

## **Report to Fellowship Council**

**By Bruce Barlow, BMH Board Member, at the request of the BMH Board**

**December 1, 2012**

I have been asked by the BMH Board to provide the Fellowship Council with an update on our activities since our most recent (July 2012) Fellowship Council meeting.

You will recall that at that FC meeting an ad hoc committee was formed to offer any support and assistance possible to the BMH Board.

Here is a brief review of the timeline and a report summarizing the series of meetings and progress to-date:

- January 2012 at FC
  - Bruce raised the topic of financial sustainability for BMH. He asked the FC to consider a discussion of the future communication needs in the FGBC and to give their input. Bob Fetterhoff deferred the topic until appropriate time could be devoted to it.
- March 2012 – BMH Board Meetings
  - The BMH Board spent considerable time discussing the role of BMH moving forward. The board asked Liz to develop a comprehensive plan to increase ministry effectiveness (especially to those ages 20-40) and decrease spending.
- June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012 – BMH Board Conference Call
  - Liz Gates presented her plan for moving BMH forward. She talked about BMH focusing now on three Cs: Communication, Conversation and Conservation (archival). She proposed a new website and new branding.
- June & July 2012
  - Conversations took place between Bob Fetterhoff and Dan Jackson regarding whether or not there was some duplication of services and any means of being able to merge the communications ministries of BMH and the Fellowship Coordinator's Office.
- July 9, 2012
  - A conference phone call took place to introduce the merger concept and to discuss pros and cons. Participants included Bob Fetterhoff, Dan Jackson, Liz Gates, Bruce Barlow, and Bill Gordon.
- July 27, 2012 – Fellowship Council meeting at Indian Wells, CA
  - Bob oriented the Fellowship Council to the prior conversations.
  - Bruce answered several questions about the financial sustainability of BMH.
  - Bob expressed how important the role of communication is to the future of the FGBC.
  - An ad hoc committee was formed to offer assistance and moral support to BMH. It included Richard Todd, Nathan Bryant, Dan Thornton, and Dan Jackson.
- August 2012
  - A "Transitional Task Force" (TTF) was formed. Its purpose was to expedite the process of making necessary changes BMH needs to make in order to be a viable, sustainable ministry that strengthens the Fellowship. It met several times through the summer and fall.
- August 9, 2012

- The transition team recommended to the full board and the full board approved a motion that we will only approve “balanced” budgets from now on. “Balanced” because we will still be dependent on funding from corporation members or the FGBC to carry-on the existing level of service once the rental lease revenue stream ends (2015).
- August 23, 2012
  - The TTF met with three members of the Fellowship Council to: 1) be part of our discussions, and 2) give specific input on what they see the Fellowship needs in order to survive and thrive into the future, and what part BMH could play in that.
- October 24&25, 2012 – BMH Board Meetings
  - Liz unveiled great work done on our new brand, “Grace Connect,” and the new comprehensive web-site.
  - An operating budget for 2013 was approved. It included several austerity measures. The most dramatic are the personnel cuts and the reduction of new items in the publishing end of our ministry.
  - We have characterized the transitions in broad strokes as:
    - 2012 has been the year of tackling the financial sustainability of our ministry to the FGBC
    - 2013 will be the year of addressing the effectiveness of our communication ministry within the FGBC