

TAKE ADVANTAGE
OF THE EARLYBIRD
RATES. REGISTER
TODAY!

FLINCH CONFERENCE NYC 2015

JULY 23-26

FLINCHCONFERENCE.COM

RISK.
That's the theme
of the FGBC's
Vision Conference
in 2015.

We can talk all
we want. But God's
power is unleashed
when his people
step out in faith.

Prepare to be
challenged to risk
in the city that
embodies it.

WILL YOU
FLINCH?



“ We declare that Jesus Christ, the incarnate Word of God, as revealed in the Bible, the written Word of God, is the only Savior and Lord. This reality, the Word of God both incarnate and written, forms the center of our shared experience of true biblical unity. ”

Family Finances

Budgeting for a strong, growing family.

It takes funds to live as a family – to pay the bills, to travel, to communicate. With a family of churches, it is no different.

Much of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches functions with volunteer leadership. Our national office is made up on one full-time person and a part-time assistant. It provides one-stop shopping for churches who are interested in joining the fellowship, a central point for communication from all our national ministries, coordination of regional and national gatherings, and much more.

It is a vital link between the more than 300 ministries that make up the Grace Brethren family, including churches, districts, national ministries, and co-operating ministries. An annual budget to support the national office is approved by representatives of member churches each year at our Vision Conference.

This budget also supports the work of the fellowship council (board of directors) and the executive director. These funds allow us to come together for encouragement, visioning, and training at our annual Vision Conference or at regional meetings, such as Focus Retreats. The prayer,

cooperation, and gifts of our family of churches has been a blessing felt in 250 cities in the USA and Canada and in more than 35 Grace Brethren networks world-wide.

The financial records of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches are reviewed annually by a certified public accountant. This review is available from the national office by calling (574) 269-1269.

Delegates at the 2014 conference approved a \$1 per attendee increase in the annual fellowship fee that each member church pays. Sixty cents of this is for one year only to allow us to send delegates to the Global Identity Initiative meeting in Southeast Asia this fall as a part of the Charis (Global FGBC) expression of our family of churches. Forty cents will also allow us to better provide for the Executive Director's office in the future. You can see the complete delegates report including a budget at: fgbc.org/files/2014DelegateReports.pdf



Who are “WE”?

The Constitution of the United States states clearly that it is a document for “We the People...” Not “We the States,” or “We the Government” but “WE THE PEOPLE”.

In my 16 years as National Coordinator in the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, I hear people use the word “We.” I have to listen further to understand if they are talking about “We the Churches” or “We the Districts” or “We the Ministries” or “We the FGBC, Inc.”? With global growth and maturity of the Grace Brethren movement, there is a increasing need to talk about the “Global We.” Since the 90’s, we have called this global “we,” Charis.

How would you describe this GLOBAL Grace Brethren movement that we call Charis? We can talk about the 30-plus countries or the 3,500-plus churches or the 750,000

people (this is a guess!), but what is at its core? To use Tom Julien’s identity concepts, what is our GLOBAL stance on Biblical truth, Biblical relationship, and Biblical Mission?

The FGBC is in the middle of a global conversation called the “Identity Initiative.” Leaders in the major regions of our movement (Africa, South America, Europe, North America, and South East Asia) have been working on “The Charis Commitment to Common Identity.” In North America, more than 300 pastors and leaders have been involved in the discussion for two years. It has been a great journey. I want to commend everyone on their excellent work and integrity. I’m proud to be Grace Brethren!

This fall we will send delegates to a Charis Gathering in Southeast Asia. That gathering will produce a Charis Commitment to Common Identity to then be brought

back to each national fellowship of Grace Brethren churches. At conference in 2016 or 2017, delegates from member churches of the FGBC will consider this document for adoption by the FGBC. We (the FGBC) will also need to decide how we will use that identity document. Will it replace the Statement of Faith? Will we “wait and see” if the Charis Commitment to Common Identity is received by member churches (like we did with the current Statement of Faith in the 60’s and 70’s) before changing our Constitution? Or will we use the identity document in some other way?

The Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches is blessed! It has incredible young pastors, great longevity in pastoral ministry, an average church size that is significantly above national averages, ministries in more than 250 towns and cities in North America, and mission works of the past 100+ years that has produced mature world-class lead-

ers who are training others to lead in a similar fashion. Our ministries are outstanding and highly respected inside and outside of our movement. And, we have a legacy of gracious, praying leaders who trained us, released us, and continue to support us.

As a pastor with 36 years of vocational pastoral ministry (47 years total) in the FGBC I am excited. “WE” have a great heritage, a global impact and an exciting future.

God is good!

Tom Avey
FGBC Coordinator

FGBC Statistical Form and Fellowship Fee

Please complete and mail this form as soon as possible but by May 15, 2015 to:

Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches
P.O. Box 384
Winona Lake IN 46590

*Please include a check for your fellowship fee
payable to Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches*

Church Name	Email Address		
Mailing Address	City	State	ZIP
1. Average weekly attendance for 2014			
2. Average weekly Sunday School or small group attendance in 2014			
3. Total conversions recorded in 2014			
4. Total baptisms in 2014			
5. Total membership as of December 31, 2014			

6. Is your church thinking about or actively starting a new church? Yes No

7. If yes, who may we contact for more information about this new church?

Calculation of Fellowship Fee for 2015:

10. Enter the average weekly attendance from line 1	
11. Per person fellowship fee: (\$5.40 before May 15. \$5.60 after May 15)	\$5.40 / \$5.60
12. Multiply line 10 by line 11	
13. Total fellowship fee - line 12 or \$7,000 (whichever is less)	\$
Signature of Person Completing this Report:	
FOR FGBC USE ONLY: Date received: / / Check #: Amount: \$	

Tear Here



FGBC Statistical Form and Fellowship Fee

Please complete all blanks on the statistical form. Please note that the statistics for this report are from the year 2014. Please put 0 for None, NR for No Records kept, NA for Not Applicable. Do not leave any statistical blanks empty.

Please send the original report but be sure to keep a copy for your files. Don't forget to sign the form.

Please include a check for your fellowship fee payable to Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches. If your church is unable to pay the fellowship fee this year, complete the report and include a note of explanation.

Please mail the report as soon as possible but by May 15, 2015 to:

Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches
P.O. Box 384
Winona Lake IN 46590

The Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches is a family of diverse congregations who are committed to Jesus, His Word, His Church, and His Mission. As a family we maintain a national office, send representatives to serve on a national board (the Fellowship Council), provide points of communication and connection, and seek to find new ways to work together in God's kingdom. A fee is asked of each member church to help fund this joint activity. Use the worksheet above to calculate your amount of contribution based on your average weekly worship attendance (all ages).

Questions? Contact Tom Avey at: tomavey@fgbc.org or (574) 269-1269.



Statistical Form & Fellowship Fee Request



The Fellowship of
Grace Brethren Churches

2015