

PRESENT: Tom Avey (Fellowship Coordinator), Bartley Sawatsky (Exec. Dir. 2016), Michael Saldivar (B-16), Mark Lingenfelter (B-18), Joe Cosentino (B-17), Greg Serafino (A-18), Phil Bryant (A-17), Ron Boehm (B-20), Richard Todd (A-16), Clancy Cruise (Exec Dir Elect (2016-18)), Larry Orme (C-19), Jeremy Wike (A-20), Kevin Pinkerton (B-19), Scott Avey (C-20), Tim Hodge (C-18), Greg Howell (Recording Secretary).

ABSENT: Randy Weekley (C-17), Roy Halberg (A-19), Dan Thornton (C-16)

(note: letter signifies region and number signifies year term ends)

GUESTS: Viki Rife (Women of Grace), Javier Forero, Jeff Gill (Grace Schools), Dave Guiles (Encompass/Identity), Joel Richards (AGBM), Liz Gates (GraceConnect), Ken Seyfert (GBIF), John Schumacher (Chaplain Endorsing Agent), Ed Lewis (CE National), and Mike Jentes (local pastor)

Michael Saldivar—Shared Devotions from I Pet 3:13-17

Tom Avey explained that Michael presented devotions today and Richard Todd will tomorrow because this is the end of their terms and their last January meeting. He also stated that Dan Thornton goes off after 2016 Conference as well and will not be here at this meeting because his father-in-law is not doing well. Tom introduced incoming new members: Ron Boehm, Scott Avey, and Jeremy Wike

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT-- Bartley Sawatsky gave an overview of his observations of the Fellowship. He senses very positive feelings in Fellowship now with the bad things far enough in the past. He called now the "Golden age of relationship." The question now is, "What's next?" There is a growing interest in the restructuring the Fellowship Coordinator's office. He shared that at some point we are going to have to replace Tom and address other needs. Bartley said that he wants to finish up a couple things before his term is through. 1) Conference 2016 in Toronto. 2) Charis Commitment to Common identity. Clancy as the next Executive Director will be in a prime spot to leader a re-branding effort for the FGBC. 3) Just need to be taking the positive energy and capitalize on the momentum—especially in church planting.

Jeff Gill offered to provide name of rebranding company that is doing well for Grace through Cindy Sisson.

A MOTION PREVAILED to approve minutes of July 2015 meeting as published on the Fellowship Council webpage.

#### REPORTS FROM NATIONAL MINISTRIES

GO2—by Larry Orme presented in Tim Boal's absence. He highlighted information from written report in the Fellowship Council binder. Concluding with the printed prayer requests.

GRACE SCHOOLS—Dr. Jeff Gill shared that the branding company commented that Grace is the best they have seen at keeping on mission. Jeff attributed that to former President Ron Manahan's keeping focused on the schools' mission and Dr. Katip continuing that focus. Jeff said that Grace is in the 4<sup>th</sup> year of a 5 year plan and on track. He explained President Dr. Bill Katip's slides (available in the January 2016 FC binder). He told a bit about being in the "silent phase" of a \$22 million capital expansion with over half already raised. He quoted an oft repeated maxim coined by Cindy Sisson: "Numbers are the

multiplied opportunities to impact individual lives.” Dr. Gill suggested that he could share about the Seminary’s new change to a church-based model called “Deploy” if there is time later.

WOMEN OF GRACE—Viki Rife. She stated that we have churches with a need for identity for women. They need a biblical foundation to love husbands and older women training younger women as mentors. Women of Grace’s mission is to help women identify their potential and develop godly women. During the past year she and the Women of Grace board have been very concerned about keeping afloat.

CHAPLAINCY—John Schumacher

He dispelled the false rumor that chaplains can’t pray in Jesus’ name. As the Endorsing Agent for the FGBC, John answers to Department of Defense as well as to the Fellowship Council. He reminded us that the chaplain in the military is as much a missionary on the field as any foreign missions. He encourages local church mission conferences to include chaplains. He stated that the potential outreach for a chaplain is staggering.

GRACE CONNECT—Liz Cutler Gates shared from her written report and showed a bound volume of the first half of 2015 of Grace Connect Face Book printouts. She also handed out 75<sup>th</sup> year pens, and told of the impending sale of the Herald building to the Winona Lake Grace Brethren Church. This will keep the building in the FGBC family and allow office space to continue for Grace Connect as well as Fellowship Coordinator offices for at least the next five years. She explained that the building is no longer needed for warehousing inventory since that is jobbed out to their fulfillment center.

ENCOMPASS WORLD PARTNERS—Dave Guiles showed slides of new work beginning in Poland, Chad cohort of 11 students of the (training center), pictures from Barb Wooler, Syrian refugee crisis (what’s appropriate NA response?) How crisis & pain contribute to the Great Commission, 30 Day Dare, Women in ministry commission, 75 cross cultural missionaries by 2020, complexities of recruiting missionaries today. (lots more than when Dave & Sue showed up at Jack Zeilasko’s office 35+ years ago), surprising numbers of folks not coming out of FGBC’s but joining Encompass and embracing our movement. QA where are they coming from? A: mostly word of mouth.

ASSOCIATION OF GRACE BRETHREN MINISTERS (AGBM) —Joel Richards

Matt “Wingman” Wheelhouse (AGBM Shepherding Coordinator) helped provide the written report. The AGBM Executive Board will be meeting during next couple days and working on coordinating Common Identity into licensure and Ordination Joel is encouraged with how many men are going through credentialing process. The Board will also address the question about credentialing women in partial answer to the question about women chaplains.

SOCIAL CONCERNS—Don Shoemaker. His committee provides resolutions each year to Conference. It is up to local churches to adopt and implement. The resolutions might interface with the 4<sup>th</sup> cluster of the Charis Commitment to Common Identity. The 4<sup>th</sup> cluster are regional cultural specifics, in our case for North America. Committee list in 2015 handbook is correct (2016 is wrong). In the near future a chairman is needed. Don stated that he is willing to serve as long as he is well and able. (He mentioned that he has since 1985—“before some of you were born”). He emphasized that religious liberty is becoming more and more important, and that we always have to be vigilant. He concluded by suggesting that some resolutions might not fit as 4<sup>th</sup> cluster items.

CE NATIONAL—Ed Lewis

CE = Church Effectiveness, helping people live on mission. This involves reaching the overlooked as well as helping to disciple. Operation Barnabas is changing to a 3 week format. He also mentioned a new program—training and directly conversing with Streetwise. Most of our districts need to change and do joint projects. He is looking as maybe starting a Urban Hope in Southern California. We need to implement different models of church. Of course emphasizing evangelism, discipleship, training program. The Urban Hope training program is available for use by all our churches. Leadership is coming back to their churches from this intensive training and making it happen at home. The learning process is not just knowing the Word, but “being” (character—small groups), “doing” (sent them 2x2 ahead of Him—can’t learn to swim without getting wet). People need to know how. This is a totally new approach to ministry—start with children (get adults from other churches—FGBC-- to help with children) becomes lab for existing churches to learn “how” to do discipleship/evangelism that they are motivated to do, but need practical help to do. Urban Hope is bringing them from the ground up—slower, but effective. The CELS (CE Leadership Summit) program is coming along. Urban Hope can handle 40 people to train, can coordinate with other colleges. Could be a breath of fresh air for local church that participates. Youth at Momentum are being sent out every day on how to do ministry. Inner city you see needs in greater quantity and contrast in a shorter period of time than you would at home in rural or suburban areas. Hothouse effect that you can go back home and slowly implement on a smaller, longer scale. He also reminded that Ed Short works with churches to develop strategies for growth, about 50 churches at a time. And Mr. Lewis announced that the Pastorpedia presentations are on video and can be accessed from the website about 1200 hits. Ed stated quoted Psalm 71:18 *“And even when I am old and gray, O God, do not forsake me, Until I declare Thy strength to this generation, Thy power to all who are to come.”* realizing his increasingly greater responsibility to give to younger generations. This is part of his giving his “all” to Lord. Dr. Randy Smith is helping lots with “North of 55” events. Don’t quit even the older you get. Come to Urban Hope and will teach you to FISH --Friend, Interest, Share, Hope

GBIF—Ken Seyfert

Warren Buffet’s 2 rules for investing 1) don’t lose, 2) don’t lose

Looks to end year 2015 with 110 mil invested, not cash—but investments in church planting/missions. Praise to Fellowship churches that think beyond themselves, coming along side struggling churches. New venture—1<sup>st</sup> announcement. GBIF supports all church-planting ministries (GO2, etc). Jeff Bogue and others have good plans for debt reduction. In South East (Jeff, Dave Guiles, Ken) Atlanta and beyond. So much to be grateful for. Too much money on reserve--\$50 million. Commended John and Martha for how they care for chaplains and their wives because of their shepherding hearts. They put on a nice program at conference including chaplains. RIP investments were good for pastors (even in the lean years 2009-12).

GRACE SEMINARY—Jeff Gill

In his 14 years at Grace, he has seen a lot of change and progress. Board makeup has changed considerably, certainly not a rubberstamp board, even more so now. Jeff read the Grace Schools Mandate: The passion of Grace Seminary supports thriving churches and ministry agencies by offering biblically centered, contextualized, competency-based education on site to enable more effective service within the unique contexts of international, city, rural and suburban settings.

New thing from Seminary is DEPLOY, based on Matthew 9:36-38 And seeing the multitudes, He felt compassion for them, because they were distressed and downcast like sheep without a shepherd. 37 Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. 38 "Therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest."

1 “send out” = deploy. And it is subscription based financing. Faculty & board are all very affirming. One  
2 other seminary (in Canada) doing something like this. This is cutting edge programing, right on the edge.

3  
4 CHARIS REPORT CCCI (Charis Commitment to Common Identity)

5 Mike Yoder and Keith Minier joined by phone. Mike gave a brief history of 2-3yr process about the  
6 document. He, Clancy, Bartley and Keith Minier were North American delegates to the November  
7 meeting in Bangkok. Dave Guiles was there as the steering committee chair and Bartley was there as  
8 the FGBC Executive Director and Canadian delegate. The document was nearly complete before the  
9 conference began since all of the regions gave input. North America dealt with it during 2013-2015  
10 FOCUS retreats as well as forums at national conference. The common identity document was produced  
11 in three languages (English, French, and Spanish) and was passed with a unanimous rollcall vote by 30+  
12 delegates from 19 countries. Mike stated that our delegation came back with happy hearts. It is a great  
13 reminder that we are part of something bigger, but very related. The document will never be complete,  
14 but has built in revision times every five years. Recommendations to FC: best would be for FGBC to  
15 affirm and therefore become a charter member of the Charis Global Alliance. Recommendation from  
16 the North American delegates to affirm it as is.

17  
18 Keith also added his thanks for letting them represent North America. He added that this is the most  
19 significant work globally for our movement ever. He expressed that he is super grateful for Dave Guiles  
20 and the part he played in getting this to happen. He added that Dave is a great statesman, kudos to his  
21 team (the steering committee). He also stated that it is a very good provision to re-engage this  
22 document every five years. And that it is a good step to explain what we are *for* instead of what we are  
23 *against*. It is good to have this be a global not just North American document.

24  
25 Clancy—shared at the Southwest Focus Retreat Dave presented in a similar format and asked Clancy “to  
26 come up and defend your vote.” He stated, “It is clearly biblical and clearly a relational fellowship.” And  
27 that “it has been great to see the development of the document.” He is already using it as a recruiting  
28 tool and licensure tool. He concluded by expressing, “it was a great privilege to represent you.”

29  
30 Bartley—shared also. “It was a delight to be there. The unity was striking. It showed how much  
31 planning was done ahead of time. The Regional task forces did amazing work ahead of time. It was able  
32 to soften the edges. Good to build in review and not lock in who we are. Very positive. Electric to be in  
33 the room when the vote was final.”

34  
35 Dave Guiles—pleasingly stated that the second document of the Charis Alliance was passed  
36 unanimously. The first draft only had some minor housekeeping corrections. He announced that the  
37 CAR was the 1<sup>st</sup> to approve, CHAD will next week. Fellowships are part of the Alliance, not individuals or  
38 churches. We (FGBC) have been invited to be a charter member of the Alliance.

39  
40 Mike Yoder—recommendations----FC ought to take the formal step to approve/recommend document  
41 to conference. This should be an affirmation/rejection vote for the whole package. Structures  
42 committee has recommendations 1) endorse, 2) encourage implementation

43  
44 “It is not what we approve; it is what we use that matters.” (quote from Dan Thornton). Tom Avey  
45 mentioned that we are getting ahead of the Structures report. Tim Hodge pointed out motions from  
46 structures committee. (see report) We have until December 2016 to be a charter member of the Charis  
47 Alliance. Dave Guiles will distribute the final document of identity and charter.

48 QUESTIONS—

Phil-- are we directing the trajectory that will open the FGBC to accepting churches that do not practice our practices? Or will they be able to join Charis w/o joining the FGBC?

Bartley--we have always been people of conversation. Gives us something to discuss around. It is a reflection of who we are --relational. Probably doesn't change who we are.

Clancy--not to be all inclusive, but to help those who want to partner with us. Here's who we are, so you can orient to whether you want to be part of us.

Ed --very good. CE's Biblical Beliefs can be updated, so we can teach more than just Statement of Faith. Are we to realign and drop out the Statement of Faith?

Tom---Not what is there that is the problem, its what is not there (speaking in tongues?) We can teach what the Bible teaches, even if more narrow than CCCI.

Dave--Is the question "could there be sub-groups in North America?" (not w/o Charis to decide on association of Haiti—several churches, but they have never met together, nor formed a fellowship—so not at this past Charis conference, they aren't members, yet) A group (a Fellowship) can't be part of a movement if you believe less (all fellowships believe more). You can believe lots more, but not less.

Phil-- the statement on hermeneutic is a brilliant addition to document. Great that it is a working document, not enough escape clauses for churches/groups to enter.

Dave--Why we are afraid of creeds? Autonomy is not a high value in cultures outside North America. People tend to use Statements like this as either a stick or leash. (As an aside, Dave said that the video of his opening comments at the Charis Conference should be online now). Let's not use this as either stick or leash.

John--suggested the use of Chaplain George Youstra (FGBC Chaplain assigned to Joint Chiefs) to help with implementing the document.

Joel--what do we after we affirm it?

Bartley-- 1) affirm the document 2) encourage churches and ministries to implement

Should we wait to discuss how to use until after conference? historically never voted out old, just started using new.

Mike Gentes joined us before lunch and announced that he and Tom invited 12 young Southern California leaders for lunch tomorrow encouraging those who can stay to hang around to encourage them.

Dave Guiles presented The Charis Alliance—Charter and made clarifying comments.

ENCOMPASS is willing to provide a member to the Executive committee for ten years (seems reminiscent of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade history w/bicameral representation—countries get reps according to # of churches, each region gets 2 reps [senate] to the executive committee.)

Two motions—recommendations to the delegates

**MOTION PREVAILED UNANIMOUSLY: 1. The Fellowship Council recommends to the conference delegates in July 2016 that the FGBC become a charter member of the Charis Alliance and endorse the Commitments to Common Identity and Mission. The Fellowship Council also recommends that the FGBC accept the benefits and responsibilities of membership and select three delegates to the alliance by August 2016.**

**MOTION PREVAILED UNANIMOUSLY: 2. The Fellowship Council recommends to the conference delegates in July 2016 that member churches, cooperating districts, national ministries and**

**cooperating ministries endorse the Charis Commitment to Common Identity and develop resources to use the CCCI document for leadership development.**

[NOTE: this motion is superseded by substitute motion on page 9]

Here are a few ideas Tim Hodge provided by PowerPoint and handout:

- 1) Video/YouTube gospel presentation (CCI cluster 1)
- 2) What if we provided simple first steps for new believers? (cluster 1) ala Greg Laurie, etc.
- 3) What if we provided a basic theology study for everyone? (CCI clusters 1,2,3)
- 4) What if we provided a training course for ministry leaders, elders, etc.? seems big lack
- 5) What if we provided a unified core licensure and Ordination process?
- 6) What if we provided a way to recruit leaders from outside FGBC?
- 7) What if we provided a clear entry point for College and Seminary Training?
- 8) What if we provided a clear entry point for Church Planters?
- 9) What if we provided a clear entry point for Cross-Cultural Ministry?
- 10) What if we provided a clear entry point for OTHER Ministry Pursuits?

Some other resources ideas:

Create a professional welcome video for churches

Create an introduction video that introduces the FGBC

Bartley prioritized Tim's presentation

- 1) AGBM licensure & Ordination
- 2) Welcome/explanation/web video presentations
- 3) Orientation materials for elders & local leaders
- 4) Less in evangelism/discipleship because we can borrow

How do we fund and find a point person to follow through (some large churches have ability/methods) need to commission as part of the rebranding process

Should we have a name contest? with a reward might be better relationship preservation to discover and use name/logo without hurting feelings of those who contribute, but didn't get picked? Leadership can better control and coordinate the look of what is happening

maybe "Charis" doesn't communicate as much as "Grace" in North America

We need a variety of options. It would be good to ask GBIF for grant so we can be ready to go after Conference. We need a Committee to make a plan and give a progress report to FC before conference.

**A MOTION PREVAILED to appoint Bartley Sawatsky, Scott Avey, Tim Hodge to make a plan and progress report by July Fellowship Council regarding implementation of Common Identity and possible rebranding of FGBC in order to ask GBIF for funding in time to launch immediately after Conference in Toronto.**

Discussion concluded that the committee comes up with a proposal resulting in ABC steps to accomplish and how.

FRIDAY JAN 29, 2016

1 DEVOTIONS--Richard Todd presented devotions using John 10:9.

3 WHAT NEXT DISCUSSION

4 Tom reminded us that we appointed a team to work on a plan yesterday.

5 Dave Guiles—said the work is only just begun and likened it to what Paul said to the Galatians in 3:3

6 *“Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?”* Lots of prayer before

7 Bangkok, but can’t coast from here. Ask questions. What exactly do we want to see accomplished at

8 conference this year? and next? and work backwards. How do we prepare delegates since at some

9 point this will appear on the conference floor? The quicker it can impact licensure the quicker it can

10 become reality. It took 5 years to get to this point and probably another 5 years before it is really a part

11 of us. We’ve got some work ahead of us. AGBM needs to take the lead on this. And lots of prayer.

12 Should we do a hard mailing to all the churches? Maybe at least a paragraph in membership stat report.

13 Dave’s video, made for just before the vote, can be cut up. We need a campaign, can’t use best stuff

14 first. But something needs to be presented early on at conference.

15 Bartley —show the video (end from beginning) right before vote, at the biggest meeting and have a

16 forum in advance. Use snippets in local churches as advertising before conference.

17 40 minute PowerPoint video already available. FAQ’s, and videos from FOCUS retreats,

18 Liz should do a whole issue on the Identity process.

19 Doesn’t change Constitution, so we can approve without 2 readings.

20 We do need to clarify what happens to the Statement of Faith when this is approved. We are not trying

21 to make all the change right now, just creating ownership. Vote is stage 1, joining the global alliance.

22 Stage 2—what does it look like and work like in North America. Campaign to direct delegates (churches)

23 to see whole story—specifically to those who register, we can direct information to them as they

24 register.

25 We need some 2 minute video stories connected with Grace Connect

26 There was great work at FOCUS, now need to reach to those who missed, maybe Skype to monthly

27 Ministeriums. Personal video message from Dave Guiles to pastors.

28 Tease—300 years Mack—missions—Charis--July 2016—cliffhanger

29 The power of story is so valuable. We need to use people of influence to tell how it hits our church

30 planting, leadership training, etc with heads of state having cameo appearances in videos sharing.

31 Answer is “yes, it is the intention of the Fellowship Council that this becomes the expression of our

32 doctrinal position”

33 Next question “what happens if we don’t use CCCI”

34 Are we going to substitute CCCI for Statement of Faith in Constitution or just take Statement of Faith out

35 of Constitution?

36 Churches may ask “does this mean we have to change our Constitution if we have Statement of Faith in

37 ours?”

38 CCCI is in “harmony” with Statement of Faith

39 We can probably coast without changing the Constitution while using CCCI

40 TA --“It is the hope of the Fellowship Council that over the next 2-3 years this becomes the doctrinal

41 statement of the FGBC”

42 Maybe just eventually or in the future (not 2-3 years) “since we are using it, let’s make it our”

43 Separate CCCI become doctrinal statement for FGBC and eventually for individual local churches

44 Mailing—“what does this mean for you and your church?” What it isn’t? What it is? We need a list of

45 those questions. Give practical reasons why they would want to. Benefits to local church. Otherwise

46 might think; “what difference does it mean?” How they can use for community outreach and recruiting

47 leaders (pastors)?

Dave Guiles—*It is the desire of the Fellowship Council that the CCCI serve as the identity statement of the FGBC, and we encourage its use by our member churches, by the AGBM and our national and cooperating organizations.* Toward that end...

(Preamble to 2 previous motions—page 5 line 47 & page 6 line 5)

**1. The Fellowship Council recommends to the conference delegates in July 2016 that the FGBC become a charter member of the Charis Alliance and endorse the Commitments to Common Identity and Mission. The Fellowship Council also recommends that the FGBC accept the benefits and responsibilities of membership and select three delegates to the alliance by August 2016.**

**2. The Fellowship Council recommends to the conference delegates in July 2016 that member churches, cooperating districts, national ministries and cooperating ministries endorse the Charis Commitment to Common Identity and develop resources to use the Charis Commitment to Common Identity document for leadership development.**

[NOTE: Substitute motion below on page 9 line 2]

This is our identity statement and it and the Statement of Faith can coexist.

**STUMP SPEECH: The identity Statement (Charis Commitment to Common Identity) and the Statement of faith are distinct documents in purpose and function however they exist in harmony. The CCCI complements (parallels) the Statement of Faith and as we use it, with time it may replace the Statement of Faith by the delegates at National conference.**

By consensus the Fellowship Council agreed on the following 3 bullet points:

- They Are Distinct documents in purpose and function
- They Exist in harmony and complement each other
- We May decide together as we use it to have the CCCI replace the Statement of Faith eventually

You are in good harmony with FGBC if you follow either document

**A SUBSTITUTE MOTION PREVAILED FOR #2 above. The Fellowship Council recommends that the Charis Commitment to Common Identity (CCCI) be endorsed as the identity statement of the FGBC and be used by our member churches, the AGBM, our national and cooperating organizations and districts to train leaders and to communicate and explain our movement.**

#### STRUCTURES COMMISSION REPORT

**A. Motions in response to CCCI** — (both motions approved on 1/28—see earlier minutes page 5 line 47 & page 6 line 5)

#### **B. Statement regarding Women in Ministry**

1. At the July meeting of the Fellowship Council, we passed the following motion: "...to form a study committee made up by Structures Committee to study Scripture and the needs of the Fellowship to come up with a recommendation regarding 1)whether to pursue some official authorization for professional ministry workers who serve "under authority", 2) whether that could include women and specifically women chaplains, and if so, 3) how to proceed (recommended next steps)"



2. As it considered the Women in Chaplaincy question, the structures commission worked first on a statement of what they believe FGBC churches commonly hold about women in ministry. Below is the finalized version of a recommended statement.

We the Structures Committee recommend the following statement to the Fellowship Council for approval:

#### Women in Ministry

There is an assortment of gender issues in the United States that is pressing the Church to clarify biblical practice and teaching on the issue of women in ministry. Churches and denominations have made many adaptations without regard, it would seem in some cases, to the Scriptures. The FGBC needs to explicate its biblical posture on this matter, hopefully in a manner that is both beneficial to our mission efforts and unifying.

We affirm these to be truths regarding men and women in general:

1. Both are created in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-27).
2. Both are created equal in personhood (Gen. 1:27-28; 2:23; 5:1-2).
3. Both are inter-dependent in life (1 Cor. 11:11-12).
4. Both share the Divine Commissions
  - a) to fill the earth, subdue it, and rule over it (Gen. 1:28), and
  - b) to proclaim the Gospel to all creatures (Matt. 28; Acts 2:18).
5. While sharing a great deal of life activities common to each other, both are given a few distinctions in the home and marriage (Eph. 5:22-33; Col. 3:18-19; 1 Peter 3:1-7), and in the church (1 Tim. 2 and 3).

These affirmations are generally and widely accepted in FGBC circles, but #5 above would have the most diversity of applications when it comes to the role of women in ministry. Therefore we believe that women should be restricted from holding the office of elder, or office of pastor, in the local church (a basic complementarian view), but be encouraged to exercise spiritual gifts and serve the Lord.

REWRITE of above paragraph submitted by Ron Boehm for committee:

These affirmations are generally and widely accepted in FGBC circles, but #5 above would have the most diversity of applications when it comes to the role of women in ministry. We heartily encourage women to exercise their spiritual gifts and serve the Lord. However, we restrict women from holding the office of elder, or office of pastor, in our local churches (a basic complementarian view) according to 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:5-6. We rejoice in the fact that the family of God is comprised of men and women by His design, and we serve Him together for His glory (Romans 11:36; Revelation 4:11).

**[Secretary's note: No vote was taken and the paragraph above was provided at adjournment]**

#### C. Statement Regarding Licensure and Ordination

It has been noted that the FGBC practice of local church licensure and ordination is not contained in FGBC nor AGBM governing documents. A statement is being developed to add to the Manual of Procedure, Article VII, Section Five.

The Structures Committee recommends that a final statement be developed as a cooperative effort with the AGBM Board. Here is a current rough draft version provided for discussion only:

We affirm the biblical teaching that only local churches call/ordain pastors and elders. Local churches are encouraged to seek the help of cooperating districts to examine candidates and make recommendations to the local church whether to license and ordain. Local church licensure and ordination credentials do not have national or district endorsement unless recommended for licensure or ordination by a cooperating district.

#### **D. Statement Regarding 4th Cluster Statements of Identity**

A future Motion will be: to begin repository of 4th Cluster Statements of Identity for FGBC, according to the following plan:

1. The purpose for the 4th cluster is to clarify identity issues that are important to the FGBC, but may not be questions being faced by Grace Brethren in other regions of the world. Each 4<sup>th</sup> cluster statement should answer a legitimate felt need of a significant portion of the churches in the United States.
2. The proper use of the 4<sup>th</sup> cluster is to provide instruction and spiritual leadership in questions that churches are likely to encounter. As such these are decisions of the Fellowship Council, not decisions of conference, and are not tests for membership in the FGBC. If any changes are to be made as to which churches may be members in the FGBC, then conference action must be taken, but that is not the purpose of the 4<sup>th</sup> Cluster.
3. Examples of the kinds of subjects that may be addressed in the 4<sup>th</sup> cluster are: social concerns (summaries of conference resolutions, homosexuality, marriage, abortion), theological detail not included in CCI (intermediate state, eternal punishment, future judgment, Israel), and practical ministry issues (standards for elders, local church government, women in ministry, divorce, involvement in politics, apostles and prophets, charismatic gifts, creation).
4. Each 4th cluster statement will be removed after seven years, or when replaced, whichever is first.
5. Fellowship Council will appoint a committee to research and write statements, process statements recommended by others, and to summarize conference resolutions that may be appropriate for 4th Cluster statements.
6. For successful inclusion in the 4<sup>th</sup> Cluster any statement must be signed by at least 20 FGBC Pastors or Leaders, and then approved by Fellowship Council.
  - These are big picture questions
  - We need a term to refer to 4<sup>th</sup> cluster (common best practices for North America) so it fits with style of clusters 1-3
  - We are not ready to implement 4<sup>th</sup> cluster yet. Probably not until Conference 2017
  - The purpose of the 4<sup>th</sup> cluster is to include cultural issues that are unique to our continent (Africa polygamy, FGBC same-sex marriage, etc.) concise statements that refer to reference materials, and maybe resolutions.

1 A MOTION PREVAILED to task the Structures Committee with the appointment of committee members  
2 and nominees.

3  
4  
5 MEMBERSHIP COMMISSION REPORT: Greg Serafino

6 The Commission presented the following potential member churches:

7 1) Sterling GBC, Sterling, AK; Roger Hall, church planter (through Vision Alaska, 25-30 people in  
8 attendance)

9 2) Breathe Church, Coatesville, PA, Dan O'Deens, pastor with 35 core folks, going live Easter Sunday  
10 2016

11 3) Bow Island Community Bible Church, Alberta, Canada, Oliver Edwards, pastor, (it is an existing  
12 independent church averaging about 40)

13  
14 A MOTION PREVAILED to present the Sterling GBC, Sterling, AK; Roger Hall, church planter, to the  
15 delegates for membership in the FGBC at Conference 2016.

16  
17 A MOTION PREVAILED to present the Breathe Church, Coatesville, PA, Dan O'Deens, pastor, to the  
18 delegates for membership in the FGBC at Conference 2016.

19  
20 A MOTION PREVAILED to present the Bow Island Community Bible Church, Alberta, Canada, Oliver  
21 Edwards, pastor, to the delegates for membership in the FGBC at Conference 2016.

22  
23 New church and new member church forms

24 Definition of church—the web site 5 points don't fit all beginning churches (cf organic—ala Neil Cole)

25 This is not a test for existing churches, but basics. Maybe 5 functions don't need to be on the web?

26 Will bring new precursor statement of what a church is so as not to exclude (Neil Cole, etc situations)

27 Committee will collaborate with Neil about a definition of church. Tom Julien began this dialog 18 years

28 ago so maybe he needs to be included as well. Need to help CMA facilitators to recognize standard

29 metrics. Make sure Cole's leaders feel included. Relationship is key.

30 New questions on form allows committee to be a healing agent if necessary. (church may be split off  
31 existing—want to make sure separation is/was healthily)

32  
33 Unity is imperative to the health of the FGBC family. With this in mind, is there any unhealthy,  
34 unresolved conflict in violation with the spirit of Ephesians 4:29-5:2 between your ministry or  
35 organization **and any other individual, ministry organization, past employer or past partnership**  
36 **that ought to be reconciled? If asked** would any other FGBC individual, local church, district or  
37 cooperating ministry protest or **disclose any unresolved conflict which would hinder your ability**  
38 **to function [erase this: have issue with your inclusion] as a cooperating ministry in the future?** If  
39 so, are you open to working through resolution **in the spirit of Matthew 18:15-20** as part of this  
40 application process?

41  
42 FINANCE COMMISSION REPORT —Richard Todd

43 Just received financial review from CPA (not audit) Tom Avey met with so commission knows details.

44 The commission pointed out that there was a \$5000 net gain for 2015.  
45

A MOTION PREVAILED to accept “the Independent Accountant’s Review Report” for the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, Inc for the fiscal year November 1, 2014 and ending October 31, 2015. The review was performed by Hims & Krull, LLC of Pierceton, Indiana.

Up-coming Conferences

Toronto—Margins theme = Christian culture has been marginalized

Michael Frost—Australia will be keynote speaker. The location is awesome—downtown Toronto    Blue Jays/Mariners game Friday night (block of tickets)

2017 Columbus

Price point

Huge opportunity to get a lot of staff members from large staffs there

We are due for a Midwest location (every 5 or so years)

Launching networking ideas here is key

2018 Denver details still pending

Focus retreats

2016 leveraging, cohorts and relational

2017 nothing to share yet

Future Structures—Bartley

Next 5 years are really crucial (retirements, identity, etc)

Bubble of positive energy and relationship right now, hearing people say the same things

He shared a slide with “Convergence” in the middle and these items attached as spokes around it:

All these things converging: CCCI accepted this summer, rebranding, marketing, restructuring FGBC office, (be in prayer, have to find the right person, have them shadow Tom for a couple years, etc.)

Church Planting/leadership development – Regional Training Centers (\$750,000 question – “What would you do if you had ¾ million dollars?”-- relationship is glue, Grace College/Seminary connections will be gone in just a few years. Jeff Bogue is willing to open up to rest of FGBC using Moody, but with “Deploy” at Grace maybe able to join up with Grace again and restore the relational tie that has been missing.) AGBM licensing and ordination coordination. This can be an action year (Barb Wooler, Ed Lewis—restore TIME like thing/short term missions look-see opportunities)

Bartley’s last slide stated the “bottom line”

“God has led our movement into clarifying our identity. This can now be marketed and combined with new structures that will result in the aggressive formation of new leaders and churches. Movement is happening through widescale collaboration across our fellowship.”

Ongoing—with Clancy, Tom is so crucial, who replaces him will be extremely important

It will be different (may need two or three to fully replace what Tom is doing)

Convergence means exponential growth—Church Planting because we have trained leaders.

Healthier leaders within our churches

What kind of leader(s) do we need. Fellowship Coordinator AND Regional Training Centers w/church planting organizations.

Clancy closed in prayer as we adjourned in time for lunch with about a dozen young pastors/leaders from nearby GBC’s.

- 1
- 2 Respectfully submitted,
- 3
- 4 Gregory M. Howell, recording secretary