: 719-600-1898
Home phone: 703-323-4696
Rose's Email: rosieustra@yahoo.com
Birthdays: George – 27 April Rose – 17 Sept.

NAVY

LT Justin Hayes (Becca)
TAD USS Roosevelt (DDG 80)
Mil. Email: jhayes@ddg80.navy.mil;justin.hayes@navy.mil
Home: 3760 Oriskany St.
Jacksonville, FL 32227
Home Email: hayesjm.hayes@gmail.com
Justin's cell: 760-214-2017
Becca's Email: hayesr.hayes1@gmail.com
Becca's cell: 417-536-3219
Birthdays: Justin – 20 Nov. Becca - 2 Feb.

AIR FORCE RESERVE

Cpt. Jesus "JP" Prado, (USAFR)

Mil. Email: jesus.prado@us.af.mil
3737 Aster Dr.
Phoenix, AZ 85032
Cell: 562-400-9592
Home Email: chaplainjprado@gmail.com
Birthday: 7 January

ARMY RESERVE

Captain John Arnoldbik (USAR)

1397th BN DDSB
Vallejo, CA 94592
Home: 10128 Rio Corte Loop
Hereford, AZ 85615
Home Email: jharnoldbik@yahoo.com
Cell: 480-313-4343
Birthday: 21 December

1/Lt. Matt Frost (USAR)

Home: 4058 Purple Plum Way
Colorado Springs, CO 80920
Work cell: 719-314-8652
Home phone: 719-687-1906
Home Email: mjfros2@me.com
Matt's cell: 602-320-8379
Birthdays: Matt – 26 Nov.

Captain Mike Landers (USAR) (Jennifer)

100th Infantry BN, 442D Infantry Regiment
Mil. Email: michael.j.landers.mil@mail.mil
Home: 15420 Desiree Dr.
Colorado Springs, CO 80921
Home Email: landersmike@hotmail.com
Mike's cell: 949-241-0813
Jen's cell: 949- 533-7001
Birthdays: Mike – 11 March Jennifer – 7 March

1/ LT Jeremy Pfeister (USAR) (Katiera)

462nd Transportation Battalion
2150 Nottingham Way, Hamilton Township
NJ 08619
Phone: 330-780-7362
Mil. Email: Jeremy.w.pfeister.mil@mail.mil
Home: 3511 A St.
Philadelphia, PA 19134
Home Email: jeremy.pfeister@yahoo.com
Jeremy's cell: 330-780-7362

Katiera's cell: 330-212-9883

Birthdays: Jeremy – 4 April Katiera – 4 May

1/Lt Daniel Rosenberg (USAR) (Michelle)

301 14th St.

Winona Lake, IN 46590

Home Email: rosenbdj@grace.edu

Daniel's cell: 574-527-9126

Michelle's cell: 574-377-7716

Birthdays: Daniel – 13 Jan. Michelle – 9 April

Major Scott Shaffer (USAR)

452nd CSH

Neenah, WI 54956

Mil. Email: Scott.e.shaffer10.mil@mail.mil

Home: 602 E. Grove St., Apt B1

Bloomington, IL 61701

Home Email: eliot09081@yahoo.com

Cell: 574-333-8241

Birthday: 8 December

ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

1/Lt. Steve Shank (CH. Candidate) (Kara)

Home: 4650 Granby Circle

Colorado Springs, CO 80919

Home Email: untnavs@gmail.com

Steve's cell: 940-206-7866

Birthdays: Steve – 11 Nov. Kara – 17 June

VETERANS AFFAIRS CHAPLAINS

Major Charles Card (Ret)

Department of Veterans Affairs

Pacific Island Health Care System

Spark M. Matsunaga Medical Center

459 Patterson Road

Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

Military Email: charles.card@va.gov

Work: 808-433-0270

Home: 94-680 Lumiauau St, Apt H4

Waipahu, Hawaii 96797

Home Email: cardc001@hawaii.rr.com

Cell: 808-692-3880

Birthday: 7 December

(Charles is not assigned to the VA but is doing contract ministry with them.)

Dr. Jack Galle, BCC (Judy)

LCDR CHC, USN Ret.

Staff Chaplain

Lebanon VA Medical Center

1700 S. Lincoln Ave.

Lebanon, PA 17042

Work e-mail: John.Galle@va.gov

Work phone: 717-272-6621 ext. 5435

Home: 21 Chesterfield Dr.

Palmyra, PA 17078

Home Email: jagalle@mac.com

Jack's cell: 610- 751-8571

Birthdays: Jack – 13 Dec. Judy – 6 July

Clinical Chaplain Mike Jones

VA Desert Health Care System

Long Beach HCS (125)

5901 E. 7th St.

Long Beach CA 90822

Mil. Email: michael.jones6@VA.gov

Work: 562-826-5418

Cell: 714-618-8360

Birthday: 2 Feb.

COURTESY LISTING

Ken Seyfert

Executive Director, Grace Brethren Investment Foundation

Box 587, Suite 1

Winona Lake, IN 46590

Work: 574-267-5161 Ex. 11

Home: 765-981-2552

ASSOCIATE ENDORSING AGENTS

Dr. Larry Chamberlain

l.chamberlain@yahoo.com

6151 E. 100 S.

La Fontaine, IN 46940

Work: 562-826-5418

Cell: 714-618-8360

Dr. Don Shoemaker

dmnshoemaker@verizon.net

2251 Knoxville Ave.

Long Beach, CA 90815

562-598-5298

Report of the Social Concerns Committee

By Donald Shoemaker, Chairman

January, 2017

The only business item I have to report is this:

I recommend that the Fellowship Council approve KATHRYN MACMILLAN as a member of this committee.

At the meeting of the Fellowship Council I will comment on a couple of rather immediate issues I think our churches need to be facing.

Go2 Ministries

At the November board meeting Tim Boal resigned as executive director of GO2. The Board elected Nathan Bryant as the new executive director. 3 of 4 board members stepped down as well. Bartley Sawatsky was the only one remaining.

Nathan was mandated to manage the liabilities and concerns of Go2 and work to reorganize, rebrand and re-launch a national Church planting agency for the FGBC.

Since then Nathan has been working honorably manage the liabilities. He has also interacted with numerous key leaders in FGBC to work on the later mandate from the board. He is working to have a new name, new structure and a new board by early spring of 2017.

Although there has been some resistance to the reemergence of a national agency, the overwhelming response has been positive and supportive.

Nathan hopes to have a draft reorganizational proposal by the February meeting.



Report for Fellowship Council

February 2017

The past year has been a big year of growth for Women of Grace USA on a number of fronts. The demand for the Women's Leadership Studies classes, under the direction of Dr. Christy Hill from Grace Seminary, has continued to grow. We have offered classes in Alaska, northern California, southern California, Indiana, Maryland, Ohio, and Pennsylvania, with multiple locations in some of these states. We anticipate adding at least two locations, Virginia and New York, in 2017. We are also offering the classes in Spanish in Indiana, Florida and California. We are very encouraged that our WLS coordinator, Amanda Paragon, has been added to her church's missions budget to help pay for her travel expenses as she oversees the scheduling of the classes. While we have about nine approved facilitators for these classes, there are about eight others waiting in the wings to receive training at a module in Winona Lake in June 2017.

Part of the spreading demand is a result of our FaceTeams, which consist of three board members or other very involved WGUSA leaders who spend a weekend at a church. The goal is to help the women of the church see their potential, determine ways they can fit into the mission of their church, and find resources to help them fulfill what God is calling them to do. These visits often result in an offer by the church women to host a WLS class so they can benefit from the training.

We have been tremendously encouraged by the development of a Hispanic Coalition of women leaders who are seeking ways to help Spanish-speaking women receive Bible training. This coalition is headed by Rosa Muñoz, and includes women's ministry leaders from several states. They hosted a Hispanic women's conference in Chicago in April 2016, and are planning one in Atlanta in April 2017 with a professional coach and trainer from Puerto Rico as the main speaker.

We have also been asked by women from one of our larger churches to help provide specialized training for their women's leadership team, and were able to offer a day of training to about 50 of their leaders in the fall.

Our focus recently has been on helping women become prayer warriors. A SoulCry prayer summit was held in Auburn, Indiana, in the fall, and we are planning another in Pennsylvania in 2017. A number of women have reported making prayer a greater priority as a result of the summit. In addition to mobilizing women to pray, the summit provided some very valuable connections of women that have remained ongoing. We are also preparing to add a prayer class to the current list of Women's Leadership Studies classes.

This summer we worked with Breathe Partners to send a team to Haiti under the competent leadership of Mandy Swain. Their principal purpose was to teach mothers to sew so they could develop a business to support themselves and their families. The team was able to leave seven new sewing machines for the women to use, thanks to generous gifts from churches and individuals in the FGBC. We also are encouraging women to give to the project Jacquie Jensen and Karen Foster are heading up in the Cameroon to provide training for the wives of the Bible Institute students there.

We have had many financial challenges as we try to minister to women in the US. Historically our ministry served more as a channel of funds for missions projects in other countries, and it has been difficult to communicate the need to invest in the women here in our immediate sphere of influence. The development of the Trellis, a group that commits to monthly support of our ministry, has helped us stabilize financially. As a result, we were able to end the year in the black, with reserves which are designated for investment in strategic ministries.

One of those ministries is in the beginning stages and involves providing opportunities for women involved in church plants to receive scholarships to participate in training and networking. Jenn Avey is spearheading this movement.

We have also enjoyed watching God's guidance in our girls' ministry, Sisters Mentoring with a Mission (SMM). From one school in Warsaw, Indiana, offering this ministry as an after-school option, it has spread as a grassroots movement to comprising three elementary schools and one middle school. Over 100 girls are involved each week, with a number of decisions for Christ have been made. While SMM has traditionally been a discipleship ministry for church girls, we are exploring how God might want to use the potential to reach girls for Christ.

One of the positive outcomes of this new endeavor in SMM is that about 25 female Grace College students are participating weekly in helping with the girls, and we see them developing a heart for discipleship. Who knows what seeds God is sowing in their hearts for the future. Parents have also been very enthusiastic about the difference the ministry is making for their girls. The ministry has received a number of community grants in recognition of how this ministry is benefitting. Our Director of Girls' Ministries, Nicole Miller, is working on a doctorate from Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary that has given her many insights in ways to help girls in their spiritual development.

Our *Women's Spectrum* magazine continues to attract women who have a gift for writing, and we continue to receive positive feedback on how the articles are affecting lives. The upcoming issue tackles the topic of boundaries, with the hope of providing a framework for developing Christ-centered boundaries in our lives. It has aroused quite a bit of interest!

Last summer, in consultation with a number of male FGBC leaders, we developed a task force to investigate the possibility of developing a form of credentialing women for the types of ministries they are involved in, especially those who are pursuing ministry careers. The Task Force is comprised of three men and three women who have met via phone conferencing three times so far (Fun Fact—they collectively have 300 years in the FGBC family). This Task Force is working in the context of the complementarian view that only men are to serve in the role of eldership.

The Task Force has created a Review Team of four men and four women who have agreed to read over their documents and give feedback.

The Purpose/Goal of the Task Force:

- a. To establish the standard of excellence [or the highest standards] for godly character, ministry skills and biblical knowledge required for effective ministry by women. This is like a plumb line for women who want to be credentialed.

- b. To build a system whereby women can be credentialed by WGUSA.
- c. To oversee the process of credentialing the first ten women worthy of such esteem.

The task force is currently working on:

1. The credentialing process. After reviewing how other complementarian denominations credential women, they have decided to build off the process established by the EFCA.
2. The "Why" of credentialing women. They anticipate questions regarding the purpose for this process.
3. Identifying Leadership Skills.
4. A short list of Biblical Standards.
5. Note: We are in communication with Dave Guiles (Encompass) regarding their interests in a similar credentialing for both women AND men. At present this Credentialing Task Force is serving the needs of WGUSA, but we also see the value of a credentialing that would be inclusive of men and women.

The Women of Grace USA board consists of Pat Ashcraft, Cindy Bushen, Sue Knight, Sharon MacMillan, Nicole Miller, Rosa Muñoz, Viki Rife, Cathy Simms and Cindy Shuler. The philosophy underlying our ministry can be summarized in the following statement:

We believe Christ's commission to make disciples included both men and women. Because discipleship involves life-on-life relationships, it would not be in the best interests of the Church for men to be discipling women. Therefore, we believe that women should be well-trained in the Word and its application, and should be given a voice in leadership decision-making to ensure healthy teamwork (balanced coverage) in the making of disciples.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Viki J. Rife".

Viki Rife
Executive Director



GRACE
BRETHREN
INVESTMENT
FOUNDATION, INC.

S I N C E 1 9 5 5

"Investments with eternal values"

Kenneth A. Seyfert
President / Chief Executive Officer

MEMORANDUM

To: Tom Avey and Fellowship Council
From: Ken Seyfert, President and CEO
Grace Brethren Investment Foundation, Inc. (GBIF)
Date: January 2017
Subject: Report to Fellowship Council

Greetings, Everyone . . .

I am pleased to provide you with this courtesy update of our organization as a national ministry affiliated with the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches.

Our Board of Directors is composed of ten individuals who reside in the several regions as prescribed in the FGBC bylaws. Dr. Jim Augspurger serves as Chairman of the Board. I serve as President and CEO, with Ryan Bowell serving as Vice President and Director of Credit Services and Brenda Byers serving as Secretary, Treasurer, and Director of Finance and Administration.

GBIF exists as a "church extension fund" as defined by the North American Association of Securities Administrators. We are regulated by the securities laws of the 38 states in which we have investors. The primary purpose of the Foundation is limited in scope by these regulatory authorities: *"To enable individuals who support the objectives of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches to invest funds at a reasonable rate of interest and to provide thereby a source of funding in the form of capital loans for acquiring, developing, and remodeling land and buildings for Grace Brethren churches, schools, and other associated organizations."* We are precluded from making loans to individuals and can only loan funds to 501(c)(3) churches and organizations within the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches.

The annual rate of interest paid to our investors is currently 2.0%. As of December 31, 2016, GBIF total assets surpassed the \$112 million mark. Total loans outstanding were around \$55.6 million, and we are not experiencing any serious delinquencies in loan payments. GBIF investment reserves, at around \$56 million, are invested very conservatively with no exposure to fluctuations in the stock market.

We continue to submit our financial records for annual audit by Capin Crouse, CPA's. Their reports find us to be in full compliance with the high standards of the accounting profession for a financial institution. GBIF is a long-standing member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA), which calls its members to very high standards of financial integrity and fiduciary responsibility. We also remain in good standing with state securities regulators to whom we are accountable with annual reports and registration renewals.

It has been our practice to make "goodwill contributions" to Grace Brethren ministries for the continued growth and viability of the Fellowship. We also make generous annual contributions toward the expenses of the office of the Fellowship Coordinator, including additional appropriations in recent years to help underwrite the increased expenditures of the office of Executive Director and task forces. In addition, we serve as the administrative organization for the FGBC Chaplaincy ministry and the office of the Endorsing Agent (his report is submitted separately), providing support to the Eagle Commission and subsidizing the expenses with an annual contribution when necessary. Further, we provide voluntary, seconded leadership and staff support for the FGBC Retirement Investment Plan and contribute toward the plan's administrative expenses.

We support via goodwill contributions the financial needs of our Fellowship as categorized by the Commitment to Common Ministry: Church Planting, Leadership Development, and Integrated Ministry. Our contributions to those worthy initiatives totaled \$715,000 in 2016 from 2015 earnings, not including subsidized support of the Eagle Commission and subsidized administrative support with seconded personnel and contributions to the FGBC Retirement Investment Plan.

John Schumacher, Endorsing Agent for the Chaplaincy ministry, and I are planning to join you for your upcoming meetings in Seal Beach. We will be eager to address any questions you may have at that time.

We are grateful to serve as your fellow workers in furthering the Great Commission.

Respectfully in Him,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Schumacher".



Report to the Fellowship Council
GraceConnect & BMH Books
(Brethren Missionary Herald Company)
January 2017



Every time you cross my mind, I break out in exclamations of thanks to God. Each exclamation is a trigger to prayer. I find myself praying for you with a glad heart. I am so pleased that you have continued on in this with us, believing and proclaiming God's Message, from the day you heard it right up to the present. There has never been the slightest doubt in my mind that the God who started this great work in you would keep at it and bring it to a flourishing finish on the very day Christ Jesus appears. Philippians 1:3-6 (MSG)

As you know, GraceConnect is the media company for the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches (FGBC). We cultivate communication platforms that further our mission of building bridges of communication between the people and the churches of the Fellowship. We leverage the church and ministries of the FGBC by telling the stories of what God is doing through our network of congregations and encouraging Great Commission teamwork.

Each time GraceConnect tells a story from a Grace Brethren church or ministry, I want it to be a touch that is an exclamation of thanks to God, triggering us to pray for one another. I've also been long convinced that God has something special for us as a tribe, because the Evil One has so often tried to stop our progress.

Communications

Our main platform continues to be **graceconnect.us**, where you'll find regular news about events and people in the FGBC. We continue to gain good visibility through this site, as we share original content, news releases from national organizations, and links to stories about Grace Brethren people, churches, and ministries. We also include stories from the GraceConnect eNews and GraceConnect magazine after they have been published first on those platforms.

The **GraceConnect eNews** is sent weekly. We're focusing on those stories that leverage what God is doing through our network of congregations and help people connect for prayer, ministry, and encouragement. We urge people to reach out by providing an email link at the end of each main story. The subjects of our stories have told us how much they appreciate hearing words of encouragement from readers.

You'll also find Grace Brethren news on social media through **Facebook** (facebook.com/graceconnectus/), **Twitter** (twitter.com/graceconnectus), and **Instagram** (instagram.com/graceconnect/). Weekly on Facebook, we share a #throwbackThursday image from the archives of the *Brethren Missionary Herald* magazine. This feature has been well received and often brings back memories for our followers as evidenced by the number of shares and "likes" on the page.

GraceConnect magazine is sent to nearly 2,000 pastors, leaders, and others in the FGBC. We continue to leverage the themes that are important in our family of churches and provide an opportunity for Grace Brethren writers to explore them thoughtfully and thoroughly.

We also are grateful for the advertising support of many of our national and cooperating organizations. These ads, along with support from the Grace Brethren Investment Foundation, allow us to provide the magazine at no charge to subscribers.

Conversation

While much of our "conversation" centers around our digital platforms and GraceConnect magazine, we continue to publish a few select titles each year under the BMH Books brand.

The Gospel and the Citizen, a short book on Christian worldview by Florent Varak and Philippe Viguier, was first published in French by Editions CLE, and released by BMH Books in mid-summer. The long-awaited

commentary on ***Ecclesiastes: Fear God and Keep His Commandments*** by Tiberius Rata and Kevin Roberts, both on the faculty of Grace College and Seminary, was released in the fall. A third project, in partnership with Encompass World Partners, ***30 Days to a More Resilient Faith***, by Barb Wooler with Wayne Hannah, was also released in the fall. This is a devotional that focuses on a theology of crisis.

All three books are not only available in print format, but as e-books in the Kindle, iBook, Nook, and Kobo formats.

My excitement at the release of these books has only been tempered by the decrease in sales this year – after a year in which these transactions were up slightly. In a year where we tried new things, such as advertising on Google (thanks to a Google Ad Words Grant) and television interviews for new authors, I'm still evaluating why the numbers were down. I'm exploring a variety of ways to continue making our catalog available to new audiences knowing that it will bring some financial support for the communications side of the organization, while providing a publishing platform for Grace Brethren authors.

Conservation

It is our privilege every day to record the history of our family of congregations online and in print media. I continue to oversee the Grace Brethren Archive on behalf of the Fellowship Council. This past year, most of the physical content of the archives was transferred to Grace College, who has committed to housing these items. In recent months, I've also been in talks with Nathan Bryant regarding the files, photos, and other items from Grace Brethren North American Missions/Go2, which has been stored near Telford, Pa., for a number of years. We are planning to bring these items back to Winona Lake this year for storage and ultimate inclusion in the FGBC archives.

The Building – 1401 Kings Highway

On June 7, 2016, we closed on the sale of the BMH building to the Winona Lake Grace Brethren Church. The church paid the appraised value of \$425,000 and will provide BMH/GraceConnect with office space at no additional charge for at least five years. Offices for the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches (FGBC), also currently housed in the building, will continue to share space with BMH. Later in the summer, we added two staff members from Encompass World Partners to the office suite as that organization closed their offices in Winona Lake.

This change necessitated a summer of downsizing, selling excess equipment, and moving the remainder of our warehoused products to the warehouse in Grand Rapids, Mich., which has been handling the majority of our stock for the last year.

It has positioned us to better serve the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches and to not have to focus on activities that are not in our mission, such as building management.

Another Year of Change

As I said last year, I never imagined housing the books anywhere but in our own facility. I never thought we might not hold title to our own building. I resisted the idea that we could continue with only one full-time employee. Yet God has allowed these changes in order for us to be more effective in serving the FGBC and I count it an honor, every day, to serve alongside you.

Respectfully submitted,



Liz Cutler Gates
Executive Director

**Report to the Fellowship Council
Encompass World Partners
January 2017**

Once again, it is our pleasure to inform the Fellowship Council and the FGBC-at-large of significant developments at Encompass World Partners. We deeply appreciate our longstanding relationship with our sponsor churches, and trust that we will continue to deserve the confidence you place in us. Here are a few highlights from 2016:

The continued development of our Missional Networks. By now you should be well-informed of the way in which we reorganized the agency to more closely reflect the Charis Commitment to Common Mission. Adopted by the Charis Alliance in 2008, this brief but significant document outlines the primary areas in which our global family desires to cooperate in Great Commission partnerships. Taking our cue from the CCCM, Encompass recently restructured our global operations around four Ministry Networks: Church Planting, Church Equipping, Crisis Response and Transformation Works (Integrated Ministries). You can read a more complete description of these Networks at: <http://bit.ly/2jSo0U9>

The continued development of the Charis Alliance. The historic meetings in Bangkok (November 2015) laid a solid foundation for the development of a global Grace Brethren identity. But foundations must be built upon. During 2016, we invested significant energy into assisting the fellowships or associations of various countries through the process of evaluating and adopting the Commitment to Common Identity as their primary identity document. As of the writing of this report, there are nine Charter Members and four Associate Members, with several additional regions which are taking steps toward joining the Charis Alliance.

Expansion into a New Regions and New Chapters of Engagement in Other Regions. During the past year, we were pleased to place a church planting team in Lodz, Poland. They are seeing conversions and are taking definite steps toward planting their first church. We also entered the city of Osaka, Japan, with the deployment of the first members of a new church planting team. Another new church planting venture began via a partnership between Grace Church of Akron, the GBIF and Encompass, with the deployment of two couples to Atlanta. A third couple will likely join the team in 2017. At the same time, we took steps to wind down our engagement in a few historic fields as staff retired or were reassigned to other ministries. This is part of the natural process of missionary work and should be celebrated. Fields no longer receiving staff from Encompass include Argentina, Brazil and the CAR.

Mobilization Ministries in Local Churches. We are also pleased to inform you concerning progress toward our goal of deploying 75 new workers by 2020. God is blessing our recruitment efforts, and we met our intermediate goal of deploying 23 new workers by the end of 2016. Several additional staff are in the pipeline, and should be deployed by mid-2017. In addition, we are pleased to report significant progress in developing closer partnerships with churches that are seeking to raise up new cross-cultural workers from within. In early 2017, we intend to release several new tools to assist churches in their mobilization and recruitment efforts.

Respectfully submitted,

Dave Guiles
Executive Director

Report from CE National
December 2016 for the
January 2017 Fellowship Council Meetings

CE National's purpose is to be a catalyst for all believers to be trained and mobilized to be "on mission." This is done by impacting the rising generation, reaching neglected people, and equipping biblical leadership.

We have two office locations—one in Winona Lake, Indiana and one in Philadelphia, Penna.

These are several highlight for your benefit.

1 CE National in 2016

- a. Two Operation Barnabas teams which will serve in Ohio Indiana, Eastern Pennsylvania, New York, and Washington, D.C. These tours will have an emphasis on character development along with developing the servant-heart. One of the teams will be part of StreetWise at Urban Hope in Philadelphia.
- b. Momentum is planned for Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, Indiana, with the theme of *Comeback*. In addition to other effective speakers, we have Jackie Hill-Perry, Sean McDowell, and J. Warner Wallace, Jeff Bogue, and Keith Minier, are scheduled for our events and programs in 2016. Momentum has grown to where almost 30% of the youth and churches are coming from beyond the FGBC. We call it FGBC Plus. We will also continue our one-day event at Momentum for pastors and youth workers called *The Bridge* to help them understand today's youth culture.
- c. In 2016 we added a week-long program called StreetWise for youth workers to bring their missions-minded students to Philadelphia and experience a week of intense cross-cultural training in outreach. In 2017 we are targeting families and small groups to come to this event. Sean McDowell will be the main speaker for the entire week on apologetics. It will begin July 5 and finish up Sunday, July 9. It is limited to 115 people.
- d. CELS (CE Leadership Summit) was held at Urban Hope in 2016. Our participants had the opportunity to go to New York City to visit and participate in the Metro Ministries Sidewalk Sunday Schools as well as visit the Brooklyn Tabernacle. We also had training on the streets of Philadelphia talking to students, and we had roundtable discussions. This year the CELS will be held at

Deer Creek State Park in Ohio this March. This is a two-day retreat to encourage youth workers—both volunteer and paid.

2 Urban Hope

- a. We are so thankful for the opportunity to receive a loan from GBIF to purchase the building and parking area beside and behind the current Balmer building. This will allow for off street parking.
- b. We also received funds to purchase and put a roof over the lot on the corner of A and Tioga, which we have been pursuing with the City of Philadelphia for many years.
- c. In 2016 we had 1000 people trained in outreach through the programs at Urban Hope.
- d. We have groups that come regularly and they include adults, young people and even children.
- e. Beginning in the fall we will have urban studies majors come from Grace to take their final year of classes and field experience at Urban Hope. They will stay in the Balmer Building.
- f. We have developed a video with Dr. Bill Katip to share with other colleges and universities who may want to send students to the SUM (Studies in Urban Ministries) program as part of their curriculum. CE National and Grace will have the SUM program represented at the ABHE conference in Florida in February where many colleges will be represented.
- g. Programs for the children include Camp Conquest, Kingdom Kids, and R.O.C.K (Reaching Our Community Kids—youth). We are running about 125 children in Kingdom Kids on Sunday afternoons, which is in addition to the two regular Sunday morning services each week. We have almost 100 teenagers each weekend at ROCK and 70 plus children plus adults went to camp this past August. We also have a group of children who are part of *Salt and Light*. They are trained to do outreach and have done programs in the parks and share their faith on a regular basis.
- h. Amber Besson is the chairperson for the new library project at Cramp Elementary School. The committee is bringing a fundraising concert from the Kimmel Center to raise money for the library. We also have ties with other elementary schools in the area where we do after school reading programs.
- i. We are prayerfully asking God to help us reach the Kensington community and beyond for Christ. We see the community being impacted. We have about 150/200 each Sunday morning and have about 125 children each Sunday afternoon for Kingdom Kids. About 100 come each Tuesday evening for Family Bible Studies. Prayer groups meet daily to pray for the lost people in

- the community. We are seeing adults pray to receive Christ each week! Incredible life change!! God is the One to be praised!
- j. Our dorms and other housing options are filled most weekends and many weeks as people come to learn how to start and develop conversations with non-believers. We have additional accommodations for pastors who want to learn how to connect cross-culturally.
 - k. Special weekends at Urban Hope include:
 - i. Awakened! (ladies only)
 - ii. Men only weekend
 - iii. Pastors and Elders retreat with Ed Short (May and Fall)
 - l. A new initiative we have is called 10 X 10 X 10. We hope to begin ten new urban ministries over the next ten years with ten million dollars. We want to partner with existing churches or organizations to bring people from suburban churches into the inner city where they can experience getting out of their comfort zone and discovering that they can share their faith and even go back to their communities and have a ministry to the overlooked there. This coming summer we are doing a trial run with two areas for a week each. One in New York and one in LA.
 - m. Our structure for raising funds has changed somewhat. We are now having some of our executive staff and our Urban Hope staff raise their own support through the Ministry Partner Development plan. We are still in the first year of this plan and those who are involved in the raising of funds are seeking ministry partners.

3 Ministries for Church Leaders

- a. There are about 40 churches being impacted by the consulting and coaching of church leaders in developing effective strategies (with Ed Short).
- b. The Pastorpedia Live events (offered four-five times a year) are bringing numbers of pastors to be enriched in church ministries. CE and Grace work closely in these training sessions at the Russell Center.
- c. Pastorpedia comes out monthly and hundreds of pastors look at the videos and read the materials each time. It is for pastors, written by pastors. Knute Larson oversees this project. Contributors are Jim Brown, Jeff Bogue and Knute.
- d. The Lending Library is being used consistently on a monthly basis by at least 10 churches (local and across America and around the world). We have over 1700 patrons on file with an average of 50 different people/families coming in each month to use the library.

- e. The National Institute is currently training 65-70 students in how to be effective youth workers for church ministries inside and outside the United States. The new major in which we are partnering with Grace College, Studies in Urban Ministries, has about 13 students. We must prepare graduates of the Urban Studies program to have opportunities to help plant urban churches or develop these people through discipleship.
 - f. We have other programs such as Pastorpedie Live which featured speakers such as Michael Wittmer, and David McClellan. In 2017 we will have speakers such as Robert Lehman and Don Sunukjian. We have given a new name for our Day Away, North of 55 now called Heritage. Cal Thomas will be our speaker for this event in April of 2017 in Lancaster County, PA. We are inviting both the Mid-Atlantic and West Penn districts to join us for this event. We will do the traditional homeless packets at this event. We are also adding the option of going to Sight and Sound to see the production of Jonah afterwards.
- 4 We are seeing positive increases in:
- a. Personal Bible study using the OnTrack Devotions.
 - b. More adults seeing the need for stretching spiritually in the areas of prayer, ministry, leaving a legacy, and mentoring younger people.
 - c. People who are embracing the ONE concept and reaching their ONE person for Christ and discipleship.
- 5 We are using the existing technology to do more things with social media, our websites and more. We have a ministry resource online called MinistryInsight targeting people who search for certain topics online. Once they read an article we have put up online they can sign up to get more of the same kind of articles in the future. We are targeting pastors, and other church workers (children's workers, youth workers, etc.)
- 6 Facilities
- a. We have brought all our staff together into one building this past year. We did some renovation and we are all under one roof at the Leadership Center. The Leadership Center also houses our Lending Library and a small conference room. Other buildings we have in Winona Lake include the Feather Center (a retreat center), the Barnabas Center (which we currently rent to Grace for their counseling department), The Russell Center (a beautiful building used for classes, Pastorpedie Live, and we rent it out to outside groups including Grace College/Seminary, local businesses and for weddings, receptions, etc.)
 - b. Our facilities at CE East (Urban Hope) include a church building, a community Center, a dormitory, an office complex, the Balmer

Building and 8 apartments in five buildings. In addition our staff and interns live "in the neighborhood."

CE National is looking forward to a year where more people are reached for Christ, believers will be encouraged and ministries will be accomplished. We are grateful for the opportunity to work with the FGBC and beyond. We pray God's richest blessings on each organization and church that is working together for the cause of knowing Christ and making Him known.

The Equipping Church Network

Report to the Fellowship Council, January 2017

In our reports of the last two years, we gave background information concerning the beginning and development of the Equipping Church Network, formerly known as E-Net. The Equipping Church Network grew out of the EVLC proposal at conference of 2010, creating three teams: church multiplication, leadership development, and integrated ministries. The leadership development team began with a focus on equipping mid-level leadership. Since then it has divided into two teams: one focusing on equipping and the other, in cooperation with Grace Seminary, on more structured training using churches as bases.

The Equipping Church Network is a relational, organic approach, because most pastors are not open to a programmed approach. For this reason it is off the radar for many in the fellowship, and its progress is difficult to measure. In spite of this, we are encouraged that the network is growing and that many churches have found, and are finding, new vitality in seeing the people transformed from consumers to collaborators in the ministry, through an intentional application of Ephesians 4:11-16.

For the past year most of the coordination has been done by a team of three: Ed Short, Tim Sprinkle, and Tom Julien, working closely with many regional coordinators.

Last year our report focused on eight objectives that we would be working on. The following is a brief update on progress in these areas:

- 1) *The restructuring of the Equipping Church team of coordinators, on the basis of an agreed-upon ministry description. Certain would commit to be instructors. The team leader and leaders of other functions would be decided by the team.*

We currently are working with ten district coordinators on the basis of our ministry description. We hope within the next few months to have their commitments to become a part of the extended coordinating team.

- 2) *The creation of an agreed-upon presentation of equipping, with logo, choosing the essential information of our documents, to be used as a brochure, a web page, a site on the FGBC page, etc. This could be made available to churches to put on their web pages. It could also be made into a video.*

The logo has been used for most of the past year. We appreciate our inclusion on the FGBC page. We are currently discussing creating a web page and whether a printed brochure would be of value.

- 3) *The implementation of our original goal of creating quarterly training and sharing seminars in six pilot churches. This would become our principle means of building relationships in the districts, and communicating the essential elements of equipping.*

We have identified the pilot churches, though we have not communicated with all of them and thus far we have not held any training seminars. Ed Short conducts many seminars during the year. Steve Kern in Wooster, as well as others, has held seminars that have been very successful. This is one of our main projects for the year.

- 4) *Discussion concerning whether we should seek our identity as a ministry of one of the fellowship organizations, such as AGBM, CE National, or Grace Seminary.*

We have had some contact with CE National but no decisions have been made. We have discussed cooperation with AGBM with Matt Wheeler and more recently with Marc Lingenfelter. This is an area that we will pursue. Contact with the seminary has been with the other facet of the leadership team, focused more on vocational leadership.

- 5) *The creation of a web page, as well as news in Connect and other means of communication.*

As mentioned, we are discussing the creation of a web page. *Connect* has printed one of our articles. Most of the communication is follow-up from each of the phone calls to pastors. We have reworked our documents. Tom usually makes five phone calls a week.

- 6) *Scheduled communication with interested leaders by email.*

Tim Sprankle sends a monthly email communication to a rather large list of recipients. Though it is impossible to measure the result, his last communication was opened by an impressive number of people.

- 7) *Representation at Fellowship Council (preferably by one of the current members).*

It might be possible for Mike Sciarra or Ed Trenner to give some information, though we would want to supply some resources. We will be glad to send any of the Fellowship Council members our materials if they desire.

- 8) *Continued representation at conference, and possible direction of the next series of Focus retreats.*

For the last conference Tim Sprankle had a workshop. We would appreciate all the opportunities we can get. And it would be wonderful if the Focus retreats starting the fall of 2017 could be devoted to Equipping, in view of its significance in the vitality of our churches.

One subject to discuss with Tom Avey is financing. Thus far very little is being expended, but some of the above objectives would require more financial help.

Please contact either of the three of us at any time: Ed Short, Tim Sprankle, or Tom Julien.

Submitted by Tom Julien

REBRANDING REPORT

Feb 2016- present

Rebranding Task Force; Tim Hodge, Scott Avey, Bartley Sawatsky
Additional Contributors; Tom Avey, Dave Guiles, Scott Feather

Began meeting in Feb 2016 through present with the objective of;

- Selecting a new “DBA” name (Not a legal name change)
- Developing a Logo
- Developing media describing who we are to prospective churches and to congregants in the seat each week.

Process

- Establish criteria and possible solutions
- Bring the discussion to regional Focus Retreats for feedback
- Survey select leaders in the FGBC for preferences
- Make recommendations to the Fellowship Council
- Develop Logo/media/graphic work once approved
- Submit to national conference in Summer of 2017

Some criteria

- Needs to include the word “grace”
- Needs to work in conversation
- Needs to adequately describe us and remove barriers to outsiders and congregants
- Needs to have an available and workable domain name
- Needs to not be used by any 3rd parties (negative or competing)

Conclusion

- Further discussion about the conclusions and recommendations of the task force will be shared at Fellowship Council meeting.



HIMES & KRULL, LLC

Certified Public Accountants

January 6, 2017

Board of Directors
The Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, Inc.
PO Box 384
Winona Lake, IN 46590

Independent Accountants' Review Report

We have reviewed the accompanying statements of financial position of The Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, Inc. as of October 31, 2016 and 2015 and the related statements of activities, changes in net assets, functional expenses, and cash flows for the years then ended. A review includes primarily applying analytical procedures to management's financial data and making inquiries of company management. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements taken as a whole. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and for designing, implementing, and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements.

Our responsibility is to conduct the review in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Those standards require us to perform procedures to obtain limited assurance that there are no material modifications that should be made to the financial statements. We believe that the results of our procedures provide a reasonable basis for our report.

Based on our review, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the accompanying financial statements in order for them to be in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

As disclosed in Note A to the financial statements, generally accepted accounting principles require that the cost of assets which have a useful life of greater than one year be capitalized. The organization has not capitalized such expenditures and the effect to the financial statements has not been determined.

Himes & Krull, LLC

Himes & Krull, LLC

See Independent Accountants' Review Report

THE FELLOWSHIP OF GRACE BRETHREN CHURCHES, INC.

Statements of Financial Position

	October 31, 2016	October 31, 2015
ASSETS		
Current Assets:		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 100,133	\$ 117,191
Accounts Receivable - Net of Allowance	15,135	9,569
Prepaid Expenses	1,830	10,011
	<hr/> 117,098	<hr/> 136,771
Other Assets:		
GBIF Investment	207,515	-
	<hr/> 207,515	<hr/> -
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 324,613	\$ 136,771
 LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts Payable	\$ 12,101	\$ 10,467
Payroll Liabilities	1,422	1,446
Deferred Revenue	5,785	11,600
Pension Liability - Current Portion	1,072	1,072
Escrow Funds	-	88
	<hr/> 20,380	<hr/> 24,673
Long-Term Debt:		
Pension Liability	3,662	3,841
(Less) Current Portion	(1,072)	(1,072)
	<hr/> 2,590	<hr/> 2,769
TOTAL LIABILITIES	22,970	27,442
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted	301,643	96,344
Temporarily Restricted	-	12,985
	<hr/> 301,643	<hr/> 109,329
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 324,613	\$ 136,771

See notes to financial statements.

See Independent Accountants' Review Report

THE FELLOWSHIP OF GRACE BRETHREN CHURCHES, INC.

Statements of Activities and Changes in Net Assets
For The Year Ended October 31,

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Change in Unrestricted Net Assets:		
Revenues and Gains:		
Membership Fees	\$ 211,966	\$ 196,043
Conference Income	121,367	117,708
Eagle Commission	59,402	61,449
Contributions	300,898	112,874
Focus Retreats	38,910	52,192
Handbook Income	4,100	3,500
Other Income	1,557	-
Interest Income	546	435
Net Assets Released from Use Restriction	<u>12,985</u>	<u>16,269</u>
Total Unrestricted Revenues and Gains	751,731	560,470
Expenses and Losses:		
Program		
Conference	174,786	179,981
Focus Retreats	86,578	72,050
Eagle Commission	63,841	67,618
Management and General		
Fellowship Council and Committees	78,360	82,446
General Administrative	<u>142,867</u>	<u>159,518</u>
Total Expenses	<u>546,432</u>	<u>561,613</u>
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	205,299	(1,143)
Change in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets:		
Contributions	-	12,985
Net Assets Released from Use Restrictions	<u>(12,985)</u>	<u>(16,269)</u>
INCREASE (DECREASE) IN TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS	(12,985)	(3,284)
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	<u>109,329</u>	<u>113,756</u>
Net Assets at End of Year	<u>\$ 301,643</u>	<u>\$ 109,329</u>

See notes to financial statements.

See Independent Accountants' Review Report

THE FELLOWSHIP OF GRACE BRETHREN CHURCHES, INC.

Statement of Functional Expenses
For The Year Ended October 31, 2016

	Conference	Focus Retreats	Commission	Eagle	Fellowship	Council and Committees	General	Total
Operating Expenses								
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 43,789	\$ 25,022	\$ 33,814	\$ 13,550	\$ 56,744	\$ 40,379	\$ 172,919	\$ 42,614
Office and Administration	1,321	-	914	-	21,584	13,105	21,623	61,707
Travel	4,288	1,107	2,895	845	50,860	8,601	17,949	231,300
Printing and Promotion	5,608	-	-	-	-	211	-	19,943
Special Events	119,780	60,449	4,634	-	-	15,309	-	-
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$ 174,786</u>	<u>\$ 86,578</u>	<u>\$ 63,841</u>	<u>\$ 78,360</u>	<u>\$ 142,867</u>	<u>\$ 546,432</u>		

See notes to financial statements.

See Independent Accountants' Review Report

THE FELLOWSHIP OF GRACE BRETHREN CHURCHES, INC.

Statement of Functional Expenses
For The Year Ended October 31, 2015

Operating Expenses	Conference	Focus Retreats	Eagle	Fellowship Council and Committees	General	Administrative	Total
	\$ 39,023	\$ 22,299	\$ 34,011	\$ 14,000	\$ 50,732	\$ 160,065	
Salaries and Benefits	838	36	1,684	2,350	40,063	44,971	
Office and Administration	9,251	2,879	27,262	43,616	13,849	96,857	
Travel	6,979	24	1,015	114	8,638	16,770	
Printing and Promotion	123,890	46,812	-	22,366	-	193,068	
Special Events	-	-	3,646	-	46,236	49,882	
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$ 179,981</u>	<u>\$ 72,050</u>	<u>\$ 67,618</u>	<u>\$ 82,446</u>	<u>\$ 159,518</u>	<u>\$ 561,613</u>	

See Independent Accountants' Review Report

THE FELLOWSHIP OF GRACE BRETHREN CHURCHES, INC.

Statements of Cash Flows
For The Year Ended October 31,

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
Cash Flows From Operating Activities:		
Total Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets	\$ 192,314	\$ (4,427)
Adjustment to Reconcile Changes in Net Assets to Net Cash Provided by Operations:		
(Increase) Decrease in Accounts Receivable	(5,566)	43
(Increase) Decrease in Other Assets	-	784
(Increase) Decrease in Prepaid Expenses	8,181	(389)
Increase (Decrease) in Accounts Payable	1,634	8,906
Increase (Decrease) in Deferred Revenue	(5,815)	120
Increase (Decrease) in Escrow Funds	(88)	88
Increase (Decrease) in Payroll Liabilities	(24)	(125)
Increase (Decrease) in Pension Liability	<u>(179)</u>	<u>(357)</u>
Net Cash Provided by Operations	190,457	4,643
Cash Flows From Investing Activities:		
Transfers to, or purchases of investments	(207,515)	-
 Cash and Cash Equivalents - Beginning of Year	 <u>117,191</u>	 <u>112,548</u>
 Cash and Cash Equivalents - End of Year	 <u>\$ 100,133</u>	 <u>\$ 117,191</u>

See notes to financial statements.

FELLOWSHIP OF GRACE BRETHREN CHURCHES, INC.

Notes to Financial Statements

Note A – Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, Inc. (the Organization) exists to encourage and enable member churches in equipping and uniting the saints in fulfilling the Great Commission. These member churches are located throughout the United States and are independently organized and locally controlled. The major programs include the annual conference of Grace Brethren Churches and local leadership retreats. The principal sources of funding are annual membership fees and registration fees for conferences and retreats.

The financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting and accordingly reflect receivables, payables and other liabilities of the Organization.

To ensure observance of limitations and restrictions placed on the use of resources available to the Organization, the accounts of the Organization are maintained in accordance with the principles of fund accounting. This procedure provides that resources for various purposes are classified for accounting and reporting purposes into funds established according to their nature and purpose. Separate accounts are maintained for each fund, however, in the accompanying financial statements, funds have been combined into fund groups as recommended by the Financial Accounting Standards Board. Under generally accepted accounting principles, the Organization is required to report information regarding its financial position and activities according to three classes of net assets; Unrestricted, Temporarily Restricted and Permanently Restricted. The Permanently Restricted fund consists of funds that the donors have stipulated that only income from the funds is to be used. The Temporarily Restricted fund consists of funds with donor stipulations that limit the uses of the funds. When the restriction is satisfied the temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to the unrestricted net assets and reported in the statement of activities as net assets released from restrictions. If restrictions to donations are met in the same fiscal year as the donation is made, the funds are recorded as unrestricted. The Unrestricted fund includes funds available for unrestricted use including any funds that may be designated by the board of directors for a particular use.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect certain reported amounts and disclosures. Accordingly, actual results could differ from those estimates.

Management has performed an analysis of the activities and transactions subsequent to October 31, 2016 to determine the need for any adjustments to and/or disclosures within the reviewed financial statements for the year ended October 31, 2016. Management has performed their analysis through the date of this report.

The Organization expenses advertising the first time it takes place.

Generally accepted accounting principles require that the cost of assets that have a useful life greater than one year should be capitalized and depreciated over its estimated useful life. The Organization has not capitalized such costs and the effects on the current financial statements have

FELLOWSHIP OF GRACE BRETHREN CHURCHES, INC.

Notes to Financial Statements

not been determined.

Membership in the Organization is made up of local Grace Brethren Churches, which subscribe to a common covenant and statement of faith. Membership fees are sent to the Organization based on the membership of the local church.

For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, the Organization considers all cash and cash equivalents to include monies in banks and highly liquid investments with maturity dates of less than three months. The carrying value of cash and cash equivalents approximates fair value because of the short maturities of those financial instruments.

The Organization is an Indiana corporation exempt from taxation under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Accordingly no provision for federal or state income taxes has been made. The Organization is not classified as a private foundation. The Organization believes it has appropriate support for any tax positions taken, and as such does not have any uncertain tax positions that are material to the financial statements. The Organization remains subject to examination by the Internal Revenue Service and Indiana Department of Revenue for the last three years.

No amounts have been reflected in the financial statements for donated services. However, many individuals volunteer their time and perform a variety of tasks that assist the Organization with specific assistance programs and various committee assignments.

NOTE B – Cash

The total cash held by the Organization at October 31, 2016 and 2015 was not in excess of amounts covered by insurance provided by the federal government.

Note C – Fair Value of Financial Instruments

The Organization's carrying amount for financial instruments, which include cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, accounts payable, and pension liability, approximates fair value.

Note D – Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivable is recorded at the amount the Organization expects to collect on balances outstanding at year-end. Management closely monitors outstanding balances and writes off, or records allowances, as of year-end, all balances, or portions thereof that it feels are uncollectible.

Accounts receivable are recorded net of allowance for doubtful accounts of \$-0- for the year ended October 31, 2016 and 2015.

FELLOWSHIP OF GRACE BRETHREN CHURCHES, INC.

Notes to Financial Statements

Note E – Investments

Investments are funds that have been invested, or earned, in the Grace Brethren Investment Foundation. Deposits are currently earning interest at a rate of 2% and is available only to individuals or organizations associated with the Grace Brethren Church.

Note F – Deferred Revenues

Revenues received in advance for conferences and retreats are deferred and recognized over the periods to which the revenues are related.

Note G – Retirement Plan: Promise of Honor

The Organization sponsors a defined benefit plan. Participation in the plan was closed as of December 31, 1986. Benefits continue to be paid out of the plan assets. This plan has a non-interest bearing checking account through Lake City Bank.

	<u>10/31/16</u>	<u>10/31/15</u>
Obligation and Funded Status:		
Fair value of plan assets	\$ 6,740	\$ 1,318
Present value of benefit obligation	<u>3,662</u>	<u>3,841</u>
Funded (Unfunded) status	<u>\$ 3,078</u>	<u>\$(2,523)</u>
Donations	\$7,000	-0-
Benefits paid	\$1,072	\$ 1,072

Present value calculation based on life expectancy estimates from Social Security Agency's life expectancy calculator and a discount rate of 1.6% (rev. rul. 2016-25 table 5).

The following benefit payments are expected over the next five years:

10/31/17	\$1,072
10/31/18	1,072
10/31/19	1,072
10/31/20	446
10/31/21 & Thereafter	<u>0</u>
Total	<u>\$3,662</u>

FELLOWSHIP OF GRACE BRETHREN CHURCHES, INC.

Notes to Financial Statements

Note H – Retirement Plan: Employee Plan

The Organization also has a defined contribution plan for its full time employees and for eligible pastors of member churches. The Organization contributes to the plan a percentage of each eligible employee's salary. Contributions for the year ended October 31, 2016 and 2015 were \$17,246 and \$8,592, respectively.

Note I - Restricted Net Assets

Temporarily restricted net assets are available for the following purposes or periods:

	<u>10/31/16</u>	<u>10/31/15</u>
Use Restricted	-0-	\$12,985

January 6, 2017

The Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, Inc.
PO Box 384
Winona Lake IN 46590

The accompanying supplementary information for the year ended October 31, 2016 and 2015 is presented only for analysis purposes and has been compiled by us from information that is the representation of management, without audit or review, and we do not express an opinion or any other form of assurance on such information.

Himes & Krull, LLC

THE FELLOWSHIP OF GRACE BRETHREN CHURCHES, INC.

**Statement of Functional Income and Expenses Without Eagle Commission & Discretionary Funds
For The Year Ended October 31, 2016**

	<u>Conference</u>	<u>Focus Retreats</u>	<u>Committees</u>	<u>General</u>	<u>Administrative</u>	<u>Total</u>
Revenue:						
Membership Fees				\$ 211,966	\$ 211,966	
Conference / Retreat Income	\$ 121,367	\$ 38,910		-	160,277	
Contributions	\$ 7,000	\$ 7,652	\$ 37,931	241,315	293,898	
Handbook Income	-	-	-	4,100	4,100	
Other Income	250	-	1,307	-	1,557	
Interest Income	-	-	-	546	546	
 Total Revenue	 128,617	 46,562	 39,238	 457,927	 672,344	
 Operating Expenses:						
Salaries and Benefits	43,789	25,022	13,550	56,744	139,105	
Office and Administration	1,321	-	-	40,379	41,700	
Travel	4,288	1,107	13,105	21,623	40,123	
Printing and Promotion	5,608	-	845	8,601	15,054	
Special Events	119,780	60,449	50,860	211	231,300	
 Total Operating Expenses	 174,786	 86,578	 78,360	 127,558	 467,282	
 Total Revenue over (under) Expense	 <u>\$ (46,169)</u>	 <u>\$ (40,016)</u>	 <u>\$ (39,122)</u>	 <u>\$ 330,369</u>	 <u>\$ 205,062</u>	

See accountants' supplementary information letter.

THE FELLOWSHIP OF GRACE BRETHREN CHURCHES, INC.

**Statement of Functional Income and Expenses Without Eagle Commission & Discretionary Funds
For The Year Ended October 31, 2015**

	Conference	Focus Retreats	Committees	General	Administrative	Total
Revenue:						
Membership Fees				\$ 196,044	\$ 196,044	
Conference / Retreat Income	\$ 117,708	\$ 52,192		-	-	169,900
Contributions	\$ 7,200	\$ 950	\$ 30,049	45,661	3,500	83,860
Handbook Income	-	-	-	3,500	-	3,500
Interest Income	-	-	-	435	435	435
Total Revenue	124,908	53,142	30,049	245,640	453,739	
Operating Expenses:						
Salaries and Benefits	39,023	22,299	14,000	50,732	126,054	
Office and Administration	838	36	2,350	40,063	43,287	
Travel	9,251	2,879	43,616	13,849	69,595	
Printing and Promotion	6,979	24	114	8,638	15,755	
Special Events	123,890	46,812	22,366	-	193,068	
Total Operating Expenses	179,981	72,050	82,446	113,282	447,759	
Total Revenue over (under) Expense	\$ (55,073)	\$ (18,908)	\$ (52,397)	\$ 132,358	\$ 5,980	

See accountants' supplementary information letter.

2016 Budget - Report

		2016 Budget	2016 Pre-Review
Revenues			
(1) Membership Fees	\$ 220,000	212,000	
Identity Initiative Fee			
(2) Conference Income	100,000	121,000	
(3) Focus Retreats	35,000	39,000	
(4) Donations	68,750	269,000	
(5) Brotherhood		25,000	
Other Income	500	6,100	
	Total Revenue	\$ 424,250	672,100
Expenses			
Program Services			
(2) Conference			
Direct Expenses	\$ 100,000	131,000	
Subsidy	20,000		
Salaries and Benefits	39,000	44,000	
Total Conference	159,000	175,000	
(3) Focus Retreats			
Retreat Costs (lodging and food)	32,000	60,500	
Speaker Cost (travel and honorarium)	4,200		
Admin Costs (office support and travel)	2,300	1,000	
Salaries and Benefits	22,000	25,000	
Total Focus Retreats	60,500	86,500	
Supporting Services			
(6) Fellowship Council and Executive Director			
Exec Honorarium	18,000	22,500	
Compensate Church	16,000	13,550	
Travel	7,500	1,500	
New Initiatives/Misc		3,300	
EVLC/Young Leaders Gathering	15,000	13,500	
GoNet	5,000	10,000	
Fellowship Council meetings	15,000	14,000	
Total Fellowship Council and Executive Director	76,500	78,350	
Identity Initiative			
General Administration			
Salaries and Benefits	133,000	125,750	
Allocated to Conference and Focus Retreats	(61,000)	(69,000)	
Office and Administration	37,700	40,000	
Printing and Promotion	8,500	8,700	
Travel	10,050	22,000	
Total General Administration	128,250	127,450	
	Total Expenses	\$ 424,250	467,300

Membership Application for ...

Main Street Church

Main Street Church

801 PROVINCIAL DRIVE
CHELSEA, Michigan 48118-116

7346807122
mainstreetchelsea@gmail.com

Meeting place : 320 N. Main Street, Chelsea MI 48118

Web Site : <http://mainstreetchelsea.com>

Is your church incorporated in your state? : Yes

Does your church have commercial liability insurance? Yes

Pastor or Principle Leader : Joshua Kuck

801 PROVINCIAL DRIVE
CHELSEA, 48118-116

7346807122
dadof4kuckgirls@gmail.com

List the present responsible officers (or leaders) of the congregation with titles

Lead Pastor - Josh Kuck

Transitional Elder Board - Fred Choi, Mark Artrip, Nick Cleveland

Children - Andrea Kuck

Hospitality - Matt Brinker, Michelle Perneau, Ryann Eff

Music - Kelly Trudell

For the purpose of membership in the FGBC, we define a local church as a group of Christ followers in a specific location, committed to the Gospel as its one message, under the oversight of Biblical leadership, practicing the ordinances, and on mission to the world by discipling and sending its people. How does your church match or not yet match this definition? Comment especially on the leadership, ordinances and mission of your church.

As a church, we meet each week in a building in the heart of our community. We currently average 40 people a week, with approximately 55 people calling Main Street Church their church home. Our leadership is made up of an external transitional elder board as we establish internal leaders. Almost everyone in our church serves in one way or another as we continue to grow and live out our mission statement: We are missional church representing Jesus and Bible in a relevant way. We are doing our best to serve and connect with our communities. We recently had a baptism party and will be observing communion in February.

Give a brief history or testimony about your churches ministry, including any pictures that capture the heart of the congregation and mission.

Recently Grace Connect did an e-newsletter article on our last year.

GraceConnect eNews, No. 187, Week of January 16, 2016

In short, my wife and I moved into Chelsea in Sept. 2015 with the intent of planting a church in this very unchurched rural context. We began by starting a Bible study in a living room. Along the way we have been inviting people to join our journey and sharing with them the power of the gospel. In June of 2016 we started our slow move into the room we currently meet in with a once a month meeting. In November of last year we moved to meeting each Sunday Morning. We major on community impact through the schools, recreation department, and community events. Our biggest event this was year was a party we put on during one of the cities festivals in which we had over 600 people attend. God continues to add to our numbers on a regular basis.

Hope these pictures work. If not, I would be happy to send them via an email.

02bcd58d-a084-4dfe-9b23-85eb270da5ab.jpg

28d9ca93-2889-4f51-802b-83237fa9cfcc.jpg

bd99cc9b-26e1-4967-9d98-36995e852e58.jpg

Please read the Commitment to Common Mission (<http://www.fgbc.org/files/OurCommitmentToCommonMission.pdf>). What will your church do to develop leaders, plant a new church and engage in integrated ministry in your community?

We are fully committed to developing leaders and in truth are dependent on it. In addition, to our Sunday morning ministry, I am active in one-on-one discipleship and leadership development. We also have both men and women's Bible studies that meet weekly. We are focussed on what we call Next Step ministry development which continually focusses on encouraging people

to add the disciplines and knowledge necessary to continue their growth in their relationship with Christ. Our big hair goal is to be in active pursuit of planting another rural context church in Michigan by 2021.

Read "Restoring the Household" by Todd Scoles: <http://www.bmhbooks.com/brethren/item/205-restoring-the-household-the-quest-of-the-grace-brethren-church> What questions does this raise for you and your church that we should discuss together?

I was not able to access the article mentioned through this link.

Describe your relationship with another Grace Brethren Church, ministry or district that is helping you connect with the FGBC and process this membership application. Provide a letter of reference from that ministry before June 1 either through regular mail (to PO Box 384, Winona Lake Indiana, 46590), using the upload button at the top of this page or email to tomavey@fgbc.org.

We are unofficially a part of the Heartland District and directly supported by a church in that district. However, we are very much out on an island in this part of Michigan. I do however have many established relationships in the fellowship through churches who are financial and mentoring partners. Those churches include Fremont Grace, Wooster Grace, Marysville Grace, Osceola Grace and Movement Church. I also in connection with 5 other current church plants within our Fellowship. I am in connection with Grace Connect, Tom Avey, Go2 and a developing church planting movement within our Fellowship. I consider Nathan Bryant, Mark Artrip, Clancy Cruise, Nick Cleveland, and Tom Avey mentors to myself and our ministry.

In what ways does your church intend to continue its cooperation with other churches in the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches?

See above.

Why does your church desire membership in the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches?

The FGBC has been an integral part of my life starting as a student of Worthington Christian Schools from the age of 5. Also attending Polaris, Wooster, Warsaw, and Fremont churches while being employed by Wooster and Fremont. I appreciate the support, but yet autonomy, our fellowship offers as we look to impact our community for the gospel. Biblically I appreciate the fundamental truths we stand on.

Please review the [Constitution](#) and [Manual of Procedure](#) for the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches. Note carefully ARTICLE III and ARTICLE IV of the Constitution and ARTICLE I of the Manual of Procedure that deal with the membership requirements new FGBC churches are to meet. What questions does this raise for you and your church that we should discuss together?

I think we are good. FYI if the links in this application could be set to "open a new page" that would save a lot of frustration.

Have you already officially aligned with the FGBC Statement of Faith and are people in your church aware of this alignment?

Yes

To the best of your knowledge, does your church or any leadership of your church have unresolved problems with another Grace Brethren church, leader, district or cooperating organization? If so, who can we contact for clarification?

No.

In seeking membership in the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, does your church recognize the obligation of mutual encouragement and cooperation with other congregations and agree to fulfill the membership requirements as stated in the Constitution and Manual of Procedure?

Yes

How many people participate in your church in an average week?

40

A check payable to FGBC based on the chart below for the current year membership fee should be sent to FGBC, PO Box 384, Winona Lake, Indiana 46590 as soon as this application is submitted. Use your church's average attendance multiplied by \$4.15

When will that fellowship fee be sent?

Jan. 24

Is this application complete? If you plan to return to this application and complete it later, select NO!

Yes

Membership Application for ... Layland church

Layland church

1186 twp rd 1106
Ashland , Ohio 44805

4199088181
seednet208@yahoo.com

Meeting place : Trailer in Layland

Web Site : <http://Go SEEDnet.com>

Is your church incorporated in your state? : Yes

Does your church have commercial liability insurance? Yes

Pastor or Principle Leader : Nathan wells

1186 twp rd 1106
Ashland , 44805

4199088181
seednet208@yahoo.com

List the present responsible officers (or leaders) of the congregation with titles

Pastor Nathan Wells
robert
tiffany
scott

For the purpose of membership in the FGBC, we define a local church as a group of Christ followers in a specific location, committed to the Gospel as its one message, under the oversight of Biblical leadership, practicing the ordinances, and on mission to the world by discipling and sending its people. How does your church match or not yet match this definition? Comment especially on the leadership, ordinances and mission of your church.

our church is committed to the scriptures. We are committed to gathering together for fellowship and worship. We are committed to reaching the lost with the gospel. And we love doing 3 fold communion and triune baptism. We also submit to SEEDnet's help in developing biblical leaders

Give a brief history or testimony about your churches ministry, including any pictures that capture the heart of the congregation and mission.

This church is over 2 years old and meets in the foothills of the Appalachian mountains. We minister to seed people who live on this mountainside reaching out with the gospel. When we gather we enjoy fellowship, prayer, old hymns and straight forward bible teaching/preaching.

Please read the Commitment to Common Mission (<http://www.fgbc.org/files/OurCommitmentToCommonMission.pdf>). What will your church do to develop leaders, plant a new church and engage in integrated ministry in your community?

We will disciple them in obedience of faith to the scriptures. Which includes growing in their service and leadership. We are always looking to serve the neighbors and beyond. We are part of SEEDnet and therefore will be involved in planting other churches.

Read "Restoring the Household" by Todd Scoles: <http://www.bmhbooks.com/brethren/item/205-restoring-the-household-the-quest-of-the-grace-brethren-church> What questions does this raise for you and your church that we should discuss together?

Good book no questions

Describe your relationship with another Grace Brethren Church, ministry or district that is helping you connect with the FGBC and process this membership application. Provide a letter of reference from that ministry before June 1 either through regular mail (to PO Box 384, Winona Lake Indiana, 46590), using the upload button at the top of this page or email to tomavey@fgbc.org.

We are very close to the Ashland Ohio Grace Brethren Church. Pastor Dan Allan

In what ways does your church intend to continue its cooperation with other churches in the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches?

As a part of SEEDnet which is a cooperating ministry in the fgbc as well as other personal relationships

Why does your church desire membership in the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches?

Love the statement of faith and the people

Please review the [Constitution](#) and [Manual of Procedure](#) for the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches. Note carefully ARTICLE III and ARTICLE IV of the Constitution and ARTICLE I of the Manual of Procedure that deal with the membership requirements new FGBC churches are to meet. What questions does this raise for you and your church that we should discuss together?

Good constitution no questions

Have you already officially aligned with the FGBC Statement of Faith and are people in your church aware of this alignment?

yes

To the best or your knowledge, does your church or any leadership of your church have unresolved problems with another Grace Brethren church, leader, district or cooperating organization? If so, who can we contact for clarification?

no problems

In seeking membership in the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, does your church recognize the obligation of mutual encouragement and cooperation with other congregations and agree to fulfill the membership requirements as stated in the Constitution and Manual of Procedure?

yes

How many people participate in your church in an average week?

43023

A check payable to FGBC based on the chart below for the current year membership fee should be sent to FGBC, PO Box 384, Winona Lake, Indiana 46590 as soon as this application is submitted. Use your church's average attendance multiplied by \$4.15

When will that fellowship fee be sent?

When we are accepted in the fgbc

Is this application complete? If you plan to return to this application and complete it later, select NO!

Yes

Language = English

Membership Application for ...

Lexington Fox Hollow

Lexington Fox Hollow

235 US HWY 250
Greenwich , Ohio 44837

4196857992
larry1white@yahoo.com

Meeting place : Fox Hollow Apartments

Web Site : <http://www.goseednet.com>

Is your church incorporated in your state? : Yes

Does your church have commercial liability insurance? Yes

Pastor or Principle Leader : Pastor Larry White

235 US HWY 250
Greenwich , 44837

4196857992
larry1white@yahoo.com

List the present responsible officers (or leaders) of the congregation with titles

Pastor Larry White
Pastor Andy Shank
Ron Wells

For the purpose of membership in the FGBC, we define a local church as a group of Christ followers in a specific location, committed to the Gospel as its one message, under the oversight of Biblical leadership, practicing the ordinances, and on mission to the world by discipling and sending its people. How does your church match or not yet match this definition? Comment especially on the leadership, ordinances and mission of your church.

Our leadership presents the Gospel at every opportunity for the glory of Christ. We cultivate an atmosphere of worship and an attitude of service. Our church strives to meet the spiritual needs of the community by sharing the Gospel with others.

Give a brief history or testimony about your church's ministry, including any pictures that capture the heart of the congregation and mission.

Our church reaches out to people who have difficulty leaving their homes. Our church focuses on loving others through the sharing of the Gospel multigenerationally.

Please read the Commitment to Common Mission (<http://www.fgbc.org/files/OurCommitmentToCommonMission.pdf>). What will your church do to develop leaders, plant a new church and engage in integrated ministry in your community?

Our church will continue to go door to door sharing the Gospel with others as we invite them into fellowship with Christ.

Read "Restoring the Household" by Todd Scoles: <http://www.bmhbooks.com/brethren/item/205-restoring-the-household-the-quest-of-the-grace-brethren-church> What questions does this raise for you and your church that we should discuss together?

This raises no questions. SEEDnet believes this to be a good book.

Describe your relationship with another Grace Brethren Church, ministry or district that is helping you connect with the FGBC and process this membership application. Provide a letter of reference from that ministry before June 1 either through regular mail (to PO Box 384, Winona Lake Indiana, 46590), using the upload button at the top of this page or email to tomavey@fgbc.org.

Ashland GBC

In what ways does your church intend to continue its cooperation with other churches in the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches?

We will continue to use the FGBC statement of faith, as well as keeping others informed of our growth via email and blogs.

Why does your church desire membership in the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches?

We agree with FGBC's statement of faith and Biblical stance.

Please review the [Constitution](#) and [Manual of Procedure](#) for the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches. Note carefully ARTICLE III and ARTICLE IV of the Constitution and ARTICLE I of the Manual of Procedure that deal with the membership requirements new FGBC churches are to meet. What questions does this raise for you and your church that we should discuss together?

There are no questions.

Have you already officially aligned with the FGBC Statement of Faith and are people in your church aware of this alignment?

Yes

To the best or your knowledge, does your church or any leadership of your church have unresolved problems with another Grace Brethren church, leader, district or cooperating organization? If so, who can we contact for clarification?

No

In seeking membership in the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, does your church recognize the obligation of mutual encouragement and cooperation with other congregations and agree to fulfill the membership requirements as stated in the Constitution and Manual of Procedure?

Yes

How many people participate in your church in an average week?

A check payable to FGBC based on the chart below for the current year membership fee should be sent to FGBC, PO Box 384, Winona Lake, Indiana 46590 as soon as this application is submitted. Use your church's average attendance multiplied by \$4.15

When will that fellowship fee be sent?

Upon acceptance

Is this application complete? If you plan to return to this application and complete it later, select NO!

Yes

Language = English

CONSTITUTION AND MANUAL OF PROCEDURE FOR THE FELLOWSHIP OF GRACE BRETHREN CHURCHES, INC.

CONSTITUTION

As amended July 2014

ARTICLE I OFFICES

The principal office of the corporation shall be located at Winona Lake, Indiana. The corporation may have other offices as its business may require.

ARTICLE II PURPOSE STATEMENT

The Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches exists to encourage and enable member churches in equipping and uniting the saints in fulfilling the Great Commission.

ARTICLE III COVENANT AND STATEMENT OF FAITH

Section One. 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.

Section Two. Statement of Faith. The Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches has a corporate commitment to a basic body of beliefs founded on God's revealed truth. The Statement of Faith is the expression of a never ending effort to clarify an understanding of the primary doctrines we accept.

It is the understanding of this Fellowship that, although individual Grace Brethren Churches remain distinct, autonomous legal entities, congregational church government relates alone to the incidental affairs of the local congregation and not to doctrinal practices or tenets which must be general or universal the same in all congregations. Accordingly, the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, Inc., believing the Bible, the whole Bible, and nothing but the Bible to be the infallible rule of faith and of practice and feeling the responsibility to make known the divine message of the Bible, presents the following articles as a statement of those basic truths taught in the Bible which are common to our Christian faith and practice.

1. **THE BIBLE.** The Word of God, the sixty six Books of the Old and New Testaments, verbally inspired in all parts, and therefore wholly without error as originally given of God (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21).
2. **THE ONE TRUE GOD.** Existing eternally as three persons the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Luke 3:22; Matthew 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14).
3. **THE LORD JESUS CHRIST.** His preexistence and deity (John 1:1 3), incarnation by virgin birth (John 1:14; Matthew 1:18 23), sinless life (Heb. 4:15), substitutionary death (2 Cor. 5:21), bodily resurrection (Luke 24:36 43), ascension into heaven and present ministry (Heb. 4:14 16), and coming again (Acts 1:11).
4. **THE HOLY SPIRIT.** His personality (John 16:7 15), and deity (Acts 5:3 4), and His work in each believer: baptism and in dwelling at the moment of regeneration (1 Cor. 12:13; Rom. 8:9), and filling (Eph. 5:18) to empower for Christian life and service (Eph. 3:16; Acts 1:8; Gal. 5:22 23).
5. **MAN.** His direct creation in the image of God (Gen. 1:26 28), his subsequent fall into sin resulting in spiritual death (Gen. 3:1 24; Rom. 5:12), and the necessity of the new birth for his salvation (John 3:3 5).
6. **SALVATION.** A complete and eternal salvation by God's grace alone received as the gift of God through personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work (Eph. 2:8 9; Titus 3:5 7; 1 Peter 1:18 19).
7. **THE CHURCH.** One true church, the body and the bride of Christ (Eph. 1:22 23; 5:25 32), composed of all true believers of the present age (1 Cor. 12:12 13); and the organization of its members in local churches for worship, for edification of believers, and for world wide gospel witness, each local church being autonomous but cooperating in fellowship and work (Eph. 4:11 16).
8. **CHRISTIAN LIFE.** A life of righteousness, good works and separation unto God from the evil ways of the world (Rom. 12:1 2), manifested by speaking the truth (James 5:12), maintaining the sanctity of the home (Eph. 5:22 6:4), settling differences between Christians in accordance with the Word of God (1 Cor. 6:1 8), not engaging in carnal strife but showing a Christ like

- attitude toward all men (Rom. 12:17 21), exhibiting the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22 23), and maintaining a life of prayer (Eph. 6:18; Phil. 4:6), including the privilege, when sick, of calling for the elders of the church to pray and to anoint with oil in the name of the Lord (James 5:13 18).
9. ORDINANCES. The Christians should observe the ordinances of our Lord Jesus Christ which are (1) baptism of believers by triune immersion (Matt. 28:19) and (2) the threefold communion service, consisting of the washing of the saints' feet (John 13:1 17), the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11:20 22, 33 34; Jude 12), and the communion of the bread and the cup (1 Cor. 11:23 26).
 10. SATAN. His existence and personality as the great adversary of God and His people (Rev. 12:1 10), his judgment (John 12:31), and final doom (Rev. 20:10).
 11. SECOND COMING. The personal, visible, and imminent return of Christ to remove His church from the earth (1 Thess. 4:16 17) before the tribulation (1 Thess. 1:10; Rev. 3:10), and afterward to descend with the Church to establish His millennial kingdom upon the earth (Rev. 19:11 20:6).
 12. FUTURE LIFE. The conscious existence of the dead (Phil. 1:21 23; Luke 16:19 31), the resurrection of the body (John 5:28 29), the judgment and reward of believers (Rom. 14:10 12; 2 Cor. 5:10), the judgment and condemnation of unbelievers (Rev. 20:11 15), the eternal life of the saved (John 3:16), and the eternal punishment of the lost (Matt. 25:46; Rev. 20:15).

ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP

Section One. Requirements. Any congregation of believers desiring membership in the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, Inc., shall meet the following conditions:

1. It shall agree to live harmoniously under the Covenant and Statement of Faith as stated in Article III of this Constitution.
2. It shall actively pursue the purpose of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches in Article II.
3. It shall have a basic organization consisting of elder(s) and deacon(s), or similar responsible officers.
4. Requirements and responsibilities for membership by the several local churches shall be established by each church and shall not determine the church's membership in the Fellowship.
5. No church shall be denied membership in the corporation because of failure to support any or all institutions, ministries, or boards, either district, national, or cooperating recognized by the Fellowship.
6. Failure to comply with these membership requirements may subject the offending church to dismissal.

Section Two. Voting Rights. Each member church shall be entitled to be represented at any meeting of the corporation through delegate(s) of its choosing.

1. Each member church shall be entitled to at least two delegates as specified in the Manual of Procedure.
2. Only persons who are members of the Grace Brethren Church they represent shall be seated as delegates to any meeting of the corporation. Representation at National Conference is based on the average attendance at the largest regular gathering of the local church.
3. Each member church shall be entitled to one vote per delegate on each matter submitted to a vote at any meeting of the corporation.

ARTICLE V MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

Section One. Annual Meeting. The annual meeting of members shall be held at the time and place recommended by the Fellowship Council and approved at a previous annual meeting of members. This annual meeting is referred to in this Constitution and the Manual of Procedure as "the annual meeting of the corporation" and "conference."

Section Two. Special Meetings. Special meetings of members may be called by the Fellowship Council for emergency needs at any time and place designated by it. Member churches shall be represented at any special meeting by the delegates who represented them at the last annual meeting or duly certified alternates.

Section Three. Quorum. A quorum shall consist of the delegates present, entitled to vote, and voting at any meeting of the corporation.

Section Four. Delegates. The following shall be seated as delegates to any meeting of the corporation:

1. Officers. Officers of the corporation shall be delegates ex-officio with voting privileges.
2. Delegates shall be seated provided that the delegates meet the qualifications of Article IV, Section Two, points #1 and 2.

ARTICLE VI FELLOWSHIP COUNCIL (BOARD OF DIRECTORS)

Section One. General Powers. The business and affairs of the corporation shall be managed by its board of directors which shall be known as the Fellowship Council.

Section Two. Number and Term. The number of members of the Fellowship Council shall be seventeen. Fifteen members shall be elected by the corporation, and each shall serve a term of five years. The fifteen elected members shall represent the three geographic regions of the United States described in Article V, Section Two, point #3 of the Manual of Procedure with five members to serve from each region. Only one member of any single church or two representatives from any single district shall serve on the Council at any one time, not including ex-officio members of the Council.

The remaining two members of the Fellowship Council shall be the Executive Director and the Assistant Director. They shall serve a one, two, or three-year term to which they are elected as Executive Director and Assistant Director. Council members will begin their terms at the conclusion of the conference at which they are elected with the exception of the Executive Director and Assistant Director who shall begin their term one year following the conference at which they are elected.

Section Three. Qualifications. All nominees for Council membership must be triune immersed members in good standing of congregations that are members of the FGBC. They must be men who have met the spiritual qualifications for an elder as outlined in 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:6-9. All nominees shall subscribe to the Covenant and Statement of Faith as stated in Article III of this Constitution. They must have given their consent to nomination and service. Members of the Council may not serve consecutive terms but may be re elected after two years absence from the Council. This restriction shall not apply to members serving fewer than three years or to ex-officio members of the Council.

Section Four. Election.

1. Members of the Council shall be elected by majority affirmative vote of the delegates present, entitled to vote, and voting at the Conference from a ballot presented by the Nominating Committee. In the event that no nominee receives a majority affirmative vote, there shall be an additional ballot presented with the two nominees who have received the highest number of votes.
2. Voting for nominees from each of the three regions shall be restricted to delegates from the churches in those regions.
3. Nominees elected to the Council shall be the one from each region receiving the majority affirmative vote of the delegates representing those regions present, entitled to vote, and voting.

ARTICLE VII OFFICERS

Section One. Officers. The officers of the corporation shall be the Executive Director, Assistant Director, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Executive Director shall serve as chairman of the Fellowship Council, and the vice Assistant Director as vice chairman of the same body.

Section Two. Election. The Executive Director and Assistant Director shall be elected together on a single ballot question to a one, two, or three year term by majority affirmative vote of the delegates present, entitled to vote, and voting at the annual meeting of the corporation one year prior to the beginning of their term.

The Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected annually by majority vote of the Fellowship Council at its annual meeting. These elections shall be ratified by the corporation at the annual meeting immediately following the election.

Section Three. Term. The Executive Director and Assistant Director will be installed at the conclusion of the conference one year after they are elected and will serve for their elected term or until their successors are elected or appointed and installed. The Secretary and Treasurer will be installed at the conclusion of the conference at which they are elected and will serve for one conference year or until their successors are elected or appointed and installed.

Section Four. Responsibilities and Duties. The officers shall have the powers and discharge the duties customarily and usually held and performed by like officers in similar corporations, including, but not limited to those outlined in the Manual of Procedure.

ARTICLE VIII COMMITTEES

Section One. Committees. The Fellowship Council, by resolution of a majority of the Council members, may designate one or more committees or persons to exercise the authority of the Fellowship Council to the extent provided in the resolution. The resolution shall include a termination date for the committee's service which may be extended only by specific action of the Fellowship Council or the Conference.

Section Two. Nominating Committee.

1. A nominating committee of six members shall be elected annually by the conference from nominees suggested by the Fellowship Council. All nominees shall be members in good standing of congregations that are members of the FGBC and have agreed to nomination and service. Additional nominations from the floor may be accepted.
2. The chair shall be selected by the Fellowship Council from among the elected committee members.

Section Three. Parliamentary Committee.

1. A parliamentary committee of three members shall be named by the Fellowship Council prior to the conference.
2. It shall be the duty of this committee to interpret this Constitution and the Manual of Procedure whenever questions concerning them shall arise and to assist the presiding officer in questions of procedure and in the orderly conduct of the business sessions of the conference.

ARTICLE IX AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION

Section One. Amendments. This Constitution may be altered or repealed at any annual or special meeting of the corporation by two thirds majority affirmative vote of the delegates present, entitled to vote, and voting at said meeting, provided that the proposed amendment had been presented to the delegates at a previous business session of the conference and to the Fellowship Council for study and recommendation.

MANUAL OF PROCEDURE

As amended July 2015

ARTICLE I MEMBERSHIP

Section One. Procedure.

1. Application for membership shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the Fellowship Council accompanied by evidence of compliance with the conditions set forth in Section One, Article IV of the Constitution. Applications must be received before the first day of January preceding the annual meeting of the corporation. The Fellowship Council may extend this deadline up to two months before the annual meeting if there is a written request for the extension from a national ministry, a cooperating ministry, a cooperating district, or a sponsoring church that is already a member of the FGBC.
2. The Fellowship Council will publish the names and locations of churches who are applying for membership at least one month in advance of the next annual meeting of the corporation.
3. A check for membership fees shall accompany the application.
4. The Fellowship Council shall recommend the appropriate action to be taken regarding the application at the next annual meeting of the corporation.
5. Upon recommendation of the Fellowship Council, a congregation may be received by majority affirmative vote of the delegates present, entitled to vote, and voting at the annual meeting of the corporation.

Section Two. Termination of Membership. Should a member church fail to adhere to the requirements of Article IV, Section One of the Constitution at anytime or fail to submit statistical reports or pay membership fees for a period of three successive years, it shall be subject to dismissal from the Fellowship in the following manner:

1. Upon report of such failure, the Fellowship Council shall investigate the report and determine the validity of the charge. It shall be the intent of the Council to offer assistance to the offending church to enable it to comply with its membership obligations.
2. Upon satisfactory resolution of the problem, a report of the church's compliance shall be entered into the records of the Fellowship Council and may be announced to the Corporation at the discretion of the Council.
3. If no satisfactory resolution of the problem is agreed upon, the finding of the Fellowship Council shall be reported to the next annual meeting of the Corporation.
4. Upon the recommendation of the Fellowship Council the offending church shall be dismissed from the Fellowship by majority affirmative vote of the delegates present, entitled to vote, and voting at the annual meeting of the corporation.

Section Three: Procedure for the Re-Instatement of Dismissed Churches. Should a church that was previously dismissed from the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches desire to become a member again of the FGBC, the following procedures should be followed:

1. The Church seeking re-instatement should comply with all of the procedures for membership as outlined in Section 1 of this Article.
2. The only additional requirement of a church to be re-instated is that along with the application for membership there must be a written statement signed by at least three local church leaders/members that:
 - a. Describe the resolution to any past issues that led to the dismissal.
 - b. Explain the church's reasons to become faithful members again with the FGBC.

ARTICLE II MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

Section One. Place of Meeting. The Fellowship Council may designate any place within or without the State of Indiana as the place of the annual meeting or any special meeting.

Section Two. Notice of Meetings. Written or printed notice stating the time and place of the meeting shall be given by the Secretary of the Fellowship Council to each member church at least thirty days prior to the meeting. The notice of any special meeting shall state the purpose of the meeting.

Section Three. Delegates. In order to seat delegates, each church must meet the following requirements.

1. The appropriate credential form must be filed with the Fellowship Coordinator by the date specified.
2. The assigned membership fees, assessed by the previous annual meeting of members, shall be received by the Fellowship Coordinator by the date specified.
3. The annual statistical report shall be submitted and received by the date specified.
4. Delegates whose churches fail to meet these requirements shall be seated only upon a two thirds majority affirmative vote of the delegates present, entitled to vote, and voting at any meeting based upon extenuating circumstances deemed worthy of exception.
5. Member churches are expected to pay membership fees whether or not they send delegates to any meeting of the corporation, and the treasurer is directed to notify delinquent members of this responsibility.

6. Each member church shall be entitled to at least two delegates. Additional delegates are based on the average attendance at the largest regular gathering of the member church according to the following schedule:

Average Attendance Number of Delegates

0-50	2
51-100	3
101-200	5
201-300	10
301-500	20
501-1000	25
1001-2000	30
2001+	35

Section Four. Transaction of Business. The agenda for the opening session of the conference shall include the report of the Membership Committee, presentation of new churches for membership, approval of an agenda for the business sessions, and the election of officers for the next conference year. Additional reports of the Membership Committee shall be made only at the beginning of each session's business. The agenda of any special meeting shall be an early order of business at the first session. Any member of a member church, not a delegate, shall have all privileges of a delegate, except that he shall not be allowed to make a motion or to vote upon any question. Persons desiring to speak in the conference must first address the moderator and be recognized. No person shall speak upon the same question more than twice until others have had ample opportunity to speak. Debate shall be limited to ten minutes per speech. Standard rules of order, such as Robert's, shall be followed in all points not specifically provided for herein.

Section Five. Dissent. In the event that divisive issues threaten to disrupt business sessions and subvert the purposes of the Conference, the moderator shall:

1. Stop all further debate on the issue for that business session.
2. Call for a meeting of the Fellowship Council to be held before the next business session to formulate a recommendation on further procedures concerning this issue.
3. Present this recommendation as the first item of business at the next business session.
4. Call for an immediate vote on the recommendation of the Fellowship Council without further debate. Should a recommendation to stop debate fail to pass, debate shall resume.

ARTICLE III
FELLOWSHIP COUNCIL (BOARD OF DIRECTORS)

Section One. Responsibilities. Specific duties of the Council include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. It shall be the duty of the Council to make full and complete arrangements for the conference (and any special meetings), including the preparation of the proposed agenda. The Council shall consult recognized National Ministries in its conference planning and may invite representatives of National and Cooperating Ministries to its planning sessions. (Expenses for these representatives shall be borne by their respective ministries.)
2. The Council shall select the time and place for the conference and shall report its plans to the conference at least two years in advance.
3. The Council shall receive and evaluate applications from churches seeking membership in the corporation, recommending the appropriate action to be taken by the conference.
4. The Council shall investigate reports concerning a member church's failure to adhere to the requirements for membership in the corporation, determine the validity of the charges, and recommend the appropriate action to be taken, if any, by the conference.
5. The Council shall convene any special meetings of the Fellowship for emergency purposes.
6. The Council shall receive and evaluate applications for recognition from prospective districts of churches and recommend the appropriate action, if any, to be taken by the conference.
7. The Council shall receive and evaluate the requests of groups desiring recognition as national or cooperating ministries of the corporation, recommending the appropriate action to be taken by the conference.
8. The Council shall serve as the finance committee for the Fellowship, reporting to the conference the financial condition of the corporation and proposing an annual budget for the conference's approval.
9. At each annual meeting of the corporation, the Council shall report on its own activity, its plans, and recommendations for progress in the Fellowship. It shall alert the conference to potential problems, areas of concern, opportunities for ministry, etc., and shall recommend appropriate action with regard to these matters. Such suggestions may be conveyed to the conference, in consultation with the Executive Director, through his annual address.
10. The Council shall name the endorsing agents of the Fellowship for the military chaplaincy.

11. The Council may serve in an advisory capacity to its member churches, recognized districts, national and cooperating ministries, and other bodies who seek its counsel with no authority other than to offer counsel to these bodies.
12. Each elected member of the Council shall be responsible to communicate with one or more districts in his region as determined by the Council.
13. The Council shall be responsible for the soliciting and the receiving of statistical reports. It shall report significant statistical information at the annual meeting of the corporation.
14. When the moderator stops debate on a divisive issue at a business session of the conference, the Council shall meet to make a recommendation to the next business session. It shall include in this recommendation: 1) whether or not to invoke a moratorium and, 2) if a moratorium is recommended, it shall also recommend procedures for conflict resolution.
15. The Fellowship Council and Nominating Committee shall make reasonable effort to include qualified laity in leadership positions in the Fellowship.
16. The Fellowship Council shall present a name for Executive Director to the conference one year prior to the expiration of the current term for affirmation by the delegates. That Executive Director shall select an Assistant Director, that is approved by the Fellowship Council to be affirmed by the delegates on a single question ballot for a one, two or three year term.
17. Contracts shall be established for employees of the Fellowship Council. Each employee shall be subject to periodic review.
18. The Fellowship Council may consult National and Cooperating ministries in the development and implementation of strategic plans as appropriate to the mission of the FGBC, Inc.

Section Two. Meetings. The Council will hold an annual meeting just prior to the conference at the place designated for the annual meeting of the corporation. A midyear meeting of the Council will be held approximately six months after each annual meeting of the corporation at a time and place specified by the Council. The mid year meeting shall not be held if there is insufficient business to merit the expense and time. Other special meetings of the Council may be called by the chairman in consultation with the other Council members.

Section Three. Board Decisions. All actions of the Council must be sustained by a majority vote of the Council membership (nine or more affirmative votes).

Section Four. Notice. Notice of any meeting of the Fellowship Council must be given to each member of the Council at least thirty days prior to the meeting. The notice of any special meeting shall state the purpose of the meeting.

Section Five. Removal. Any member of the Fellowship Council who ceases to fulfill the Biblical guidelines for leadership as set forth in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 shall be removed from office by majority vote of the remaining Council members. This action shall be ratified by the corporation at its next annual meeting. If a member leaves the region he represents, his position on the Fellowship Council is vacated.

Section Six. Vacancies. In case a vacancy occurs on the Council, the remaining members of the Council shall fill this vacancy by appointing a qualified representative from the region represented by the member being replaced. If the unexpired portion of the term remaining extends beyond the next annual meeting of the corporation, the Council's appointment shall be ratified at that meeting.

ARTICLE IV OFFICERS

Section One. Responsibilities and Duties. The officers shall have the powers and discharge the duties customarily and usually held and performed by like officers in similar corporations, including, but not limited to, the following:

1. **Executive Director.**
 - a. He is the chief executive officer of the corporation during the years for which he is elected
 - b. He is a member, ex-officio, of the Fellowship Council and shall serve as chairman of the Council for the years of his term as Executive Director.
 - c. He will serve as moderator, presiding over any and all business meetings of the conference, or he may select another person to serve as moderator. Should he choose another to serve as moderator, the Executive Director shall retain all rights, responsibilities, and authorities described in the Constitution and the Manual of Procedure. Anyone acting as moderator, if he is personally involved in a matter, shall defer to the Executive Director or Assistant Director.
 - d. Represent the FGBC as its official spokesperson for all matters related to the official communication, public press releases, or other informational opportunities presented during his term.
 - e. Adequately prepare the newly elected Executive Director for the position through education and communication as deemed necessary to provide a smooth transition between administrations.
 - f. The Executive Director must agree to the Statement of Faith of the FGBC, be a member in good standing in one of the member churches in the FGBC and be committed to the welfare and health of the FGBC.
2. **Assistant Director.**
 - a. He is a member, ex-officio, of the Fellowship Council and shall serve as vice chairman of the Council for the years of his term as Assistant Director.
 - b. He shall fulfill the functions of the Executive Director in the latter's absence or illness or when called upon by the Executive Director to do so.

- c. He shall assume the office of Executive Director in the event of his resignation, decease or inability to serve as the Executive Director upon notification by secretary of the Fellowship Council.
 - d. Represent the FGBC when delegated to do so by the Executive Director in areas deemed helpful by the Executive Director.
 - e. Adequately prepare the newly elected -Assistant Director for the position through education and communication as deemed necessary to provide a smooth transition between administrations.
 - f. The -Assistant Director must agree to the Statement of Faith of the FGBC, be a member in good standing in one of the member churches in the FGBC and be committed to the welfare and health of the FGBC.
3. Secretary.
- a. He shall make and keep an accurate, written record of all Fellowship Council and conference business and make records available for annual publication in a form approved by the Fellowship Council.
 - b. He shall secure the service of an assistant secretary to facilitate the execution of his duties.
 - c. With the cooperation of the Minutes Review Committee he shall provide printed copies of the minutes of each conference business session for publication.
 - d. The Conference may choose to amend published minutes at the first business session succeeding publication.
4. Treasurer.
- a. He shall receive and dispense all funds coming to the Fellowship and shall establish and maintain a bank account in which said funds are to be kept.
 - b. He shall report to the Council as requested and annually at the annual meeting of the corporation delineating the financial status of the corporation.
 - c. He shall invest available funds in such a way as to provide additional income to the Fellowship.

Section Two. Fellowship Coordinator and Administrative Staff.

1. The Council shall employ a Fellowship Coordinator and Administrative Staff as needed. Their remuneration shall be included in the budget proposed to the annual meeting. The Fellowship Council shall establish necessary guidelines.
2. They shall be directly responsible to the Executive Director and the Fellowship Council and ultimately to the corporation.
3. They may sit with the Fellowship Council by invitation but shall not have a vote in its proceedings.

Section Three. Removal. Any officer who ceases to fulfill the Biblical guidelines for leadership as set forth in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 shall be removed from office by majority vote of the Council. This action shall be ratified by the corporation at its next annual meeting.

Section Four. Vacancies. Other than the office of Executive Director, a vacancy may be filled by the Fellowship Council for the unexpired portion of the term. In the case of a vacancy in the office of Executive Director, the Assistant Director will immediately succeed to the office and responsibility of Executive Director upon notification by the secretary.

ARTICLE V COMMITTEES

Section One. Membership Committee.

1. A Membership Committee, consisting of three members, shall be appointed by the Fellowship Council. Members shall serve three year terms, arranged so that one new member is appointed each conference year.
2. The chairman shall be named annually by the Fellowship Council.
3. It shall be the duty of the Committee to provide appropriate credential forms to member churches and a place at which these forms and membership fees shall be received.
4. This Committee shall have no authority to withhold any delegate with properly executed credentials from the conference.
5. In the event of disputed delegations from member churches, the membership committee shall refer the question to the Fellowship Council which, in turn, shall make recommendation of the appropriate action to be taken by the conference.

Section Two. Nominating Committee.

1. The Nominating Committee shall present nominees to the conference for the annual election of the Fellowship Council.
2. Nominees shall be triune immersed members in good standing of congregations that are members of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, Inc. and shall give their consent to nomination and shall agree to serve, if elected.
3. The geographical regions which nominees are to represent on the Fellowship Council shall include the following recognized Districts:
 - a. Region A: Arctic, Hawaii, Mountain Plains, Nor Cal, Pacific-Northwest, Southern California Arizona, Iowa Midlands, and Heartland
 - b. Region B: Northcentral Ohio, Northeastern Ohio, Northwest Ohio, Tri-States, Allegheny and Western Pennsylvania
 - c. Region C: Blue Ridge, Chesapeake, Mid Atlantic, Northern Atlantic, Florida, and Southern.
4. Each cooperating district may annually submit to the Nominating Committee the name of one member of a church within its district as nominees for the Fellowship Council. These names shall be placed on the ballot. If a district fails to submit a name in timely fashion, the committee may add a nominee of its own choosing from that particular district.
5. This committee shall submit nominations to the Fellowship Coordinator to be included on a printed ballot. The ballot is to be so arranged that only one nominee from each region shall be elected to the Fellowship Council.

Section Three. Parliamentary Committee. The duties of this committee are stated in the FGBC Constitution, ARTICLE VIII, Section Three.

Section Four. Minutes Review Committee. A Minutes Review committee shall be appointed annually by the Fellowship Council to review and approve the minutes of the Conference before they are published.

Section Five. Committee Expenses. Expenses of any committee shall be defrayed by the corporation upon receipt of proper reports to the treasurer.

Section Four. Social Concerns Committee.

A Social Concerns Committee shall be appointed by the Fellowship Council. Members shall serve indefinite terms. The chairman shall be named by the Fellowship Council. It shall be the duty of the Committee to recommend annual resolutions to the conference for approval by the delegates according to the following guidelines:

1. Resolutions should address societal issues from the standpoint of biblical values.
2. Resolutions are prepared and submitted by the Social Concerns Committee. Resolutions can be proposed to the Social Concerns Committee subject to policies on their focus, style and deadline.
3. Resolutions shall be submitted to Fellowship Council for affirmation at least one month before National Conference.
4. Resolutions affirmed by Fellowship Council should be made available to delegates at least a day before the opening of Conference business.

5. Resolutions are open to discussion but not alteration (except by the chair, for purposes of clarity or corrections of grammar or fact).
6. Resolutions are voted either up or down. “Division of the Question” is permitted.

Resolutions are to be communicated to the local churches.

ARTICLE VI MINISTRY ASSOCIATIONS

Section One. National Ministries.

1. Requirements. Although FGBC national ministries remain distinct, autonomous legal entities, such ministries seeking recognition by the corporation and desiring to serve the Fellowship as a national ministry shall meet the following requirements:
 - a. The ministry and its governing body shall agree to live harmoniously under the Statement of Faith set forth in Section Two of Article III of this Constitution.
 - b. The ministry must be sponsored and controlled by members of FGBC churches. The ministry shall not be a subsidiary of only one local church; it shall have representation on its governing board from each of the geographical regions of the Fellowship as identified in Article V, Section Two, Point #3 of the Manual of Procedure.
 - c. The ministry must have a scope of ministry broader than the immediate local church ministries and exist to serve other Grace Brethren Churches.
 - d. The ministry must meet a recognized need related to the fulfilling of the Great Commission.
 - e. The ministry must be able to demonstrate a tradition of national influence that has consistently advanced the mission of the FGBC.
2. Procedure. National Ministries meeting the requirements of Section One of this Article may be recognized by the Fellowship, upon recommendation of the Fellowship Council, by two thirds affirmative majority vote of the delegates present, entitled to vote, and voting.
3. Recognized National Ministries. Ministries recognized as national ministries of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, Inc. are not creations of the Fellowship, nor are they an integral part of its organization. While FGBC, Inc. requests an annual report as a courtesy, it does not in any way control any of the recognized national ministries.
4. Review. The Fellowship Council has the responsibility to review national ministries regarding the above qualifications. Recommendations for removal of a National Ministry’s recognition shall be approved by the delegates by a majority affirmative vote.

Section Two: Cooperating Ministries.

1. Requirements. Although FGBC cooperating ministries remain distinct, autonomous legal entities, such ministries seeking recognition by the corporation and desiring to serve the Fellowship as a cooperating ministry shall meet the following requirements:
 - a. The ministry and its governing body shall agree to live harmoniously under the Statement of Faith set forth in Section Two of Article III of this Constitution.
 - b. The ministry must be sponsored by at least four FGBC churches or controlled by members of FGBC churches.
 - c. The ministry must have a scope of ministry broader than the immediate local church ministries.
 - d. The ministry must meet a recognized need related to the Commitment to Common Mission of the FGBC.
2. Procedure. Ministries meeting the above requirements may be recognized by the Fellowship, upon recommendation of the Fellowship Council, by an affirmative majority vote of the delegates present, entitled to vote, and voting.
3. Recognized Cooperating Ministries. Ministries recognized as cooperating ministries of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, Inc. are not creations of the Fellowship, nor are they an integral part of its organization. While FGBC, Inc. requests an annual report as a courtesy, it does not in any way control any of the recognized cooperating ministries.
4. Review. The Cooperating Ministry has the responsibility to demonstrate that it desires and qualifies for Cooperating Ministry status at least every five years. The Fellowship Council has the responsibility to review cooperating ministries regarding the above qualifications. Recommendations for removal of a Cooperating Ministry’s recognition shall be approved by the delegates by a majority affirmative vote.

Section Three: Cooperating Districts.

Requirements. Although FGBC Cooperating Districts remain distinct, autonomous legal entities, in order to be granted and to maintain the status of a FGBC Cooperating District, the following requirements must be met.

1. A district may be formed with a minimum of three churches.
2. The district may be organized for fellowship and cooperative ministry with area churches and the FGBC.
3. The district and district officers shall subscribe to the FGBC Statement of Faith.
4. The district shall have made application with FGBC for recognition as a cooperating district.

ARTICLE VII MISCELLANEOUS

Section One. Continuing Resolutions. Continuing resolutions may be submitted at the annual meeting of the corporation by the Fellowship Council or from the floor. The resolution must be in writing. If the resolution is submitted from the floor, a written presentation must be given to the secretary during the same business session at which the resolution is presented.

Section Two. Conference Year. The conference year shall begin with the conclusion of the conference and continue to the conclusion of the succeeding conference.

Section Three. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the corporation shall be November 1 through October 31.

Section Four. Affiliations. The Fellowship may affiliate with other fraternal, evangelical organizations only with the adoption of an appropriate resolution by the Conference. Cooperation with such organizations, without formal membership, may be approved by the Executive Committee of the Fellowship Council.

ARTICLE VIII **AMENDMENTS TO MANUAL OF PROCEDURE**

This Manual of Procedure may be amended by a majority affirmative vote of the delegates present, entitled to vote, and voting at any business session.

The Charis Commitment to Common Identity

An Introduction

History

The Charis Movement, comprised of leaders and churches commonly known as Grace Brethren, traces its *family roots* back to Germany, where in 1708 a small group of sincere Christ-followers committed to form a church that would be faithful to the teachings of the New Testament. Yet we recognize that our *spiritual foundations* are built upon the broader work of godly men and women throughout history who have faithfully labored to interpret and apply God's truth. While different expressions of our beliefs have been drafted throughout our history, we have consistently affirmed our unwavering loyalty to Jesus Christ, the Living Word, and to Holy Scripture, the Written Word, as *our final authority* in all matters of faith and practice.

Throughout the centuries, our movement has known glorious times of progress and sad times of distraction over secondary issues. By the grace of God, today we are a global family of churches that shares a common commitment to understanding the *Word of God* (Biblical truth), to living as the *People of God* (Biblical relationships), and, to fulfilling the *Purposes of God* (Biblical mission). This threefold commitment is shared throughout the geographically and culturally diverse congregations that identify with us.

Format

The *Charis Commitment to Common Identity* is a summary of our biblical convictions, mutual commitments, and common practices. It is not intended to be a *complete expression* of what we believe and practice, nor is it intended to be the *final expression* of those beliefs and practices. Rather, it is a *current expression* of our ongoing quest to apply the unchanging truth of God's Word to the constantly changing realities and needs of our world. It is formatted around three "clusters" as follows:

1. The *Center* affirms our eternal loyalty to Jesus Christ, through whom we live and move and have our being;
2. The *Evangelical Core* outlines the convictions we share with those in the stream of historic orthodoxy and global evangelical communities that possess a high view of God and the Scriptures;
3. The *Charis Identity* summarizes the perspectives and practices shared among Grace Brethren churches and leaders around the world.

Uses

We encourage our leaders and churches to use this document in the following ways:

1. To encourage the next generation to understand, identify and engage together with us;
2. To train new disciples to grow and serve among us;
3. To orient those disciples who may wish to join us;
4. To strengthen the understanding and convictions of our leaders and members;
5. To help us relate appropriately to those with whom we form partnerships;
6. To discern which churches or groups of churches should form a part of our global movement.

We believe that any written document is a creation of man, and must be subject to continual discussion and improvement as we grow in our understanding of the Bible, which alone is the unchanging Word of God, as we seek to apply the Bible to our changing cultural context.

The Delegates of the Charis Alliance, meeting in Bangkok, Thailand, 2 – 6 November 2015

1. The Center

We declare that Jesus Christ, the incarnate Word of God¹ as revealed in the Bible, the written Word of God,² is the only Savior and Lord.³ He is the center of our shared experience of true biblical unity.

2. The Evangelical Core

We affirm our commitment to the following core truths of the Bible which we share with other genuine believers in Jesus Christ:

1. **The One True God** - There is one, and only one, true God,⁴ the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.⁵ He is the Creator and Lord of all,⁶ existing eternally in three persons, never less and never more - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.⁷
2. **The Lord Jesus Christ** - Jesus Christ is fully God, existing eternally.⁸ Everything was created by Him and for Him.⁹ His incarnation took place in the womb of a virgin.¹⁰ He became man,¹¹ but never sinned.¹² He died a substitutionary death to atone for sin,¹³ resurrected bodily,¹⁴ and ascended into heaven where He remains fully God and fully man,¹⁵ and is presently ministering¹⁶ until He comes again.¹⁷
3. **The Holy Spirit** - The Holy Spirit is fully God, existing eternally.¹⁸ He is a person,¹⁹ and was involved in Creation²⁰ and the inspiration of Scripture.²¹ His works of convicting²² and regenerating²³ are essential to the believer's salvation. Believers are entitled to the benefit and joy of being filled²⁴ and walking in the Spirit²⁵ for empowerment in Christian life, service, and mission.²⁶
4. **The Bible** - The sixty-six books, and only these, known as the Old and New Testaments, are the written Word of God.²⁷ God's inspiration and superintendence of the writing of every word of the Bible²⁸ guarantees that what was written is His Word and therefore authoritative, true, and without error in the original manuscripts.²⁹ God preserves His Word,³⁰ which is powerful and effective to accomplish His purpose of salvation among all nations.³¹ God's Spirit illuminates the minds of believers in every culture to understand and apply the unchanging truth of Scripture in fresh and relevant ways for the benefit of the whole Body of Christ.³²
5. **Humanity** - God created man and woman in His image.³³ As a result, all people are bearers of that image.³⁴ However, Adam's subsequent sin resulted in a condition of spiritual death³⁵ which all people since Adam have experienced,³⁶ marring the beauty of God's image in them in every facet of life. This condition of spiritual death³⁷ has rendered all people unable to save themselves,³⁸ and leads to physical death.³⁹ Therefore, new birth is necessary for salvation.⁴⁰
6. **Salvation** - The salvation brought by God is a complete and eternal salvation by His grace alone, received as the free gift of God through personal faith alone in the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work, as He declares believers righteous in Him.⁴¹
7. **Church** - There exists one true Church, which is called the Household of God,⁴² the Body of Christ,⁴³ and the Temple of the Holy Spirit.⁴⁴ It is comprised of all true disciples of Jesus Christ and is created by the action of the Holy Spirit.⁴⁵ Tangible expressions of this true Church are found in local churches.⁴⁶
8. **Christian Life** - The believer is saved by faith alone.⁴⁷ The faith that saves is expected to produce obedience⁴⁸ and good works,⁴⁹ which are the products of the indwelling Holy Spirit.⁵⁰ The dimensions of biblical ethics are both individual and social, and extend to every facet of life.⁵¹ God faithfully continues to finish the work of sanctification, which He initiated in the life of each believer⁵² with the goal of Christlikeness.⁵³

1 John 1:1.14

2 Matthew 5:17.18;
2Timothy 3:16;
2Peter 1:20.21; Psalm 19:7-11

3 John 14:6; Acts 4:12;
1Corinthians 12:3; Romans
10:9; Philippians 2:9-11

4 Deuteronomy 6:4; Isaiah
43:10; 1Corinthians 8:4-6;
1Timothy 2:5

5 Matthew 22:32; Acts 3:13

6 Genesis 1:1; Psalm 146:6;
John 1:3; Colossians 1:16.17

7 Matthew 28:19; Luke 3:22;
2Corinthians 13:14

8 John 1:1-3; John 8:58;
Titus 2:13

9 Romans 11:36;
Colossians 1:16

10 John 1:14; Matthew 1:18-23;
Luke 1:29-35

11 Luke 2:52; John 19:28;
Philippians 2:6-8

12 Hebrews 4:15; 1Peter 2:22

13 Romans 5:8; 2Corinthians
5:21; 1Peter 2:24.25

14 Luke 24:36-43; Romans 1:4;
1Corinthians 15:3-8

15 Acts 1:9; Hebrews 4:14

16 Ephesians 1:19-23;
Hebrews 4:15.16

17 Acts 1:11

18 Acts 5:3.4

19 John 16:7-15

20 Genesis 1:2

21 2Peter 1:21

22 John 16:8-11

23 Titus 3:5

24 Ephesians 5:18

25 Galatians 5:16

26 Galatians 5:22.23;

Ephesians 3:16-21; Acts 1:8

27 Luke 24:25-27; 1Peter 1:23-25

28 2Timothy 3:16; 2Peter 1:20.21

29 Psalm 19:7-11

30 Psalm 119:89; Psalm 119:160

31 Romans 1:16; Romans 10:8-17;
Romans 16:25-27

32 1Corinthians 2:9-16;
Ephesians 1:17-23

33 Genesis 1:26-28

34 James 3:9

35 Genesis 3:1-24

36 Romans 5:12.19

37 Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:1-3

38 Romans 8:6-8

39 Genesis 2:17; Romans 5:12

40 John 1:12; John 3:3-5

41 Romans 5:1; Ephesians 2:4-9;
Titus 3:5-7; 1Peter 1:18-21;
Hebrews 9:12; Hebrews 10:14

42 1Peter 4:17; Ephesians
2:19.20; 1Timothy 3:14.15

43 1Corinthians 12:27;
Ephesians 1:22.23

44 1Corinthians 3:16;
Ephesians 1:21.22

- 45 1Corinthians 12:13
 46 Hebrews 10:25; Galatians 1:2; Romans 16:4,5;
 Revelation 2:1.8.12.18;
 Revelation 3:1.7.14
 47 Romans 4:5
 48 Romans 1:5
 49 James 2:14-17; Titus 3:8
 50 Galatians 5:22.23
 51 Matthew 22:37-40;
 Colossians 3:17
 52 Philippians 1:6;
 Philippians 2:12-13
 53 Romans 8:29;
 2Corinthians 3:18
 54 Daniel 7:10; Hebrews 12:22
 55 Hebrews 1:14; Ephesians 1:21; Ephesians 3:10
 56 1Peter 5:8,9;
 Revelation 12:1-10
 57 Ephesians 6:12
 58 1John 3:8
 59 John 12:31; Romans 16:20;
 Revelation 2:10
 60 Philippians 1:21-23;
 Luke 16:19-31
 61 John 5:28,29
 62 Matthew 25:46;
 Revelation 20:15
 63 John 3:16; John 6:47
 64 Romans 14:10-12;
 1Corinthians 3:10-15;
 2Corinthians 5:10
 65 1Thessalonians 4:17;
 Revelation 21:3-5;
 Psalm 16:11
 66 Matthew 5:18;
 Luke 24:25-27
 67 1Corinthians 2:14
 68 1Corinthians 4:6
 69 Acts 17:11; 2Timothy 2:15;
 1Chronicles 12:32
 70 John 10:28.29; 1Peter 1:3-5
 71 Romans 3:24; Romans 4:25
 72 Ephesians 1:3
 73 Romans 8:1
 74 1Corinthians 12:13
 75 Ephesians 1:13
 76 Romans 8:11
 77 Romans 12:6;
 1Corinthians 12:7.11
 78 Matthew 28:19; Acts 8:36-38; Acts 10:47
 79 1Corinthians 11:20.23-26;
 Luke 22:14-20; John 13:14;
 Jude 12
 80 James 5:13-16
 81 1Timothy 4:14
 82 Acts 2:1; Acts 2:37-47
 83 1Thessalonians 4:16.17;
 John 14:3
 84 Zechariah 12;
 Romans 11:26-29
 85 Acts 1:11; Zechariah 14:4
 86 Revelation 19:11-16;
 Colossians 3:4
 87 Revelation 20:4
 88 1Corinthians 15:24.25

9. **Angels, Satan, Demons** - God created a multitude of spiritual beings called "angels".⁵⁴ Righteous angels continue to serve God and work both in the heavenly sphere and on earth.⁵⁵ By his disobedience, Satan, a fallen angel, became the adversary of God and God's people,⁵⁶ carrying with him a procession of demons.⁵⁷ Jesus Christ has overcome Satan⁵⁸ so that the final judgment and doom of Satan and his demons are certain.⁵⁹
10. **Future Life** - The dead will have a conscious existence in eternity⁶⁰ and their bodies will be resurrected.⁶¹ Unbelievers, already under condemnation, will be sentenced to suffer eternal separation from God.⁶² Believers, already having been granted eternal life,⁶³ will be judged and rewarded according to their works,⁶⁴ and will experience a glorified, eternal existence in the presence of the Lord.⁶⁵

3. Our Charis Identity: The Shared Commitments of our Global Movement

A Summary of Additional Commitments to Biblical Truth

1. We seek to understand the intent of each biblical writer by using grammatical, historical, and contextual principles of interpretation,⁶⁶ focused on Christ, led by the Holy Spirit,⁶⁷ and oriented by grace. We accept the absolute authority of the Bible rather than that of creeds, traditions, or leaders.⁶⁸
2. We commit to an ongoing study, understanding and application of God's unchanging truth in our constantly changing world, whether personal, social or cultural.⁶⁹
3. We affirm that true believers put their trust in Jesus Christ and are kept forever in the saving grace of God through His promises and His power.⁷⁰ Every believer has been eternally justified,⁷¹ blessed with all spiritual blessings,⁷² and set free from all condemnation.⁷³
4. We affirm that the Holy Spirit's works of baptizing,⁷⁴ sealing⁷⁵ and indwelling⁷⁶ occur simultaneously with regeneration and are the possession of every true believer. The Holy Spirit gives each believer a unique combination of spiritual gifts for the purpose of serving God and people.⁷⁷
5. We affirm that Jesus Christ gave ordinances to the church:

 Baptism testifies to the reality of our salvation and identifies us as disciples of the Triune God. We therefore encourage the practice of triune immersion.⁷⁸

 Communion testifies to our justification, sanctification and glorification, which are accomplished through Jesus Christ. We therefore encourage the practice of these symbols: the bread and cup, the washing of feet and the sharing of a meal.⁷⁹
6. We encourage the practice of additional biblical symbolic actions, such as anointing with oil and prayer for the sick,⁸⁰ laying on of hands for ministry,⁸¹ etc.
7. We affirm that the Church began on a particular day of Pentecost when our ascended Lord sent His Spirit to the waiting disciples.⁸² The present Church age will come to an end when our Lord comes in the air to remove His Church from the earth⁸³ and fulfill His promises to Israel.⁸⁴ The second coming of Christ is the personal, physical, and visible return from heaven of Christ to earth⁸⁵ with His Church,⁸⁶ to establish His thousand-year reign⁸⁷ before instituting His eternal kingdom.⁸⁸

A Summary of our Commitments to Biblical Relationships

1. We affirm that the Triune God serves as the perfect and ultimate model for human relationships.⁸⁹ As a result, each person has equal value yet different roles, which are expressed in loving unity.⁹⁰
2. We affirm that differences in gifts and ministries are a manifestation of the multifaceted grace of God.⁹¹ As a result, we encourage all believers to use their gifts in ways that promote the unity, growth and ministry of the local church.⁹²
3. We affirm our obligation to love and respect one another, and to practice the ‘one another’ exhortations. As a result, we commit to work together and to resolve our differences, for the good of individuals, churches and communities.⁹³
4. We affirm the responsibility of local churches to govern their own affairs⁹⁴ while urging those churches to live and serve in community and interdependency with other churches.⁹⁵
5. We affirm that the mandate and urgency to fulfill the Great Commission leads us to seek ways to cooperate with one another, and with likeminded Christians on the local, regional and global levels.⁹⁶

A Summary of our Commitments to Biblical Mission

1. We affirm that God’s plan for this age is best summarized in Jesus’ command to make disciples of all nations.⁹⁷ This includes the evangelistic call to reconciliation with God by means of the completed work of Christ and the lifelong pursuit of obedience to God by means of the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit.⁹⁸
2. We affirm that God’s plan for this age includes the recognition, training and releasing of spiritually qualified and appropriately trained leaders.⁹⁹ While the specific gifts, abilities and responsibilities of leaders may vary, all leaders must serve as servants of God,¹⁰⁰ shepherds of God’s people¹⁰¹ and stewards of God’s resources.¹⁰²
3. We affirm that God’s plan for this age is most fully expressed through establishing healthy churches. Although practices may vary between cultures, healthy local churches are comprised of believers in Christ who assume a mutual commitment to worship, learning, service, prayer and witness.¹⁰³
4. We affirm that God’s plan for this age includes our responsibility to express the compassion of Christ through proclaiming the Gospel in words while loving in deeds.¹⁰⁴ We are committed to finding creative and practical ways to address the physical, emotional, social and spiritual needs of a fallen humanity.¹⁰⁵

- 89 John 17:20.21
90 Ephesians 4:1-6
91 1Peter 4:10
92 Romans 12:3-8;
1Corinthians 12:12-27
93 The New Testament has over twenty ‘one another’ references.
Compare James 5:16;
Galatians 5:13 et al.
94 1Cor 5:12.13
95 1Corinthians 11:16
96 Compare Acts 18:24-28;
Romans 15:24-29
97 Matthew 28:18-20;
Romans 1:5
98 Romans 10:13-17;
1Corinthians 15:3-4;
2Corinthians 5:18-20;
Galatians 5:16
99 Acts 13:2.3
100 1Timothy 4:6
101 Acts 20:28; 1Peter 5:2
102 1Corinthians 4:1
103 Acts 2:41-47; Acts 14:21-28
104 1John 3:16-18
105 Acts 10:38; Titus 3:8;
James 2:1-9

