

Suggested Resolution in Support of the Brethren Digital Archives

History is to the group what memory is to the individual. No sensible person ignores his past experiences when an important decision must be made. He may decide to act differently than he did in the past because of changed circumstances, but his judgment is tempered by past successes and failures. Similarly, for a group to act intelligently it must be informed of its heritage. It must understand how it came to be what it is, in fact, today.

Donald Durnbaugh

It is easy to dismiss the past without pausing to understand it. Models and methods will and should adjust and evolve. Circumstances and environments emerge, influence, and are replaced regularly. Important people and initiatives shape new perspectives that eventually become old in their turn. The constant changes make it difficult to trace a clear path from a rich heritage to a rich future. However, Durnbaugh's point is that our heritage has formed our present, and we should not ignore it when projecting our next steps. We must recognize the values and principles that have become part of our fiber and character. We can choose to change them or set them aside, but we should do so intentionally and not ignorantly.

Todd Scoles in *Restoring the Household: The Quest of the Grace Brethren Church*

The Fellowship Council, the governing board of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, recognizes the history of the FGBC informs our heritage and there are documents, photos, and other such material that should be protected for future generations. There is valuable information in the minutes and other papers of our member organizations that would be valuable resources for theologians, historians, and genealogists and this material should be preserved.

Therefore, the Council asks the Brethren Missionary Herald Company to pursue the development of an archive on behalf of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches. Furthermore, we encourage Grace Brethren people, congregations, and organizations to support the effort to develop a Grace Brethren Archive through prayer, volunteer service, or financial donations. Such action will ensure that while our heritage has formed our present, we do not ignore it in projecting our future.