



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. 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.

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Official Name of Church

Cornerstone Grace Brethren Church

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Church Mailing Address

50 Tyler Court

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City

Springboro

State

OH

Zip

45066

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Phone

(937)886-1821

Email

[info@cornerstonegbc.com](mailto:info@cornerstonegbc.com)

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Meeting Place

Medlar View Elementary School

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Pastor or principle leader

Tim Nixon

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Address

50 Tyler Court

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City

Springboro

State

OH

Zip

45066

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Phone

(937)886-1821

Email

[tnixon@cornerstonegbc.com](mailto:tnixon@cornerstonegbc.com)

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

Tri-State

Is your church a "daughter church" of another Grace Brethren Church (or churches)? If so which one (ones)?

Yes. Basore Road GBC - Dayton, OH

Has your church reviewed 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 which deal with the membership requirements FGBC churches are to meet.

Yes

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.?

January 2006 Business Meeting

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

Tim Nixon - Pastor

Greg Zastrow - Director

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

Official church name – bulletin- letterhead

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

We are committed to Triune Immersion and Threefold Communion. We currently practice Communion quarterly and our first baptism service is scheduled for February 2006.

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 are presently members of this church?

11

A check payable to FGBC for \$5.25 per member for the current year membership fee should be included with this application.

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.

Tim Nixon, Associate Pastor Basore Road GBC, felt God's call to plant a church in the Springboro/Miamisburg Ohio area in March 2005. In May 2005 he approached Pastor Brian White with the news. Pastor White wholeheartedly endorsed the work and later that Spring Basore became the parent church. Public Launch of this new work would be September 2006.

Tim resigned his position as Associate effective September 1, 2005 and began to build a core team. The core team began to meet weekly by mid September and began four Bible studies in October, three of which are still meeting. We have seen three people commit their lives to Christ so far and are excited about the impact of the Bible studies. The Core group grew to five families and we began to meet together Sunday mornings on January 1, 2006.

## Why Plant a Church?

"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few." (Matthew 9:36-38)

Church planting is one of the most effective evangelism tools anywhere. It is a strategy for winning lost people to a saving faith in Jesus Christ. Church planting is the experiential embodiment of the Great Commission. Planting churches is biblical and practical. It provides the platform for teaching sound doctrine and instilling biblical teaching into the life of the believer.

- The church is the only institution Christ promised to build and bless. He said, "I will build My church; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it" (Matt. 16:18). Christ's purpose in the world is to call to Himself a redeemed people who would live to the praise of His glory. He is building the church.
- The corporate functions of the Body all take place in the church. The church is where God has ordained His people to meet together to celebrate the Lord's Supper, to worship Him, and to encourage and edify one another.
- Preaching is the chief human means God uses to dispense His grace. The apostle Paul commanded Timothy to "preach the word" (2 Tim. 4:2).
- It is estimated that more than 200 million people in America are lost.
- Planting churches is arguably the most effective way to reach unchurched people.
- Additional churches are needed to reach the existing and growing population. Planting new congregations opens new doors for people to enter the church.
- New congregations enlist additional committed people to work in the ministry for God's glory.
- The Great Commission states: *"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."* New churches build the Kingdom and are a blessing to all who partake in the pleasure of starting them.

## The Community to be Reached

There are five communities within the area of Springboro. We will be targeting three of them.

The three communities we are targeting are:

1. City of Miamisburg
2. City of Springboro
3. Miami Township

We obtained a Percept report on the city of Springboro and a four mile radius from near the city center, including parts of Miamisburg and Miami Township. Percept is a nationally recognized and respected research organization that specializes in gathering and distributing census and other religious –oriented research information for churches. The community grew by 43.6% since 1990 (the national average is (16.9%) and is expected to grow an additional 11.8% between 2004 and 2009 (national average is projected to be 5.3%.)

Our target demographic is as follows:

- White (93%-96%)
- Family structure is traditional (married with two-parents)
- Faith receptivity is about equal to the national average
- The overall religious giving potential is very high based on an average household income of \$79,399 per year.
- Overall church style preference is somewhat traditional
- Mostly college graduates or some college
- Family oriented
- Busy
- Fitness conscious
- Community minded

Additional churches are needed to reach the existing and growing population. The Greater Springboro area alone has a population of over 31,000.

There are around 17 existing churches in Springboro. These churches average seating capacity is approximately 200. That means that out of 31,000 people, there are only seats for 3,400. Since church attendance seems to max out at 80% of sanctuary size, if all 17 churches “maxed out” they could only seat 2,720 people.

This shows that AT LEAST 92% of Springboro alone cannot attend church in their own city. Planting new congregations opens new doors for people to enter the church.

## What Kind of Church Will This Be?

### Philosophy of Ministry

We are committed to the preaching of God's Word, in-season and out-of-season. It is the primary method that God declared for proclaiming His Word. We are committed to the power of God's Word and the work of the Holy Spirit to change lives.

We believe that the only "seeker" is God. The Holy Spirit will work in the hearts of the lost as His Word is proclaimed and taught.

As our core values reflect, we know that lost people matter to God. With this in mind, we are committed to reaching the lost with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We are also convinced the Scripture teaches that the corporate worship service is primarily for believers. ***This means that what takes place Sunday morning is fundamentally different than what takes place throughout the week.***

The church service is not for the lost or even the carnal and disobedient. It is for the saved, the regenerate, the redeemed, and the obedient. What we do is not understandable by the lost. The apostle John said it this way in 1 John 3:1:

*"Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him."*

Since the world does not know us, we must find ways to reach them outside what we do together as believers - the corporate worship service. The One we are concerned about in worship is God. The lost do not understand spiritual truth nor can they. Paul said,

*"But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (1 Cor.2:14).*

The contact that we need to have with the lost is not to find out what will get them to church and keep them coming, but to show them that they need to surrender their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ.

We target the lost very intentionally throughout the rest of the week. Using small group studies, building relationships with the intent of evangelism, and being involved in our community is our main focus for reaching the lost with the Gospel.

## Mission Statement

***Our Mission is to share Jesus Christ with lost people and develop them to become disciples of Christ.***

We will accomplish this through three simple values:

1. Adoring and Praising Jesus Christ
2. Teaching and Preaching the Word of God as all-sufficient
3. Uphold the standard of practicing the truth of Scripture.

### ***Our Core Values:***

- We believe that the Church should be remaining doctrinally pure and should contend for the faith (2 Cor. 4:2, 1 Peter 2:2, Jude 1:3)
- We believe that lost people matter to God (Luke 15) and the church must teach believers to plainly and openly share the Gospel of Christ with the lost in their lives.
- We believe that biblically teaching and preaching is the primary method for delivering the transforming truth of the Gospel into the lives of people (II Tim. 3:16, 17; 4:1-3)
- We believe that believers must discover and utilize their spiritual gifts for the edification of the saints in the work of the church (Eph. 4:11, 12).

### ***Meeting Structures***

We will launch Public Sunday worship/celebration services. Target date is September 2006.

Weeknight studies in church leader's homes on different nights throughout the week, led by church leadership. These are opportunities for teaching the believer and chances to introduce the lost to the Scriptures. Weeknights are designed for Biblical teaching for those both within and outside the church. These may be the first contact to the church for the lost.

When we reach "critical mass" within our core group, we will begin "private" worship services. The critical mass number has not yet been determined.

Building relationships with the lost is the responsibility of all believers – and in this church, especially the church leadership. We will take opportunities to become involved in our communities with the specific purpose to evangelize the lost.

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## The Planting Team

### The Pastor

Tim Nixon, along with his wife Jayne, will serve as church planter and Pastor for this work. He is a graduate of Liberty University with a double concentration in Biblical studies and Business. He presently serves as the Associate Pastor of the Basore Road Grace Brethren Church in Dayton, OH. He has been in this position for ten years. Tim is an ordained elder in the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches.

Tim's experience includes youth pastor, ministry to men, and ministry to young married families. This experience gives him a unique perspective across generational lines.

Tim will initially be a bi-vocational pastor. This will be of great benefit to the new church by relieving some of the initial financial burden.

Jayne has experience working with youth and has served in women's ministry leadership for many years. She has mentored and counseled women from teenager to mature adult and has a unique ability to disciple in one-on-one relationships.

### Ministry Partners

Ministry partners are those families and individuals who are committed to the new church plant and are willing to relocate, if necessary, to the targeted areas to establish the new ministry. These partners will begin meeting weekly for prayer and planning in May 2005. They will begin Bible study and theology training in September 2005.

These individuals and families will form the leadership core for the new church. These families will be responsible for leading weekly Bible Studies in their homes aimed at the target lost.

### Ministry Team

The Ministry team consists of those individuals and families with a heart for the work, but less of a commitment than ministry partners. Ministry team members are vital to the success of the new work. They fill key roles in the church such as: children's workers, greeters, trustees, etc.



## Intercessory Team

This is a group of people from many churches that commit to consistent prayer for the new church work and the planting team. The initial group should be in place by June 2005 and continue to grow throughout the preparation and birthing process.

The goal is 100 prayer partners on this team.

## Confirmed Ministry Partners

As of August 15, 2005, we have the following people in place.

- Greg and Lori Zastrow have three children, two grown and one who will be a high school senior (graduating 2006). They live in Miamisburg, OH – one of our three target areas. Greg has much experience as a Bible teacher in local Grace Brethren churches, and Lori is a musician playing the piano, keyboard, and guitar.

Greg served as an Elder in the Centerville Grace Brethren Church and grew a small Sunday School class from five to over thirty. This was accomplished by consistently contacting and following-up with those in the age group he was teaching. Greg works at Lexis-Nexis and Lori is an elementary school teacher in the Miamisburg Public School System.

- Philip Zastrow is a recent graduate of Sinclair and is a talented graphic designer. Philip will design and maintain our Internet presence and all print material. Philip has been attending Apex Church and brings great insights as to various ministry concepts and opportunities. We are anticipating Philip's participation in small group development.
- Nathan Hofmann is a student majoring in Radiology. Nathan is interested in participation and helping lead a small group.
- Amanda Nixon is completing her degree in Nursing November 2005. She brings experience working with Child Evangelism Fellowship as a Summer Missionary for four years. We look forward to Amanda helping to train children's workers at Cornerstone.
- Chris and Emily Caldwell will focus on trustee duties and Children's Ministry respectively.

## Planning and Strategy

### Evangelistic Strategy

Because of the strong values of young families and families with college-age children in our target area, our evangelism efforts will be highly relational.

Ministry Partners will be trained in Bible teaching and small group leadership as well as how to effectively share the Gospel. These Ministry Partners will work to develop relationships with individuals and families with the goal of sharing the gospel within 90 days of a first time introduction. Ministry Partners will be expected to spend a minimum of 4 hours each week (individually) building relationships with the lost.

In addition to Ministry Partners, we are seeking a Ministry team who:

- Are motivated to reach the lost
- Share the vision of the church planter
- Seek opportunities for relationship building
- Are creative and unafraid of risk
- People with whom the lost can relate
- Have a sense of calling to personal ministry
- Have the ability to build significant relationships quickly
- Are willing to accept and share responsibility

We will share the gospel regularly as we study Scripture in our home Bible study groups. The gospel will be presented in backyard Bible clubs throughout the summer. We have a good working relationship with Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF).

When individuals repent and commit their lives to Jesus Christ in our small groups, we will encourage them to build relationships with their lost friends, neighbors, and co-workers.

## Assimilation Strategy

The first step in the assimilation process will revolve around the small group opportunities. As individuals begin to express interest in the church plant, they will be encouraged to participate in weekly small group meetings. Initially, Ministry Partners will teach these groups, but the team will be responsible for identifying and training new small group leaders so multiplication can take place.

Specific outreach events will serve as assimilation and introduction points to the new church. These will be target-specific events such as mothers meetings, children's play groups or parenting classes. These events will encourage people to transition from involvement in only one aspect of the church's life into more complete participation.

We like the idea of a Newcomers class for those new to the church. This class will emphasize the Gospel as well as a basic introduction to the church. The class also will introduce participants to concepts of spiritual giftedness and to major functions of the church: evangelism, discipleship, fellowship, ministry, worship, etc.

The next phase involves moving the individual from membership to ministry within the church. We need to identify various areas of potential ministry, and from this information determine where the individual may fit in. This step would provide training, fellowship, and a sense of accountability. We are discussing the idea of making this a Spiritual Gifts driven approach where we first identify each person's giftedness and then "plug-them-in" to the appropriate ministry opportunity.

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## Financial Analysis and Budget

Initial budgeting is being completed and will include:

- Pastor Housing and expenses
- Leasing costs
- Equipment costs
- Promotion and branding related items
- Furnishings
- On-going community development and outreach
- Missions
- Other Misc items

The preliminary budget to date is broken down into two phases:

- Pre-Launch - \$65,000
- Year One - \$95,000

Our goal is to have a firm budget established by the end of October 2005.

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## How can you become involved?

We are praying for God to provide in the following areas:

- Ministry Partners and Ministry Team members
- People, families, or groups who will commit to giving at one of the three levels outline previously
- People, families, or groups who will provide something from our Needs List
- People, families, or groups who will help with manpower needs throughout the next 18-24 months.
- Prayer Partners to become part of our Intercessory Team
- People who will spread the word to friends, colleagues and family that may also be interested in Cornerstone and reaching the lost.