

1 Fellowship Council MINUTES Monday (July 22) @ 1:00 Auburn, CA
2 Access2019

3
4 PRESENT: Roy Halberg (A-19), Jeremy Wike (A-20), Adam Copenhaver (A-21),
5 Roger Holl (A-22), Rex Rodgers (A-23), Kevin Pinkerton (B-19), Ron Boehm (B-20),
6 Doug Black (B-21), Dave Pacheco (B-22), Jonathan Wiley (B-23), Adam Johnson (C-
7 19/20), Tim Clothier (C-22), Rich Schnieders (C-23), Clancy Cruise (Executive
8 Director 16-19), Phil Sparling (Executive Director 19-22) Tim Hodge (Assistant
9 Executive Director 19-22), Tom Avey (Fellowship Coordinator), and Greg Howell
10 (Recording Secretary).

11
12 Clancy opened with prayer.

13 Brief Address from Clancy – Reflection thoughts and thanks to Fellowship Council
14 (Tim)

15 Stand on the shoulders of others-joy because of the guys before me. Joined back in
16 1990's and held the guys who held these positions in high esteem. TA-1st guy to say
17 I'm going to miss this role, relational-wired. Can't think of a missed conference in 20
18 years, because of time with our Fellowship "family." We will navigate future
19 challenges well. We have a really good "product" to share even with the larger
20 evangelical family, worth fighting for. We will come up with an even stronger
21 "product." "I excited to hand things over to Phil-will have Clancy Cruise as an
22 advocate, friend, partner, follower."

23
24
25 Brief Address from Phil – Anticipation thoughts and thanks to Clancy

26 Was on Fellowship Council a decade ago at the beginning of CCCI and gaining a lot
27 of momentum. Need to be pouring gas on all of the 3 core values, and how do we
28 have relationship with all of the clusters. FC is the hard work behind the scenes. My
29 parents moved our family here in when I was in 8th grade to plant this church. I'm the
30 3rd pastor. On several boards-college alma mater, Africa, but this board excites me
31 the most. Clancy has done a terrific job of moving us forward on this journey of keep
32 going with CCCI. I'm Privileged to keep us going. Email phil@auburngrace.com -
33 contact me about anything.

34
35 Open sharing of encouragements in our Fellowship

36
37 RH-resolution regarding churches starting churches, revitalizing, emphasis, synergy
38 is very important to the Fellowship because of life cycles-if we embrace as we
39 should, it will be very worthwhile to the kingdom

40 RS-5 churches banded in Florida to plant new churches, 5-6 prospective plants.

41 KP-excited to be at Auburn, the story of this church. In n Out helps a lot, too.

42 TA-constantly encouraged by the young pastors involved. Stronger than it has ever
43 been. Need some help to help our struggling churches. I've watched Phil lead,
44 really, really, good. His mom works here and we've had good conversations.

1 Columbia City has interns (residents) in our budget. lots of churches, pastors
2 around the table doing similar.
3 Phil-Northern California is doing church planting. And raising up leaders. Rex is a
4 good example being trained by J McIntosh
5 DP-Momentum is great, best, largest 2400
6 RR-Momentum very good sent 12 kids and wife (RR stayed home with 5)
7 TH-brought Andrew intern to Conf and brought him on staff to be Associate (Brad
8 Gromis' old position) School teacher 2 yrs. of full-time seminary went to Momentum,
9 very excited.
10 RB 1)- we get to assess and coach with Assist (he and Cheryl), appreciate what
11 Nathan is doing, 2)-what INSPIRE is doing with the training system for ordination-
12 really excited about that.

13
14 1. Consensus Vote - one action for the following items...

- 15 1. Approve Minutes of January meeting with typo correction: 16 line 2 ("us"
16 should be "use")
17

18 2. Ratify - Nomination of Tim Hodge as Assistant Director (Tom)
19

20 **A MOTION PREVAILED** to ratify the email vote nominating Tim Hodge as Assistant
21 Director.

22
23 3. Reports - no action needed... (Tom)

24 1. Access2020 - Grace College Campus

25 Already have a contract, they are really excited. Video with Dr Bill and
26 (Dr) Phil

27 At Grace, where they will be able to handle gobs of people, expect very
28 good attendance.

29 Could be bigger than 2018
30

31 2. Access2021 - Grace Community Goshen, Indiana

32 Lot of work on their campus and camp 30 mins away. Incredible play gym
33
34

35 4. Team Recommendations

36 1. Membership Team (Jeremy Wike)

37 Very busy during the past few months. Will introduce 4 new churches-very, very
38 excited. Dave P is going to knock it out of the park as emcee at church planting meal.
39 Where all boards, systems are highlighted. Best way to make disciples is through
40 churches so making more churches is the goal.

41 Every so often we have churches who choose not to have relationship with CF and are
42 only FGBC in name, often more distracting. For one reason or other they will not
43 remove themselves. So need to ask the delegates to approve Membership Team's
44 recommendation, based on district action.
45

46 1. Churches to dismiss

1. Still Waters - [letter from the district](#)
2. Hope Community - [letter from the district](#)
3. From the Manual of Procedure...

1. Section Two. 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

AJ-Hope Community Not representing Christ well, as well as resistance to cooperating with district. Wording of letters gives opportunity to reapply.

TH-district tried to bring them along and help. Leader at one of the churches reacted that CF should follow what they were doing (flipped relationship-CF is the umbrella, churches get under, not change to suit individual churches!!).

Still Waters pastor was hired to be a district coordinator, but has gone the opposite direction, to the point of being anti toward the district and Fellowship. Could have fired him years ago, but that would have given him fuel-he wanted to be kicked out.

TA-built in 3 yr delinquency. Which allows us to exercise grace. general principle to deal as relationally as possible. If guilty of anything is that we are too patient.

FC's job is to present to delegates, they can address anything about the motion.

AJ-all info was given, but will answer privately anything. 15 seconds on SW web shows they are very off base biblically.

A MOTION PREVAILED to recommend dismissing Still Waters based on their Failing to adhere to Art IV, Section Two.

A MOTION PREVAILED to recommend dismissing Hope Community based on their Failing to adhere to Art IV, Section Two.

(both unanimous voice votes)

5. .

2. Long Beach GBC

1. Synopsis

Jeremy caught us up with the sequence of actions by the Long Beach church. They officially announced their move to include women as elders only 2 weeks ago (July 7, 2019). Local district tried to intervene without positive resolution. CC, TA, TH, JW, PS have discussed what Fellowship Council action/reaction should be. Lots of players, but only one group can give leadership to this situation-FC. Delegates can't give leadership, but they can react to FC proposal.

JW-Membership Team suggestions from Mike Gentes (who has tried to work with them and warn their leaders AND has to live in same district) no one from Long Beach has suggested they might back down.

1. <https://www.gracelb.org/elders>

2. <https://docs.google.com/document/d/19cVtqWH785aMbuOldqeKjqEH9q0bn-Ut3Y46T7hN7VQ/edit>

2. Possible Response

Phil Sparling's summary of what should be done.

1. Celebrate their return to the Biblical Position
2. Accept their voluntary withdrawal from the Charis Fellowship
3. Move to dismiss Long Beach Grace from the Charis Fellowship roster

Discussion

DP-any info about the 300 who left and are distrusting of the Fellowship (most are more CF than church is)

RH-church has drifted away relationally from Fellowship greatly in the last 20 years.

MGentes has worked really hard to bring them back to relationship. But he was never given access to full elder board, just exec pastor (Beth), and chairman-Daniel. Mike G very invested since he is also Encompass rep. very much in the midst, worked really hard at restoring them relationally. Long Beach has drifted theologically for the past 10 yrs. Roy is struggling a lot because he grew up there and was on staff there.

DP-example of doctrinal drift? Amillennial, concept of evangelism = social involvement over Gospel

RH-we have let them slip for too long, like MGentes to "wow them with Grace" so will we take action first or let district take action first? They have a letter that is very specific. People who left would say they were speaking against local drift away from biblical truth for 10 yrs. It is a fourth cluster problem and a hermeneutic problem.

1 Possible motion (Phil & leadership team)

2 Motion: Fellowship Counsel is seeking permission from the delegates to officially
3 respond to Long Beach Grace in regard to the issue of approving women Elders.
4 We are seeking a recommendation from the SoCal district and expect to respond in one
5 of three ways:

6 1. Celebrate their return to the Biblical Position

7 2. Accept their voluntary withdrawal from the Charis Fellowship

8 3. Move to dismiss Long Beach Grace from the Charis Fellowship roster

9
10 JW-no one on FC has had direct contact with LB leadership. Don't want to make a
11 disaster on the conf floor. LB Elders made the decision and the congregation did
12 not/has not voted (yet).

13 PS-this gives us time to let LB work toward compliance or not

14 DP-if the relationship can be built, (Oct 1) are we putting a deadline on this?

15 TA-this motion does not have a date on it.

16 DP-depending how the conversations go, it could be resolved before next Conf.

17 TA-motion allows FC to act by January meeting.

18 CC-2-way street Grace & courtesy, for satisfactory response. We will know fairly
19 quickly what that Satisfactory response is.

20 TA-need to resist the notion that we have not made overtures to LB

21 CC-not pushing for any decision except to come away fully informed and knowing the
22 sequence and time frame

23 DP-motion gives FC permission to respond based on LB's response. Is it too soon to
24 have a motion and a vote from the delegates?

25 AJ-has LB been asked "do you want a relationship with the Fellowship?" basically,
26 saying this is who we TA-ticked that they pushed the button so close to Conf.

27 KP-we want permission to dismiss, based on their action or lack?

28 CC- Yes, that is what Phil's email (motion) says. They (Long Beach church) haven't left
29 the Fellowship, still involved Encompass, etc. Relationally they have left. CC asked
30 Mike Sciarra if he should contact LB leadership before this FC/Conf. Would they
31 respond to a simple, official request?

32 RH-probably would not respond, since they have not responded to district dropped to
33 1200 (200-300 recently) used to be 4000 when Roy was there.

34 CC-There has been a very measured, passionate tone in all conversations he has been
35 in. can we come out of this meeting and shepherd our delegates, so they have some
36 background? Not spin anything, but we want people to be confident that we have led in
37 this situation. Be sure to Love on both Mikes.

38 DP-at delegates meeting, several attempts at being gracious over the years, needs to
39 be prominent.

40 RB-like the three steps. I'm mad, feel poked in the eye. I'd like to drop the hatchet.

41 Why manual reads, "upon investigation" would be good for local congregation (Long
42 Beach) to know that if the leadership stays the course, they will lose their church. We
43 have a chance in the meantime to minister to the folks who want to stay with the
44 Fellowship. Maybe "we" need to intervene based on Membership Team and District
45 investigation

46 TH-make request for FC leadership/ reps to meet with elders as the first step.

1 RB-do the delegates need to know this much.

2 AC-like what Phil said, we intend to be gracious, but firm, and act accordingly.

3 CC-want to be careful not to pick apart and wordsmith the motion. Can we make a
4 motion to the delegates?

5 KP-- MOTION as per Phil's email and seconded

6 Fellowship Counsel is seeking permission from the delegates to officially respond to
7 Long Beach Grace in regard to the issue of approving women Elders.

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9 of three ways:

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13
14 Membership Team suggestions

15 • Option #1: We do nothing.

16 • Option #2: We make a motion to remove them immediately and bring it to the
17 delegates at the Business meeting

18 • Option #3: We censure the shift and, with grace, affirm our love for them by
19 proceeding with caution with a combination of 1) asking them to remove their
20 membership from the Fellowship and 2) asking the SoCal district to make a unified
21 recommendation to the Fellowship Council if they won't willingly do so in the next 12
22 months; If there is any Responding to The Long Beach Church's shift to allow Women
23 Elders hope of conversation about how they hermeneutically came to their conclusion,
24 we'll gladly take that open door (however, there has been no evident desire to do so to
25 date)

26
27 Discussion:

28 PS-asking SoCal district to expect a response and include FC reps. If in a month or so
29 they still don't allow a delegation to dialog with Fellowship.

30 CC--Not abdication but working with the District-firm on condemning the decision, not
31 the people

32 KP-helps MG to build relationships and gives him our backing.

33 JW-doesn't drag out our dealings, their decisions seem to indicate that they don't want
34 to be part of us. What can we do that helps MG the best, 5 Encompass families, etc. If
35 there has to be a "bad guy" it should be FC not Mike.

36 CC-our motion should help Mike best, setting him up to deal with LB and we back him
37 up

38 JW-if leadership persists and not willing to reconsider, will put strain on their leadership,
39 if people are out of the loop, it is not our fault.

40 CC-after Conf, Phil will need to figure out who is best to figure out who/how to contact.

41 RR-does this set up all 4th cluster statements as linchpin for relationship with Fellowship

42 AC-would this be a question if it had not come up as a position statement?

43 TA-the docs (Identity Statement and Position Statements) all equally have to be held.

44 DB-75% of eldership approve. Churchd itself may not have processed.

45 DP-clarification #3 in motion, if they don't return or withdraw themselves, does it mean
46 we dismiss or just get permission to start that procedure?

1
2 **A MOTION PREVAILED** to Amend the motion to strike "Move to"

3
4 AC-do we need to quickly cut them off? Couldn't we concentrate on winning them
5 back?

6 PK-we can go to web and discover exactly what they believe.

7 JW-we have tried, (district has bent over backwards)

8 CC-MSc and Jordan have asked if they can engage LB on behalf of FC

9
10 GH(secretary)-read motion again

11 Fellowship Counsel is seeking permission from the delegates to officially respond to
12 Long Beach Grace in regard to the issue of approving women Elders.

13 We are seeking a recommendation from the SoCal district and expect to respond in one
14 of three ways:

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- 17 3. Dismiss Long Beach Grace from the Charis Fellowship roster

18
19 PS-motion allows moving forward to engage LB to logical conclusion (before next conf)

20 TC-unanimous or unified decision?

21 RB-this is asking delegates to dismiss if they do not return

22 RR-we charged M Jentes and Jordan to investigate on our behalf because they have
23 the relationship, just because we are asking for permission, doesn't mean we will have
24 to act before Conf.

25 PS-we are asking permission to act in this order

26 DP-every effort is to make #1 the choice.

27 AC-I have to vote on 2nd hand info.

28 CC-with MG's involvement over lots of time, puts us on solid ground.

29 TH-we are working through SCal district and seeking a recommendation from them-
30 should that be included in the motion?

31 RS-is this a one-off, are we setting up ourselves for future problems, signaling others to
32 test other areas?

33 CC-this is unprecedented in our Fellowship this is/was a large church with history

34 GH-what if this happened next couple weeks, after Conf., instead of before, how would
35 FC react?

36 GH prayed for the motion
37

38 **A MOTION PREVAILED** unanimously to seek permission from the delegates to
39 officially respond to Long Beach Grace in regard to the issue of approving women
40 Elders.

41 We are requesting a recommendation from the SoCal district and expect to respond in
42 one of three ways in this order:

- 43 1. Celebrate their return to the Biblical Position
 - 44 2. Accept their voluntary withdrawal from the Charis Fellowship
 - 45 3. Dismiss Long Beach Grace from the Charis Fellowship roster
- 46

1 We will work the motion in grace.

2
3 TA-should we communicate the motion ahead of the meeting?

4 No, we can say that we have deliberated about announcing in advance, but did not want
5 to unduly distract from the rest of Conf.

6
7
8 3. Randy Smith's Paper - "An examination of the role of women in
9 ordained ministry"

10
11 RH-wish we could digest Randy's paper down to 15 pages

12 TC-INSPIRE is willing to take lead and produce collaborative documents especially the
13 women in ministry topic

14 AJ-Mosaic document already exists

15 CC-next year "Biblical Truth" could we get all of our theologians together to state basic
16 hermeneutics which will set the stage for any specific issues.

17 TH-Phil's plan is to focus on truth next conf. would be good to have document available
18 at next conf.

19 Did we listen to the audio by DGuiles, TA, TH about what clarifies who we are what
20 defines "us"?

21 By 2021 at Goshen a resource about Biblical Relationship and 2022 about Missional
22 It is about the hermeneutic. WE can do all concurrent.

23 CC-relationship means how we can work together church to church (not peer to peer
24 relationship), the idea of affinity.

25 DP-that would always be a good thing

26 CC-can leadership team put resources behind these ideas? Need some funds moving
27 forward.

28 JW-can INSPIRE take leadership on this?

29 TH-may be some overlap of agencies.

30 DB-thinking that INSPIRE would coordinate, freeing up FC from nitty gritty

31 CC-goal is how is this going to help Truth, Relationship, Mission

32 RB-single document that unites the three? At the end of three year process?

33 TH-agree that it is okay to begin?

34 JW-good to identify what cluster/position statements need supporting documents.

35 RB-2 stages, expanded and theological exhaustive

36 YES, TC can talk to M Lingenfelter about refining Randy's paper

37
38 2. Structures Team (Ron Boehm)

39
40 1. Delegates to Charis Alliance (5 year global gathering 2020)

41 1. Recommendation - Ask in this priority to get 3:

42 1. Phil Sparling

43 2. Tim Hodge

44 3. Mike Yoder

45 4. Jeremy Wike

46 5. Tom Avey

1 What if we sent Tom as an additional NA but not as a delegate? Don't want to overly
2 weigh with US.

3
4 **A MOTION PREVAILED:** to recommend to the delegates that these men be the North
5 American (USA) delegates to the 2020 Charis Alliance gathering in this order: Phil
6 Sparling, Tim Hodge, Mike Yoder, Jeremy Wike, Tom Avey

7
8
9 2. Ordination and the local church - possible Manual of Procedure
10 addition

- 11 1. The local church has the authority and responsibility to hire
12 and ordain it's pastors for ministry. Charis Fellowship
13 churches are encouraged to ask a Charis Fellowship
14 Cooperating District to provide assistance in this ordination
15 process. Cooperating Districts can add their endorsement to
16 this local church ordination. Inspire Charis Pastors Network,
17 a National Ministry of the Charis Fellowship will maintain a
18 list of nationally recognized pastors who have been both
19 ordained by a local church and also endorsed by a Charis
20 Fellowship Cooperating District.

21
22 3. Finance Team (Tom)

23 1. Proposed Budget for 2020

24 Will print and present to delegates for adoption. Separate page from delegate packets.

25
26 4. Positions Team (Tim)

27 1. What will we report to the delegates?

28 Pattern is not to present every conf., but as needed and as we have supporting
29 documents and resources.

30 JW-is there interplay and overlap with Social Concerns? Maybe fewer statements the
31 better.

32 CC-has been in regular dialog with D Shoemaker and Social Concerns

- 33
34 2. Do we need to develop a "report" – plan to revisit process / make
35 sure the focus of our fellowship is on the right things / further clarify
36 cooperation role with Social Concerns and the Team desiring to dig
37 deeper theologically.

38 TH-we can just mention that we are working on some to delegates

39
40 5. Other business (Tim)

- 41 1. Proposal from Jeremy, Adam C. and Tim about deeper study on position
42 statements issues.

- 43
44 2. The Interdependence Initiative. (Clancy) - Audio file of the discussion

- 45
46 3. Transition Plan for the Charis Fellowship Coordinator (Phil)

1 Adam, Doug, Clancy “care team” got Tom on Sabbatical
2 DP volunteered to be on transition team
3 PS hope to have a candidate next conf to approve. Need to decide if it is one job or
4 more, write job description,
5 Tom will officially retire in 2021
6

- 7 4. Social Concerns Committee chair and term limit for that position (Don
8 Shoemaker is retiring).
9 New resolutions being presented

- 10
11 5. We need a parliamentary committee for the business meeting: Galen
12 Wiley, Larry Edwards, and Jim Augspurger have agreed to serve.
13

- 14 6. Review Plans for Fellowship Council Winter meeting, etc.
15 Plan to be in Seal Beach again.
16

- 17 7. Key Connections to make at Access2019

- 18 1. Registration summary is online.
19 2. Suggested names to connect with
20 1. Jeff and Carrie Stimpson - Powell, Oh - build relationship
21 2. Justin Franchino - Soldotna, AK - young leader - build
22 relationships - newly married to Jill (like weeks ago!)
23 3. Rob Borkowitz - Waterloo, Iowa - for encouragement
24 4. Rustin Krapfl - Howe, Indiana - build relationship
25

26 Note from the Manual of Procedure:

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

- 29 1. Stop all further debate on the issue for that business session.
30 2. Call for a meeting of the Fellowship Council to be held before the next business
31 session to formulate a recommendation on further procedures concerning this
32 issue.
33 3. Present this recommendation as the first item of business at the next business
34 session.
35 4. Call for an immediate vote on the recommendation of the Fellowship Council
36 without further debate. Should a recommendation to stop debate fail to pass,
37 debate shall resume.
38
39

40 Respectfully submitted,

41
42 Gregory M. Howell,
43 Recording Secretary