

**THE FELLOWSHIP OF GRACE BRETHREN CHURCHES
OFFICE OF THE CHAPLAIN ENDORSING AGENT
6289 W. DONALD DR., GLENDALE, AZ 85310
PH: 623-561-5485, FAX: 623-561-5492**

**THE POLICY OF THE FELLOWSHIP OF GRACE CHURCHES
ON THE MINISTRY ACTIVITY OF OUR CHAPLAINS IN RELATION TO:**

**THE RESCINDING OF THE “DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE ACT” AND “DON’T ASK,
DON’T TELL”**

The Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches (FGBC) believes that the Bible alone (the 66 books of the Old and New Testaments) is our infallible rule of faith and of practice. We believe our calling is to live by and make known its message.

The Bible speaks on marriage. Among the many biblical statements on marriage is this foundational teaching by the Lord Jesus: “At the beginning of creation God ‘made them male and female.’ For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” (Mark 10:6-8)

The FGBC position statement on marriage is this:

We regard the definition of marriage to be deeply and ultimately a religious issue. We affirm that marriage is intended by God to be a life-long covenant between a man and a woman.

We resolve that no clergy, churches or individuals fulfilling their gainful employment who do not accept same-sex marriage should be coerced or punished for expressing their convictions or exercising their freedom of religion on this issue.

(2013 Resolution by the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, approved by delegates at its annual meeting, July 31, 2013)

The Military Service of FGBC-endorsed Chaplains in Light of Our Position

Our chaplains are duly ordained and endorsed for military service by the FGBC. In their military service they stand by the teaching of Genesis 1:27 which establishes the value of humankind as creatures of God, who are therefore due appropriate dignity and respect. Thus, as our chaplains go about their ministries, they see all people as objects of the love of God. They are prepared to minister to all people while at the same time conducting their chaplain responsibilities in accord with the convictions of their own Christian faith. They will lovingly and compassionately relate to those they serve even when conscientiously unable to support their beliefs or condone their behaviors.

Our chaplains claim the right to strongly endorse the protection of the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States and will exercise their right to practice their faith in accordance with the teaching of Scripture.

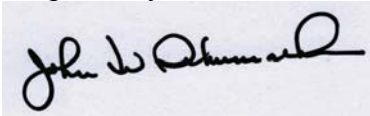
Our chaplains will minister to all persons, including those who have or intend to have relationships we do not recognize as marriage. In such cases they will minister to them as individuals but not as couples. Our chaplains are expected not to participate in any activities that ratify or promote such relationships but be willing to make referrals for these military members to sources that can help them. We acknowledge that the federal government, several state governments and several courts now recognize same-sex unions, thus granting legal privileges that had previously been reserved to heterosexual couples. Our responsibility, however, is to hold to

Biblical standards while acknowledging the changes in the law regarding these issues. As chaplains carry out their assignments and ministries, they will face many unique situations and contexts but always the final arbiter for the chaplain response is the teachings of Scripture.

We fully support the decisions made by our military chaplains as they serve these situations and contexts in keeping with the contours of the position of our denomination on marriage. We caution our endorsed chaplains to be careful about participating in any event where their involvement would be reasonably understood as an endorsement of a same-sex marriage or relationship.

We affirm the integrity and authority given our chaplains by their ordination, our Statement of Faith and the position adopted by our fellowship concerning “definition of marriage” issues to provide ministry to soldiers and their families with the proviso that such ministry agrees with our Statement of Faith and moral commitments as may be expressed in our Resolutions.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John W. Schumacher", is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Dr. John W. Schumacher
CH (COL) USA, Ret.
Chaplain Endorsing Agent
Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches

Donald P. Shoemaker

Dr. Donald P. Shoemaker
Chairman, Social Concerns Committee
Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches

John W. Schumacher served in the U.S. Army for thirty years, including two tours in Viet Nam. He attended and taught at the Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. He has been Endorsing Agent for the FGBC for eighteen years.

Donald P. Shoemaker is Pastor Emeritus of Grace Community Church of Seal Beach, California, which he served for 28 years as senior pastor. He also serves as Senior Chaplain of the Seal Beach Police Department and has chaired the Social Concerns Committee in the FGBC since 1985.

**To The Members Of
The Chaplain Committee and Board of Grace Brethren Investment Foundation
On The
Status of Chaplains and the Activities of the Endorsing Agent
November 2013**

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS:

This report will update the status of our chaplains. It also includes any information I have regarding chaplain prospects and status of chaplain candidates.

ATTACHED:

A new document has been written for our chaplains declaring our position on how they will respond to the new moral climate in the military. I coordinated with Don Shoemaker to complete the document. Don is the Chairman of our Social Concern Committee for the FGBC and he was a tremendous help. It has been sent to the chaplains and a number of other interested people, including the Chaplain Endorsing Agent for the NAE Chaplain Commission, and this policy statement has received, not only approval, but praise as well. The chaplains will make copies and give to their commanders and their senior chaplains. The document has been requested and nearly all faith groups have created their document as well. That document is included on a separate sheet at the end of this report.

VISITS TO CHAPLAINS AND TRAVELS COMPLETED AND ANTICIPATED:

Completed: In June Martha and I traveled to Germany and visited George Youstra at Ramstein AFB. We also visited Charles Pridgen in Weisbaden.

In September we also visited Justin Hayes at Camp Pendelton Marine Base near San Diego.

At National Conference I was able to meet with the chaplains who attended in a brief update session.

Anticipated:

1. Fellowship Council (late January) in Seal Beach, CA
2. BIF Board) November (Columbus, OH)
3. NCMAF (January 2014)
4. National Conference (July, 2014).
5. As a result of the meeting I had with Dr. Katip and Dr. Gill at Grace, I have been invited to return to do a one day seminar to DMin students on the chaplaincy. Martha will accompany me. The date is June 4.
6. Mark Penfold will be promoted to Colonel early December and Martha and I plan to attend his promotion at Fort Jackson.

Chaplains Deployed: (War Zone)

1. Cpt. Richard Hurst, United Arab Emerits
2. Lt. Col. George Youstra, Germany
- 3 CPT Charles Pridgen, Germany
4. .MAJ Carl Phillips, Korea

National Conference 2013:

Thirteen chaplains attended Conference in Atlanta. Along with the Chaplain dinner we also met for

an hour to discuss common issues. Once again the Chaplain dinner turned out to be one of the highlights of the week.. We took time to present some farewell mementos to Dr. Chamberlain on the occasion of his retirement from CEO of BIF: 1) A flag carried in the rucksack of Pete Stone in Afghanistan was placed in a beautiful case with a certificate and presented to him. 2) Also presented was a plaque of the names of all the chaplains on file who have served the Fellowship and who have retired. 3) Finally, a notebook of letters of appreciation from most of the chaplains who now serve and several retired chaplains was presented to him. He later told me that he and Sherlene read all of the letters before retiring for the night. His response to the honors he received from the chaplains was a blessing to observe.

CHAPLAIN ROSTER:

Attached is a chaplain roster with information current as of this report. It is an evolving document and experiences many updates during the year. Having current correct information on all chaplains is nearly impossible but all changes are made when I am informed. I also solicit all chaplains for any changes several times during the year does not appear. Jeff found it necessary to resign his commission and leave military service several months ago. Jeff served honorably and received his honorable discharge.

CHAPLAIN RETIRED ROSTER:

A copy of this roster is also attached to this report. Thankfully, there are no new names this time.

PROMOTION INFORMATION:

Mark Penfold was selected for promotion to Colonel and will have his ceremony at Fort Jackson in early December. His next assignment is unknown at this time. Of note is that Mark was in line to replace me as Endorser. His new retirement date is 2017. If I am able to remain healthy I will be willing to remain as the Endorser until he does retire. Pray the Lord will keep me healthy and of "sound mind." ☺ Larry has agreed to stay on as Associate Endorsing Agent.

David Mvondo and John Arnoldbik will both be considered for promotion in late October and that result will be announced in January. If selected it means change of assignment. David would go to the Advanced Course for Chaplains and no projections have been made at this time for John at this time. He has been considered previously so his chances of being selected, unfortunately, are not strong. If not selected he is committed to transferring to the Reserves.

CHAPLAIN CANDIDATES:

2/Lt JP Prado

USAF Chaplain Candidate is listed here but also under AIR FORCE in the roster since he is a commissioned AF officer. He will be finishing seminary soon and will then be promoted to 1/LT and will be seeking a Reserve assignment

2/Lt Matthew Frost

Matt was selected for the Chaplain Candidate Program last summer. I had the honor and privilege of giving the oath of commissioning to Matt in early September.

Daniel Rosenberg,

Daniel is a student at Grace, has applied for the Chaplain Candidate Program but, as of this time I have no results to report. Matt has been assigned to the 1st Bde of the 104th Tng. Div. for Reserve duty. He will attend Chaplain Basic this summer at Fort Jackson.

POTENTIAL CHAPLAIN CANDIDATES:

Jeremy Pfeister will be considered for commissioning as a 2nd Lieutenant in the chaplain candidate but, as of this meeting, I have no results to report. Jeremy is an enlisted man in the National Guard and has not decided whether or not he should ask for the CC program of just remain enlisted and then apply for active duty when he has finished seminary.

POTENTIAL TRANSFER OF ACTIVE DUTY CHAPLAIN TO GBIF

Recently I was contacted by Chaplain, Captain, Zachary Nash, of the U.S. Air Force, now in Germany but returning this summer. “Zach” is a close friend of George Youstra, speaks very highly of him. Interestingly, and confidential to this report, Zach grew up in a GBC church but was advised by his pastor to not apply to the FGBC for endorsement. I only learned of this recently. I knew nothing of it previously. He is now a member of the Hope GBC and they have accepted his ordination. I am in touch with Tom Avey, who also attends that church, concerning Zach’s ordination. That issue can be and likely should be, discussed in this committee meeting.

CHAPLAIN UPDATES:

ARMY

John Arnoldbik:

There is nothing new about John. He is still assigned to Fort Huachuca and serves his unit with prayer breakfasts, Bible studies and takes part in the Post Chapel ministry. As mentioned above he is being considered for promotion to Major but for the second time. If selected he will be sent to the Chaplain Advanced Course. If not, he will be leaving active service to join a Reserve Unit.

John Jacobsen

John continues his ministry at Fort Leonard Wood, MO. He expects a move in the summer of 2014 and that move will likely be to attend the Advanced Course for Chaplains at Fort Jackson.

Pete Stone:

Pete’s home base is Fort Campbell, KY. Pet returned from Afghanistan back to Fort Campbell. He will have a change of assignment at Campbell in January but will be a classified assignment. Pete was flown back to Campbell during his tour in Afghanistan just to be interviewed for this assignment

Mark Penfold:

Mark was selected for promotion to Colonel in September. His anticipated promotion date will be in early December. His next assignment has not been officially announced as of this date. Martha and I plan to fly to Fort Jackson to attend his promotion ceremony.

James Schaefer:

James remains in the position of Deputy Command Chaplain for Central Command which is headquartered at Shaw AFB, SC. He returned from Kuwait this summer and now operates for the same mission from Shaw AFB. His accomplishments are too many to list here but, while in Kuwait he was involved with both Kuwaiti and Egyptian ranking officers concerning chaplain matters for their countries. He had dialogue with:

- * The Doha, Qatar Director of Interfaith Dialogue
- * Working relationships with the Egyptian Ministry of Awqaf (endowments)
- * Western Perception of Islam Center in Egypt, Jordan and Kuwait.

Bill Graham:

Bill is attending the resident course of Command and General Staff at Fort Leavenworth, KS. He does not yet have a follow on assignment when he graduates in June but it will certainly be at a

higher staff level. Billy and Robin excitedly await the arrival of their first grandchild.

Richard Hurst:

Richard was transferred to Fort Sill, Oklahoma last summer to join a unit deploying to the UAE (United Arab Emirates). He loves what he does and has refurbished an unused warehouse into a chapel for his soldiers. Star is a very vital part of his ministry and much involved in opportunities open for chaplain's wives at Fort Sill

James Murray:

James came on active duty this past May and was assigned to a battalion in Bill Graham's brigade. He too deployed to Afghanistan. It is exciting for me to be a part of this journey going back several years when he first approached me on his potential future as an Army Chaplain. Ashley is also a very involved chaplain's wife and it is refreshing to see such commitment. I hasten to add that all of our chaplain's wives are very devoted to their role in their husband's assignments. James' returned from Afghanistan last spring. He is now assigned to the same unit as Pete Stone and will take that assignment when Pete moves into his new assignment.

Charles Pridgen

Charles was reassigned to Weisbaden, Germany, just prior to Conference last summer. Martha and I had the privilege of visiting him, ADA and family in June. They are well settled and loving that part of Germany.

Scott Shaffer:

No news to report at this time.

NAVY:

Lou Urban

Lou returned to Camp Lejeune Marine base in NC after returning from his deployment last year. He was not selected for promotion to Lt. Commander (Navy equivalent to Major in the other branches). He was expecting that the Navy would drop him because of this. I have not recently heard from Lou but my last communication is that he will likely be retiring this summer.

Justin Hayes:

Justin continues his ministry at Camp Pendelton, CA (just north of San Diego). Just in has been informed that he will be transferred to another unit at Camp Pendelton. He will serve the 7th Engineering Support Battalion. This unit has 1,400 Marines. His history at CP tells me that he will do an outstanding job as their chaplain/pastor. Becca has recently had a thyroid biopsy but, as of this report I have not been formed of the outcome of the biopsy. Elizabeth Schaefer had the same issue several years ago. She was treated and is doing very well.

AIR FORCE:

George Youstra

George has redeployed to Germany where he serves on the US Army Europe Command Chaplain staff. His title indicates that he has responsibility to oversee the religious activities of any air assets in Northern Africa. Martha and I visited the Youstras at Ramstein Air Force Base in June. George is just a phenomenal chaplain and was hand picked for that assignment by the commander of US Air Forces in Germany. His General was reassigned to the position of Supreme Allied Commander of US Forces Europe. George still stays in contact with his General friend.

JP Prado:

Since JP lives here in the Phoenix area I get to see him periodically. As mentioned previously he is

a good friend of Matt Frost. They both attended Arizona Christian University and knew they had a common interest in serving as chaplains and now, with Liberty, he is a near straight A student. He is clearly another man cut out of chaplain cloth. He nears completion of his seminary degree. His future is highlighted in the early part of this report.

What an honor to have the opportunity to over see these heroes. We are known for taking care of our chaplains and referrals are not an uncommon event. We continue to grow.

VETERANS ADMINISTRATION: (See roster for current information.)

Mike Jones (part time)

No changes

Charles Card (contract)

No changes

Jack Galle

Jack has moved to his new VA Chaplain position in PA.

Respectfully Submitted



Dr. JOHN W. SCHUMACHER
CH (COL) USA, Ret.
Chaplain Endorsing Agent, NFGBC

We continue to grow:

Presently we have 15 chaplains serving on active duty or Guard/Reserve. In addition we have two commissioned chaplain candidates. Two others serve in the AF Civil Air Patrol. Three additional men serve as VA/VA contract chaplains. We also have six additional potential chaplains/candidates. The math of these numbers shows 22 men serving in some manner and 6 additional potentials.