

CHARIS FELLOWSHIP COUNCIL Seal Beach GBC, Seal Beach, Calif.
MINUTES FEBUARY 1 & 2, 2018

Thursday Feb 1, 2018 Seal Beach, CA

PRESENT: Tim Hodge (C-18), Ron Boehm (B-20), Adam Johnson (C-19), Ken Seyfert (GBIF), Kevin Pinkerton (B-19), Scott Avey (C-20), Liz Gates (BMH), Doug Courter (C-21), Dave Pacheco (B-22), Mark Lingenfelter, Doug Black, Roy Halberg, Adam Copenhaver, Don Shoemaker (Social Concerns), Jeff Gill (Grace Schools), Mark Penfold (Chaplaincy), Viki Rife (WoG), Tim Clothier (C-22), Greg Serafino (A-17), Ed Lewis (CE National), Roger Holl (A-22), Jeremy Wike (A-20), Dave Guiles (Encompass), Clancy Cruise (Executive Director -19), Tom Avey (Fellowship Coordinator), Greg Howell (Recording Secretary).

1. Devotions by Mark Lingenfelter

2. Executive Director's Review

Clancy shared that his office entrance is with pocket doors. His staff peeks in to see if they dare knock. We only have time to peek through the door of the Fellowship at Fellowship Council. Tom Avey added that the Southwest was the best FOCUS ever. Time was given to just hear stories. Clancy recapped Roy Halberg's story how his friends surrounded him and his church to take them under their wings. He encouraged us to knock on the door of other's life and ministry, ask others, develop relationships. He concluded by telling everyone they are "Welcome at my place anytime—I'll show you that door." "I am humbled to be Executive Director."

Tom introduced new members: Tim Clothier—Waynesboro, PA; Roger Holl—Sterling, AK, and Dave Pacheco—Delaware, OH

3. Approve Minutes of the July 2017 meeting

A MOTION PREVAILED to approve the Minutes of the July 2017 Fellowship Council meeting in Fremont, Ohio

4. Ratify E-mail votes

1) Ratify Motion: to designate 60% (\$21,420) of Mark Penfold's 2018 base salary as housing allowance - passed by email vote in November 2017.

A MOTION PREVAILED to ratify the November 2017 email approval to designate 60% (\$21,420) of Chaplain Endorsing Agent Mark Penfold's 2018 base salary as housing allowance.

2) Ratify Motion: To designate \$45,000 of Tom Avey's 2018 base salary as housing allowance - passed by email vote in December 2017.

A MOTION PREVAILED to ratify the December 2017 email approval to designate \$45,000 of Fellowship Coordinator Tom Avey's 2018 base salary as housing allowance.

3) Ratify Motion: To approve Charis Fellowship as an assumed business name (DBA) for the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches Inc. - passed by email vote in September 2017

A MOTION PREVAILED To ratify the September 2017 email vote approving Charis Fellowship as an assumed business name (DBA) for the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, Inc.

5. National Ministry Reports (10-minute report, 5-minute Q&A)

1) **Grace College and Seminary** - Jeff Gill

Dr. Gill (Vice-President and Seminary Dean), representing Dr. Bill Katip, President of Grace Schools, shared about *Deploy* and the health of Grace—stable but fragile. Based on Grace's positive experience, he recommended that churches develop a strategic plan (5yr plan). But he suggested to have a health assessment first. Grace took 2 years for the whole process. The Aspire campaign (Capital improvement is well on its way \$32mil toward the \$37mil goal—including funding for tuition endowments).

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2) **Eagle Commission** - Mark Penfold

The US Army needs 100 chaplains. It goes by best qualified not quota any more. Col. Penfold wants to tap Grace Brethren Fellowship to help fill those slots. If there were 60 qualified Grace Brethren right now, the Army would commission them all! He also stated that the Navy is equally in need of chaplains. He is using this year to relearn the Fellowship. He is excited to learn and is planning to rebrand what the Eagle Commission is. D Pacheco suggested that his church might adopt a Chaplain (like a missionary). T Hodge shared that Col. G Youstra came and spoke at his church and did a wonderful job. T Avey shared that he had a wonderful tour of Pentagon and Ft Belvoir.

3) **Social Concerns** - Don Shoemaker

Hand out definitions for President Trump's catch phrases. He encouraged the FC Reps to check local state laws about confidentiality—AGBM's is good on website. He mentioned the timeliness of the Social Concerns' Civility statement last year. The Committee stands ready to help with 4th cluster. The eight members of the committee meet by phone in April and together at conference annually.

4) **Women of Grace**, USA - Viki Rife

2017 was a challenging year for women. Women of Grace leaders are very aware that women need to be biblically grounded. They are working to help women have a biblical worldview. And so are unveiling exciting initiatives in 2018. Classes with dream (270 women in past 6 years, 14 have graduated). If they are no more than 2 hours away, they may be able to Skype in. But it is essential for women to connect with each other. They currently have nine (9) active facilitators and award two (2) certificates—Biblical Foundation and Biblical Leadership. The Leadership modules will be built on the Foundation classes. Women of Grace is planning to offer credentialing for women—three (3) are currently ready. We are attempting to raise the awareness of women who are competent. There are many challenges to women especially with the MeToo campaign (sexual harassment/abuse) in America. Women of Grace will soon be adding Amy Shirk to a care coordinator position. She will be available at classes and the traveling team to help women handle their past and memories in a biblically way. Viki also stated that the Hispanic ministry of Women of Grace has really grown. The Newsletter is also disseminated in Spanish. And one of the Hattian pastor's wife wants to develop materials in Creole. She was excited to report that there are SMM clubs in 4 schools in the Warsaw/Winona Lake area under a financial grant from the community, with 25 Grace College students leading these clubs. Mrs. Rife also asked for Prayer, the women need a treasurer, and a resource coordinator (their resource lady passed away in November).

5) **Grace Brethren Investment Foundation** and Retirement Investment Plan - Ken Seyfert

Ken opened by stating that he is enjoying the annual reunion again—meaning Fellowship Council reporting time. With the 2019 National Conference planning to be in Auburn is very heartwarming because 20 years ago we thought it was about to close. Phil Sparling inherited a mess—exciting to see what God has done and several building program. I reminded us that GBIF's planning for 2017 required taking risks, and thus he needed and prayed often for patience. Ken stated that he would not have predicted what God would do—ended year with the highest net income. They were able to give the highest contributions back from 2017. God is doing it and gets the glory for it all. He is encouraged by several projects—Seal Beach, Don Shoemaker taught right stewardship over the years. Significant project (\$4 mil) at Goshen 2500-3000 attendance focused on youth and kids. Winona Lake--\$2 mil for kids and youth—team approach has caused doubled attendance in past couple years. \$760,000 back to FGBC over \$800,000 total want to make it \$1m. Staff praying weekly, not just about numbers. Buildings are just tools. He excitedly announced that GBIF is still able to pay 2% on passbook savings, with no investments in the stock market.

Retirement Investment Plan \$17.5 m with 400+ participants. Stocks have been very encouraging since 2009.

6) **BMH/ Grace Connect** - Liz Gates

She highlighted her written report and announced that WLGBGC will be hosting the Brethren World Assembly for 4 days in August, 9-12, 2018

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7) [Encompass World Partners](#)- Dave Guiles

Dave introduced his report by saying "Prayer that leads to vision that leads to risk-taking faith."
And followed that by telling us that "100 years ago this month, the Gribbles were concerned about when the ship (City of Cairo) would depart for Africa.
He also gave a good PowerPoint presentation with a short video from the Encompass web site about a special Fellowship day in the Spring (April 21) to parade cross-cultural and Alliance Celebration Nov 4 to keep missions in front of each local church.

8) [Association of Grace Brethren Ministers](#) - Mark Lingenfelter

He expressed appreciation for how pastors are connecting and encouraging one another as he has had opportunity to get around to the different FOCUS retreats. Pastors report that they appreciate the connection and tools. The AGBM leadership is developing new ordination materials.

9) [CE National](#) - Ed Lewis

Some time ago CE changed the purpose statement from youth to "all believers to be trained and mobilized to be ON MISSION."

CE is still very much involved in Impacting the rising generation while reaching neglected people and equipping biblical leadership. There were 2400 at momentum with 225 decisions for Christ and another 227 who responded for full-time Christian service. This coming spring CE is hosting a Youth leaders conference at Dayton Beach for \$49. Heritage – for those north of 55. But most efforts are concentrating on the next generation. Urban Hope, Philadelphia has had an enormous impact with group training at "Urban plunges" that a Western Urban Hope will be starting this Summer—Urban Hope Los Angeles will be operating out of the Norwalk church. A new box truck has been acquired to go to neglected people areas and hand out food, clothes, and do children's programs. Carlos came as youth to Momentum and started a Bible club at his HS with 20 then up to 100 and has seen 120 come to Christ as a result of the "Den" (Daniel Bible study after school). Ed stated that CE wants to be a catalyst. Ed not retiring yet, he is staying on to see some new things expanding. They are Adding staff, Vice-President of Urban ministries and VP of youth ministries,
J Wike asked "what is the next step?" ED: handoff from youth decision at Momentum to discipleship at the local church. Q: What is the stop for progress? ED: The parents are stopping the call, telling their teens "You are never going to make any money (at ministry)."

ED: We answer back that all believers need to be equipped with what do you need to know, be, & do. He attributes the bump up in Operation Barnabas apps to this quest.

A Copenhaver: What do we do with girl who wants to follow God in fulltime youth ministry? When 90% of our churches would not hire? ED: There are lots of urban spots to fill.

6. Rebranding report—T Hodge and S Avey asked for video of Nat/Org ministries. Also Local churches with high quality video as well. Baptisms, worship services, etc. (not board meetings) to be used in advertising who we are as a Fellowship.

7. Open Sharing – Clancy asked, "What are you excited about?" Open opportunity to share (with Nat/Orgs still present)

T Clothier really likes new training etc. coming out because most of the core at his church are not connected to the Fellowship.

A Johnson grew up in the Fellowship and appreciates that we are not just talking about but doing things. He speculated that the name change probably wouldn't have happened 10 years ago.

R Halberg is excited about the Charis Expansion Mosaic as a way to teach fringe churches about fellowship and help start new churches.

D Pacheco- 100 years ago 100% of Fellowship was in US, now only 13%. That is a testimony to our missions' emphasis. He has a passion to see his church reflect his community. He has 7 Hispanics now. He is excited about how the Fellowship is moving forward.

E Lewis is helping financially (\$3000) to bring people of color to Momentum, those who can't afford.

K Seyfert—GBIF is the last organization with "Brethren" in our name, will we change? Don't know, not an issue – but whatever benefits and promotes what we are doing. Ultimately Fellowship name still is FGBC. GBIF will contribute to all groups but we still have standards. We will ask are churches and leaders being

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brought through and respectful of our heritage? We will not dictate but are we really emphaticizing team play? If not, will future leaders lead us away and become too independently minded? Thank God for the work that has been done. GBIF may change name in future, but for the right reasons---determined before name change to give according to 3 emphases of Charis (church planting, leadership development and integrated ministry).

D Black—likes to be proactive, hard to decide which directions to jump on, too many good things, have to choose which to participate in (adopt a chaplain sounds good)

T Avey—incredible young leaders and many in this room, great to see the future going in to good hands.

T Hodge—excited about partnerships developing, weekly collaboration Skype meeting about sermon titles, artwork, etc., with area pastors preaching the same topic. People don't feel as protective of their ideas, input, any more. There is significant transparency and cooperation, shoulder to shoulder

D Guiles—maybe for the first time in recent history we are comfortable in our own skin. We don't have to explain ourselves. We like our family right now. We may not be the biggest, wealthiest, smartest, but we like who we are. Our desire to cooperate leads us to put the same jerseys on (soccer). It's who we are—congrats to all who have led us to where we are including the name change. It may not be perfect, but it will grow on all of us. This is only part of quest for our identity, we still have some ways to go. Tell stories of our history and how they set up for who we are today. Dave said he is writing a book in February about stories from the past that have brought us up to where we are now.

K Seyfert- we need a video to communicate with elder boards of who we are (pastors are probably on board, but needs to trickle down through other leaders)

T Hodge—N Atlantic District is experimenting with how to interact between leadership not just pastors, elders & wives and Pastors & wives' dinner –150 at first one. Must have ownership by local churches and must be beyond paid staff.

K Seyfert—new board members need to be taken through our heritage

T Hodge—the Charis White Board on YouTube is a good start

C Cruise—excited about the stories, anxious to see D Guiles' book. Answer to struggles is in relationships or lack of them. FOCUS Retreats are really helping. Heb 13:7 fits here too—consider the outcome. We will see next year. I have a choice to make, turn myself over to these young guys. Lot of guys in fellowship need to hear the faith of Roy Halberg stepping out in faith to let Simi Valley GBC & Grace Church Orange take over leadership of church.

M Penfold—has had limited contact with Fellowship except at Conf. Not feeling connected. But now encouraged about how to connect even better Chaplains with churches. Going to tell more stories. We have many GB Chaplains who have received medals of valor back in WWII and Korea. Nice to look around the table to realize that I am not an army of one. Encouraged to tell the stories of current chaplains.

8. CHARIS ALLIANCE—Dave Guiles

Exists now in 14 countries. Now it is formal, prior it was just a feeling. There are also 5 observer countries (association of churches—country needs 3 churches to be a member country). What are our responsibilities? Beginning to prepare for Charis 2020 looking for location, may have Hatti by then and maybe 5-6 observer countries. It will be a very important meeting. It will be the first meeting of Charis Alliance to review the CCCL. Like learning to dance. We have enjoyed a great degree of harmony up until this point. The US gets to appoint 3 delegates and 1 from Canada. How do we pay for all of this? Encompass has paid 90% since beginning 1995. To what degree do wealthy countries cover cost for the rest? It has been governed by a steering committee, but will transfer to a permanent leadership by electing 2 from each of the 5 regions (North America, Europe, South America, Africa, & Asia) How do women fit into Charis? Good question, Encompass has a team working on that. In order to keep the global connection, there is a plan to designate the 1st Sunday in Nov annually as Charis celebration Sunday.

9. Fellowship Coordinators report—Tom Avey

How do you measure “truth” “relation” and “mission”? It has got to mean something that the Charis Identity Statement reflects the 1969 Statement of Faith so well. We came through all of that really well. The new name went well also. They (the churches) are following leaders because they trust leaders who are leading. This was supposed to be the decade of multiplication, but we went from 242 to 238 church. We added 106 churches and removed 111 during the decade.

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We have been able to celebrate successes in the family, though and that shows health. However, 50% of our energy ought to be put into planting churches.

BTW—no church lasts forever no NT churches are still in existence. But leadership continues because they disciple others. We need churches to increase. Forms, strategy, framework celebrate. Young leaders that we invest with will outlast us and multiply as they invest in others.

Couple of big things –

1. Mosaic
2. What National Ministry status means (leaders get invited here and time for lunch at conf)
3. Position statements—statements and learning how to dance together
4. Need to bring name of next Ex director to conf this summer & assistant
5. Transition-- is there a better way for Fellowship Council to function, commissions, etc. T Avey expects to continue until Ed Lewis retires —70 is what he is thinking

T Hodge – the ability to bring young leaders to Access is huge. Tim brought Andrew with time to talk in car on way there and way back—he loves our fellowship. Also, Tim's brother-in-law interested in joining our Fellowship, leader from his church came to FOCUS retreat. Pray that God does incredible work as we can articulate and enfold new churches (independent, etc.)

10. Position Statements report

Link to current report in Fellowship Council Binder on website—T Hodge pointed out process

C Cruise said he is not planning to force a vote on statements, but only if ready.

Comments from the Fellowship Council on proposed wording:

Take “gender” out of title Male Eldership

K Pinkerton--Need to interact with 1 Tim 2:12 since it is the main text, this looks like a step toward women being pastors.

C Cruise clarified that there is/was no hidden or overt agenda to get the camel's nose under the tent about egalitarian view of women in ministry or that there was any attempt to sneak women into elder role.

This is about clarifying and protecting our biblical and historical position on men only in the church.

J Wike -- Noticed there is no statement about female changed to male wanting to be elder/pastor.

Tim—that would come in another statement

K Pinkerton-- Are we making room for local church to appoint woman pastor to a campus church? —looks like it to me. Maybe inserting “pastor” into the statement would tighten up the statement that only males regardless of cultural pressure.

J Wike- if 1 Tim 2:12 IS main passage could put at top of statement to cover

K Pinkerton – seems that we are opening door step toward egalitarian

T Hodge – how would you tweak it?

K Pinkerton -- concerned about being the only one thinking this strongly, but I would add back in pastor/elder/overseer

D Courter –at line 102—non pastoral roles add line 105 pastor/elder/overseer

A Copenhaver--line 52 affirm leadership position add “and functions”

R Boehm-- worship team leaders might be women, 1 Tim 2:12 is one function

K Pinkerton- thinks it is two

T Hodge—the intention of Identity statement was to state what we all already agree to

S Avey-- seems politically correct in the beginning

T Hodge—if we add it would be straight to the point “pastor/elder/overseer reserved for males only”

A Copenhaver-- last sentence is confusing, “both have distinctions”?

T Clothier—it could be shortened to “distinctions in the local church”

M Lingenfelter--the title needs to reflect gender suggested title: “Gender in pastor/elder/overseer”

T Hodge or gender in leadership in the church

A Copenhaver-- what does ordinance add that CCCI leaves out?

T Hodge-- this is what our tribe does the next step past “should” is “must” but not wanting to be that forceful

T Clothier-- add “baptism” to front of paragraph

T Avey--and change “follow” to “practice” in both places

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Adjourned for Commission meetings and Dinner together later at the Claim Jumper, 6501 E. Pacific Coast Hwy. Long Beach

FRIDAY—reconvened after breakfast (without the Nat/org leaders)

Tom Avey pointed out that Dave Guiles is here as continuing consultant for Charis Alliance and name change, etc.

T Avey announced that in planning for transition of his duties—Tim Hodge will keep agenda and run the meeting today.

1. Greg Serafino led devotions from Ps 15 after telling a story of hunting a 10-point, but shooting an illegal 1 point. He turned himself in but mounted a spike to remind himself that the right thing is the best thing even if it is hard. The result is v. 5 “he who does these things will never be shaken”
Don’t let us get distracted by what might be attractive for a season—Do the right thing even if it is the hard thing.

2. Position Statement Update

Eldership and Gender

We believe that the leadership position in our local churches corresponds to the biblical role of elder/overseer.

3. Rebranding Report

Comments: Have been asked “Does that mean we are Charismatic?” Ginny Plaster was in tears, but got it. There are many positives. It is easier to explain than “Brethren”

What materials are needed?

D Guiles—we need to be helping people differentiate between *Charis Fellowship* and *Charis Alliance*.

The Charis Alliance web explains what Charis Fellowship is. Is there a place on Charis Fellowship web to explain what the Charis Alliance is? Maybe we need a visual of all of the names. T Avey says “Global”

Charis Alliance heat map is on Charis Alliance web—but not names.

Dave Pacheco-- is there a short clip of the roll out video available?

T Hodge—there is a 1 min intro video created to use at the start of services

Ron Boehm—maybe we could have a digital poster or large artwork to have printed locally

4. Membership Team Discussions Doug, Tim, Roy, Adam, Mark, & Jeremy Wike—chair

Summary, busy since summer. Dealing with some of the effects of GO2 ceasing and self-evaluating and how to not allow that to happen in the future. We need to be good stewards of resources. Kind of a dark cloud. We have some recommendations regarding and because of. Several challenges

How do we celebrate all types of new church and campuses? Counting for all the right reasons. How do

we help churches who are struggling and about to close doors?

What does National status and Cooperating status mean? What are the differences and benefits and

expectations? They are not written down. We are however celebrating a whole lot of young leaders who are planting healthy churches. We want to create tracks for that train to gain steam.

1). New Churches

Grace Fellowship Church – from R Greene’s church, good team, solid elders, healthy church plant, going in the right directions. All awkward challenges seem to be resolving. 80 people, expects to launch in a couple weeks,

A MOTION PREVAILED to recommend to the delegates that Grace Fellowship Church, Brunswick Maryland —Scott Avey, pastor, be admitted into the membership of Charis Fellowship.

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1 Dan Cosentino—Legacy Church, Joe’s son. Meeting for a year, totally self-sufficient, have a couple part-
2 time staff. Over 100 attendance, currently in the YMCA They are doing all kinds of ads, yard signs, etc.
3 Located in Kendallville, IN (claim to fame is the Kraft marshmallow factory). They are already talking
4 about planting their own daughter church.
5

6 A MOTION PREVAILED to recommend to the delegates that Legacy Church, Kendallville Indiana —Dan
7 Cosentino, pastor, be admitted into the membership of Charis Fellowship.

8
9 Three Creeks is almost ready to be recommended, just not interviewed by membership commission yet,
10 he is not an FGBC pastor, but wife has FGBC roots. Mark Atrip’s elders are overseeing the church plant.
11
12

13 A MOTION PREVAILED to recommend to the delegates that Three Creeks Church, Gahanna Ohio be
14 admitted into the membership of Charis Fellowship pending a positive outcome of a future interview by
15 the Membership Commission.

16
17
18 2) AssistCX’s request for Cooperating Ministry Status
19

20 The membership team recommends that AssistCX starts new traditional churches and offers the
21 full assistance of the National Office to this end. We look forward to increased new church starts
22 that turn into established (member) churches who then leave a tradition of church planting in our
23 movement. The AssistCX team has the confidence of the Charis Fellowship Council in their
24 leadership and church planting expertise and encourages member churches to support them to
25 start new churches.
26

27 The membership team will continue to talk with leaders of current Charis Fellowship ministries
28 and churches to better define and categorize what are now National and Cooperating ministries in
29 order to support our mandated mission priorities of planting churches, training leaders and doing
30 good for the sake of the gospel.
31

32 Need longer tradition of service. Most National ministries predate the FGBC (Grace, BMH, FMS, Home
33 Missions, CE). But their request shows that we need to clearly define our terms. The Mosaic is
34 connected, but it is not connected.

35 Don’t want to bottle neck and put all of our energy into one agency that is young and taking on new
36 formats that they have no experience doing. Fellowship Council is not rejecting AssistCX but giving time
37 to for them to prove themselves. We need to reign in cooperating organizations so they don’t promise
38 more than they can deliver and or stuff they aren’t authorized to do. Nathan is right in that we need
39 traditional/legacy churches. They are the ones that fund the rest—missions, conference, etc.

40 We don’t start churches; we help churches start churches. Do, however, we need to pare down his
41 charter. But somebody (some entity) needs to be the “goto” place. Tom’s office or Fellowship Council.
42 AssistCX assists churches planting churches.

43 What are the ramifications for them if we give a “no” answer? Do they still have time for a meal at
44 conference? Don’t know, because none of the benefits have been written down. Including who has to
45 pay to help fund Tom’s office. This should not be seen as a commentary on Nathan, we are not clear on
46 the structure of Nat Orgs and especially what Fellowship Council needs to do to fix the cracks in the
47 structure.

48 D Guiles—self labeled wise guy—the reasons are valid but need to share with caution that it is our
49 internal problem. The concern is that Nathan won’t hear but see as a green light to fix lots of other things.
50 He may say to himself “these guys don’t have their act together, so I can help them in a lot of other
51 areas.” He probably wouldn’t understand the response as written, seems put together as a committee.
52 Fellowship Council need to step back and say what we really want to say.

53 Roy Halberg-- would he see it as mandate to go forward anyway?

54 D Pacheco—what is benefit of a National or Cooperating ministry? T Avey: National gets to give input
55 into conference planning. They think they will get more exposure and more money if they are a Nat/Org.

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1 Not likely. It is still up to their promotion and contact with individuals and churches. (Most don't know the
2 difference in the local churches). It has to do with the Fellowship Council and the other Nat/orgs.
3 A Copenhagen-- church planting is one of key priorities, so it might be important to have a key contact
4 agency. Nathan is seeing the void, if he is not the right person, who is?

5 T Avey—we still need to reaffirm a sense of caution, fiscal responsibility. We want to avoid bull in a china
6 shop action. If money is given for church planting in California, we need assurance that it would only be
7 used there.

8 R Beohm--I understand the caution but am concerned about Mosaic's connection to the church planting
9 entities. A document alone will not make church planters play well together. In past we have lost church
10 planters because of what we have not done, rather than what we have. We need a bigger answer than
11 just a simple motion.

12 K Pinkerton-- we are trying too hard to couch the answer softly. Let's say "no" directly. Or "not at this
13 time"

14
15 T Avey: suggested rewording—The Fellowship Council does not believe that AssistCX meets the
16 qualifications of a National Ministry as stated in the Constitution. Specifically, "The ministry must be able
17 to demonstrate a tradition of national influence that has consistently advanced the mission of the FGBC."

18
19 The membership team recommends that AssistCX as a Cooperating Organization assists churches
20 planting churches and offers the full assistance of the National Office to this end. We look forward to
21 increased new church starts that turn into established (member) churches which then leave a tradition of
22 church planting in our movement.

23
24 K Pinkerton—by this motion we are not establishing an agency to do all of church planting.

25 T Avey—It is not our intent to establish one agency for church planting.

26 T Avey: The Fellowship Council does not believe that any single entity should assume sole responsibility
27 for implementing any aspect of the Commitment to Common mission in the Charis Fellowship (church
28 planting, leadership development, doing good). We will continue to encourage all ministries and churches
29 to plant churches, train leaders and do good for the sake of the gospel.

30
31 Maybe change recognition to "foundation" organizations (Grace Schools, Encompass, etc) and only have
32 cooperating organizations join from now on. No more National Organizations?

33
34 Suggested wordings and discussion:

35 We encourage all Charis Fellowship local churches and ministries to plant churches, train
36 leaders, and do good for the sake of the gospel. Therefore, the Fellowship Council does not
37 believe that any single entity should seek to assume the sole responsibility for implementing any
38 aspect of the Commitment to Common Mission in the Charis Fellowship.

39
40 We encourage all Charis Fellowship local churches and ministries to cooperate together to plant
41 churches, train leaders, and do good for the sake of the gospel. Therefore, the Fellowship
42 Council does not believe that any single entity should seek to assume the responsibility for
43 implementing or position itself as primarily representing any aspect of the Commitment to
44 Common Mission in the Charis Fellowship.

45
46 We encourage all Charis Fellowship churches and ministries to plant churches, train leaders, and
47 do good for the sake of the gospel. Therefore, the Fellowship Council will not appoint any single
48 entity to primarily represent any single aspect of the Commitment to Common Mission in the
49 Charis Fellowship.

50
51 Because we encourage all Charis Fellowship churches and ministries to plant churches, train
52 leaders, and do good for the sake of the gospel; therefore, the Fellowship Council will not appoint
53 any single entity to primarily represent any single aspect of the Commitment to Common Mission
54 in the Charis Fellowship.

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This is a movement statement, not reactionary, but based on CCCI not our old system. Nathan maybe assuming he can piggyback on GO2's Nat Org status.
T Hodge—in the North Atlantic Fellowship missions, lots of churches did not go through district funnel to plant churches.

As we encourage all Charis Fellowship churches and ministries to cooperate to plant churches, train leaders, and do good for the sake of the gospel, the Fellowship Council will not appoint any single entity to primarily represent any single aspect of the Commitment to Common Mission in the Charis Fellowship.

We need a policy manual to gather together policies. T Avey has been meaning to work on this.

We believe that AssistCX, as a Cooperating Ministry, will effectively impact the Fellowship in the church planting pillar of the Commitment to Common Mission, however, we voted to not move AssistCX to a National Ministry status because we have agreed that the Fellowship Council “will not appoint any single entity to primarily represent any aspect of the Commitment to common Mission.” We look forward to increased new church starts that turn into established (member) churches which then leave a tradition of church plating in our movement.

In the spirit of our shared mission to plant churches, the Fellowship Council believes AssistCX is better suited to remain as a Cooperating Ministry as it serves our Fellowship and therefore denies the request for AssistCX to be a National Ministry.

A MOTION PREVAILED to convey the following as the Fellowship Council's answer to AssistCX's request for National Organization status: In the spirit of our shared mission to plant churches, the Fellowship Council believes AssistCX is better suited to remain as a Cooperating Ministry as it serves our Fellowship and therefore denies the request for AssistCX to be a National Ministry.

This action is not unprecedented: i.e. a crisis response ministry questioned Encompass' involvement as if crowding out the new entity. D Guiles produced 45 years and conference action appointing Foreign Missions to do worldwide crisis response.

We want to send a letter of thanks to Nathan and AssistCX board for rescuing GO2.

3) Cooperating and National Ministry Status

C Cruise mentioned that he was to bring info about GO2 not properly caring for NorCal money that was to be held in reserve for NorCal church planting. With demise of GO2, money is gone. NorCal is asking FC to set up reconciliation steps for them and future—not wanting any entity to totally control church closure money (unless it is GBIF)

C Cruise referred back to Bartley's convergence diagram.

Pointed out regional church planting components and stated that he was trying to follow what Bartley left him



As we encourage all Charis Fellowship churches and ministries to cooperate to plant churches, train leaders, and do good for the sake of the gospel, the Fellowship Council will not appoint any single entity to primarily represent any single aspect of the Commitment to Common Mission in the Charis Fellowship.

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A MOTION PREVAILED TO ESTABLISH the following as policy: As we encourage all Charis Fellowship churches and ministries to cooperate to plant churches, train leaders, and do good for the sake of the gospel, the Fellowship Council will not appoint any single entity to primarily represent any single aspect of the Commitment to Common Mission in the Charis Fellowship.

Bullet points to share with Nathan/AssistCX

- Thanks for wrapping up of GO2, appreciated his hard work
- Encouragement vision/passion/desire to help Fellowship
- Clear, loving, denial of request
- Affirmation of cooperating ministry status
- It is not our intention to add any National Ministries
- He has a vital part in the Charis Fellowship expansion mosaic
- Acknowledge AssistCX's help with recent church starts
- Caution: Limit scope of what AssistCX does, avoid hyperbole
- National Ministries don't necessarily meet with the Fellowship Council each year
- This conversation has helped the Fellowship Council strengthen our policies related to National and Cooperating ministry status.
- We got it wrong with GO2 and don't want it to happen to him

A MOTION PREVAILED to look with favor on this list as guide to communicate with Nathan Bryant and AssistCX:

- Thanks for Wrapping up of GO2, appreciated his hard work
- Encouraged by his vision/passion/desire to help Fellowship
- Clear, loving, denial of request
- Affirmation of cooperating ministry status
- It is not Fellowship Council's intention to add any National Ministries
- He has a vital part in the Charis Fellowship expansion mosaic
- Acknowledge AssistCX's help with recent church starts
- Caution: Limit scope of what AssistCX does, avoid hyperbole
- National Ministries don't necessarily meet with the Fellowship Council each year
- This conversation has helped the Fellowship Council strengthen policies related to National and Cooperating ministry status.
- Fellowship Council got it wrong with GO2 and don't want it to happen to him

4) The Charis Fellowship Church Expansion Mosaic
Continue to interact with and tweak in order have something by July
Help closing churches reinvest in church plants

D Guiles comments

He congratulated the work on the 4th cluster also proud of CAR's work and succinct 4th cluster
Suggested to Tim about gender in leadership not be binary approach clearer not women, also not most men. Keep in mind "pastor" is a North American concept in French and Spanish the same word is "Shepherd"

5) The Fellowship Council needs to take action to require that ministries establish themselves as a legal corporation with commercial liability insurance before the council will recommend them to the delegates for cooperating ministry status.

A MOTION PREVAILED to adopt as policy that ministries be required to establish themselves as a legal corporation with commercial liability insurance before the Fellowship Council will recommend them to the delegates for cooperating ministry status.

Membership Commission will come up with a similar motion for new churches in July

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1
2 **5. Finance Commission Recommendations**

3 No real issues. We made some money this year because of Fremont's hosting
4

5 **6. Executive Director Reports**
6

7 1) Access2018 (Keith Minier)—we are going back to Fremont, hoping for 2-300 extra people,
8 they have room. Talk to Keith if you have speaker suggestions. D Pacheco said K Pinkerton
9 told him he can't tell jokes on his town "unless they are good"
10

11 2) Access2019 - (Avey/Cruise)

12 Auburn, CA We will probably have a little less people because it is in the West. Beautiful, it is in
13 the foothills by Lake Tahoe. Good place to go with family 1 hour from Sacramento and 2 hours from San
14 Francisco. We will do the same cohort format as 2017 (and 2018). We will need to get the West Coast
15 guys involved and ownership.
16

17 **7. Focus Retreats in 2018/2019 (Cruise/Avey)**

18 Going with the theme on Clancy's heart leverage, access the answers are in the room

19 Theme, stories, discussion around the room lot of good stories happening in the

20 Fellowship—inspires guys to be the one to ask for help

21 Adam Johnson --Is there a way to get regional teams together to help plan the future FOCUS?

22 T Avey —did that at SW one just now good suggestion
23

24 **8. Nominating Committee—allow Structures to call the list. Agreed by consensus**
25
26

27 **9. Brainstorm about the next Executive Director**

28 Six names ranked in order— C Cruise will begin by getting Executive Director and he then will get
29 to choose his assistant who will then be approved by Fellowship Council.

30 Executive Director will run Fellowship Council and FOCUS Retreats The Assistant will do

31 Conference but can change it up according to gifts.

32 Phil Sparling

33 Dan Gregory

34 Dan Allen

35 Mike Yoder

36 Jason Haymaker

37 Jim Brown (Indiana)
38

39 If Phil says yes, then he gets to pick his second from the list (or off the list)

40 Name(s) need(s) to come from the Fellowship Council to the Delegates.
41

42 A MOTION PREVAILED to approve this priority list of names for the next Executive Director: Phil
43 Sparling, Dan Gregory, Dan Allen, Mike Yoder, Jason Haymaker, and Jim Brown (Indiana).
44

45 **10. Position Statements**

46 1) **Eldership**

47 We believe that the leadership position in our local churches corresponding to the biblical role of
48 elder/overseer/pastor is reserved for men who meet biblical qualifications. We affirm that men
49 and women are both created in the image of God, are equal in value and personhood, and are
50 designed to be inter-dependent in life and ministry within the local church.

51 Put in the supporting document (outlined in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1.)
52

53 How soon should we put it out there? Not 2 weeks or just meeting at Conference. 6 weeks out

54 T Avey- June 1

55 C Cruise- similar to Identity Document, some lead time—try not to change anything

56 We will just pull it if there are overwhelming changes

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1 Position team would field changes but not make any changes without Fellowship Council input
2 R Boehm-- there should not be any changes—this is what we have been
3 C Cruise don't think these are that controversial
4 T Hodge: we might see some feedback, can just pull, tweak and wait a year if there are weighty
5 concerns. This is defining one role --pastor/elder/overseers --biblical role one person call the office what
6 you will. Is there a clearer way to express that a *man* is an elder/overseer/pastor?
7 J Wike-- Can we change pastor to shepherd?
8 K Pinkerton-- might undo what we are trying to say—some women do shepherding but are not “pastors”
9 Need to solve “can there be women pastors”
10 In the explanations can we define what we mean by overseer/elder/pastor in the footnotes?
11 K Pinkerton—be sure to include 1 Tim 2:12
12

13 A MOTION UNANIMOUSLY PREVAILED to recommend to the delegates the adoption of the **Eldership**
14 **Statement** as a Charis Fellowship Position Statement.

15
16
17 Clarifying: June 1 these will go out and if negative feedback will hold it/them back
18 Do not share until Tom sends out.

19
20 2) **Affirmation of Life**

21 We affirm that human life is sacred and worthy of respect. From the moment of conception, human life is
22 precious and deserves protection from murder, suicide, abortion, and mercy killing. We affirm that those
23 who are terminally ill deserve appropriate medical care, including palliative care and pain management,
24 but medically-assisted suicide is not a moral or biblical option.
25
26

27 A MOTION UNANIMOUSLY PREVAILED to recommend to the delegates the adoption of the **Affirmation**
28 **of Life Statement** as a Charis Fellowship Position Statement.

29
30
31 3) **Ordinances**

32 Charis Fellowship churches practice baptism by triune immersion. Our communion celebrations follow a
33 three-fold pattern, which includes (1) the practice of washing the saints' feet and (2) the partaking of the
34 bread and cup and (3) sharing the fellowship meal. We believe these ordinances have biblical and
35 historical foundations and should be taught and practiced in our local churches.
36

37 Kudos to Dan White who is absent but put a lot into these statements
38

39 A MOTION UNANIMOUSLY PREVAILED to recommend to the delegates the adoption of the
40 **Ordinances Position** as a Charis Fellowship Position Statement.

41
42
43 4) **Marriage and Sexuality**

44 We believe God created marriage to be a public covenant relationship, normally consummated by the
45 union of sexual intercourse, between two consenting people, one man and one woman. This covenant is
46 to endure as long as both are living for the purposes of mutual care, mutual joy, mutual edification,
47 procreation, and symbolizing the covenant relationship between Christ and His church to all generations.
48 We affirm that all sexual relations of any kind that occur outside the boundaries of marriage are immoral
49 and contradict God's design for humanity.
50

51 K Pinkerton-- this is more about sexuality than marriage. Change title from “Marriage” to “Marriage and
52 Sexuality”
53

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A MOTION UNANIMOUSLY PREVAILED to recommend to the delegates the adoption of the **Marriage and Sexuality Position** as a Charis Fellowship Position Statement.

T Hodge complimented the Fellowship Council for their weighty contributions to the leading of the Fellowship.

Sandy Barrett, Tom's Administrative Assistant, announced her retirement effective after Conference and tearfully expressed appreciation "for being able to be a 'fly on the wall' for the past 20 years while men of God wrestled through important decisions that have kept our Fellowship true to God's Word." This is her last Fellowship Council meeting.

Clancy closed in prayer.at 4:03

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory M. Howell, Recording Secretary