



KNOWING JESUS ... MAKING HIM KNOWN

Application for Membership in the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches:

General Instructions: Fill out this application form and send it with your membership fee to the FELLOWSHIP OF GRACE BRETHREN CHURCHES, P.O. Box 384, WINONA LAKE, IN 46590 and send a file copy as an attachment to tomavey@fgbc.org. The deadline for application is January 1st in order to be considered in the following annual conference. If you wish to request an extension of this deadline, include a letter of reference from a cooperating district missions board, a sponsoring church that is already a member of the FGBC, or Grace Brethren Missions.

Official Name of Church: ENCOUNTER CHURCH INC.

Church Mailing Address: 6160 Riverside Dr.

City: Dublin

State: Ohio

Zip: 43017

Phone: 740-272-0102

Email:
sean@encounterchurchjerome.com

Meeting Place: Eli Pinney Elementary School
9989 Concord Rd. Dublin, OH 43017

Web Site:
encounterchurchjerome.com

Pastor or principle leader: Sean Spoelstra

Address: 2587 Sawmill Forest Ave.

City: Dublin

State: Ohio

Zip: 43016

Phone: 614-799-8737

Email: spoelstras@wowway.com

Has your church joined a cooperating district? If so, which one and when?

Yes. NCO. May 14, 2009.

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.

How did your local church take official action to subscribe to the Covenant and Statement of Faith as found in Article III of the Constitution of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, Inc.?

We are an official GBC church plant being sent from Grace Church in Powell, Ohio.

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

Sean & Melissa Spoelstra – lead pastor, leadership team

Kyle & Kristi Mielke – small group leaders, leadership team, preaching team-(Kyle), financial team-(Kyle)

Chuck & Deb Taylor – small group leaders, leadership team, Ekids coach-(Deb)

Bill & Janetta Sinzinger – treasurer (Bill), leadership team, financial team-(Bill)

Dalan Zartman – worship & creative arts coach

Jeff & Sheila Persall – small group leaders, preaching team-(Jeff)

Jeremy & Erica Hart – small group leaders, preaching team-(Jeremy)

Larry Hall – facilities coach

Carol Hall – hospitality coach

Mike Arena – financial team

Luke Fields – Financial team

How will you identify your affiliation with the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches? (ie: on a church sign, letterhead, church bulletin, etc).

There is a link to the FGBC website and also the statement of faith on our website.

Describe your practice of Triune Immersion and the Threefold Communion Service.

I have happily practiced and believed in both of these ordinances for the last eleven years and will continue to into the future.

Here are some examples: <http://encounterblog.blogspot.com/2008/11/first-baptism-service.html>

<http://encounterblog.blogspot.com/2009/01/onsite-at-eli-pinney.html>

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?

None that I can think of.

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, absolutely.

How many people are presently members of this church? **approx. 50 adults**

(we do not officially have membership yet but are heading toward an annual covenant commitment)

A check payable to FGBC based on the chart below for the current year membership fee should be included with this application. Use your church's average attendance for 2007.

Attendance	Fee
Less than 25	\$ 50
26-50	\$ 105
51-100	\$ 265

101-200	\$ 525
201-400	\$ 1,050
401-800	\$ 2,100
801-1600	\$ 4,200

Attach or give a brief history or testimony about your churches ministry, including pictures of the church or church leadership that we can use to introduce your church to the FGBC family.

On June 1st of 1998 Sean & Melissa Spoelstra and their 18 month old son Zachary began what would be a ten year journey on staff at [Grace Church](#) in Powell, Ohio. These were the years of learning and growing in ministry experience under the mentoring of Lead Pastor, Rick Nuzum.

In November of 2005 a meeting was held at Grace Church (led by Tom Avey☺) for emerging leaders and church planters. It was here that Sean began musing about becoming a church planter.

Then in September of 2006 Grace Church hosted the North Central Ohio pastor's fellowship and a new website (rua church planter?) was introduced to promote church planting within the FGBC. On December 31st, 2006 Sean took the test and was contacted days later by Tony Webb and Ron Boehm.

After several meetings it was decided that Sean would be a good candidate for planting a church with the FGBC and so Sean met with Pastor Rick in March of 2007 to inform him of the direction God seemed to be leading. Rick wisely suggested that a time to test both their hearts be put in place and that a group of Grace Church's elders be formed to do a study of where the next church plant should be in the greater Columbus area. Sean agreed and in September of 2007 the four elders presented their findings. God showed Himself real when the location that was on the top of the elders list matched the location on Sean and Melissa's heart. (It had been decided that the elders would not know about the Spoelstra's church planting desire so that the study wouldn't be tampered with).

Over the next two months the elders, staff and committees that Sean and Melissa served with were informed of the future transition that would take place.

On November 18, 2007 Pastor Rick and Sean co-preached a message that revealed to the Grace Church congregation that Sean and Melissa would be sent and financially supported to plant a church in the Dublin-Jerome, Ohio area.

During the next eight months the Spoelstra's slowly transitioned out of their ministry positions passing on their responsibilities to other faithful men and women. During that same time period they received training at two different church planting conferences.

On June 29, 2008 the Spoelstra's, along with nine other families, were presented to the Grace Church congregation and were commissioned by prayer and the laying on of hands. From August 2008 through January 2009 the ENCOUNTER CHURCH launch team met for prayer, planning, and training in ministry to prepare for the practice services starting February 1st 2009. Eli Pinney Elementary School is the location used for the church services which are every Sunday morning at 10:00am. The entire month of April 2009 was ENCOUNTER CHURCH's grand opening. To God Be The Glory!

Here is a link to my blog that may help you: www.encounterblog.blogspot.com

*Here also are a few entries from the blog I think would be good to use. Feel free to search for more.

*June 20/08 – 1st blog post with pics. from May 22/08 meeting at Grace Church for those interested in the church plant - http://encounterblog.blogspot.com/2008/06/test_17.html

*June 29/08 – ENCOUNTER CHURCH launch team introduced to Grace Church for the first time - <http://encounterblog.blogspot.com/2008/06/what-great-day.html>

Sept. 7/08 – ENCOUNTER's 1st launch team meeting - <http://encounterblog.blogspot.com/2008/09/weve-only-just-begun.html>

*Nov. 9/08 – ENCOUNTER's 1st baptism service - <http://encounterblog.blogspot.com/2008/11/first-baptism-service.html>

Nov. 16/08 – Grace Polaris ABF learns of ENCOUNTER - <http://encounterblog.blogspot.com/2008/11/grace-polaris-visit.html>

Dec. 28/08 – Last Grace Church service we attended - <http://encounterblog.blogspot.com/2008/12/last-sunday-service-at-grace-church.html>

*Jan. 4/09 – 1st communion together - <http://encounterblog.blogspot.com/2009/01/onsite-at-eli-pinney.html>

*Feb. 2/09 – 1st practice service - <http://encounterblog.blogspot.com/2009/02/first-previewpractice-service-on-book.html>

Feb. 12/09 – NCO Pastors Fell. at Southwest GBC - <http://encounterblog.blogspot.com/2009/02/north-central-ohio-nco-pastors.html>
(you're in the pic. Tom☺)

April 12/09 Easter service at Encounter - <http://encounterblog.blogspot.com/2009/04/easter-sunday-highlights.html>

*May 14/09 – NCO accepted Encounter Church into the district - <http://encounterblog.blogspot.com/2009/05/accepted.html>



Figure 1 ENCOUNTER CHURCH service location Feb. 8, 2009



Figure 2 Grace Church Elder Accountability Team Feb. 1, 2008



Figure 3 Sean at Exponential '08 April 25, 2008



Figure 4 Sean & Melissa Spoelstra May 22, 2008



Figure 5 Spoelstra family being interviewed about church plant by Pastor Rick Nuzum June 29, 2008



Figure 6 Original 13 families starting ENCOUNTER CHURCH June 29, 2008