

## 1 FELLOWSHIP OF GRACE BRETHREN CHURCHES

2 **Fellowship Council Minutes** The Westin Innisbrook, Tampa, Florida3  
4 ❖ Thursday, July 24, 2003

- 5 ➤ PRESENT: Bob Combs (Moderator 03), Jeff Gill (Past Moderator 02), Tom Avey (Fellowship  
6 Coordinator), Dan Allan (2<sup>nd</sup> Moderator-Elect 05), Jerry Young, Mike Jentes, Keith Shearer, Ron  
7 Boehm, John McIntosh, Ken Bickel, Mark Saunders, Terry Taylor, Ed Waken, Joel Richards, and  
8 Greg Howell (Recording Secretary)  
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- 10 ➤ NOT PRESENT: Ted Kimbauer, Vic Young, Dave Ogden, John Teevan (Moderator-Elect 04)  
11
- 12 ➤ Moderator Bob Combs opened the meeting with some stories of people he has recently had  
13 contact with—Pastor resigned, beautiful young woman—alcohol, emphasizing the theme of the  
14 Conference: BRINGING HOPE TO A WOUNDED WORLD. We all are wounded, our churches  
15 need to be places of hope, not places that contribute to hopelessness. John 4—woman and her  
16 hopelessness, Bob's daughter recommended a book—"Men and how they mistreat women"—  
17 men in the church. Accept them where they are so that we can take them where they need to  
18 go. Sandy Barrett distributed golf shirts to Fellowship Council members in there appropriate  
19 sizes.  
20
- 21 ➤ BOB INVITED EACH TO SHARE ABOUT SOMEONE THAT RECEIVED HOPE:
- 22 ♦ Tom: Lady in church in Hope group, saved a couple of years ago—now reaching out to  
23 others.—Sally
  - 24 ♦ Dan: Chug—hardcore construction guy, I think I'm finally understanding this word (GRACE  
25 on front of church)
  - 26 ♦ Jerry: Ralph Robinson went to be with the Lord this week, daughter-in-law contracted a  
27 hopeless disease some time ago—no hope, but God miraculously intervened, marriage  
28 retreat where marriages were put back together.
  - 29 ♦ Mike: Friend, Josh—couple months after marriage, she called wanted to know how to get an  
30 annulment, patched it for awhile, then got a call again, now put back together, walking with  
31 the Lord. God told him to be an evangelist and recently lead a lady who was part of the  
32 wedding—on the brink of divorce and now glowing with the flush of a new convert
  - 33 ♦ Keith: PA Dutch people able to stuff wounds. 2 years ago, young lady "I don't belong here,  
34 I'm not as good as these people" All kinds of issues, children from a multitude of dads, none  
35 husbands. God saved about yr ago. Preaching on Romans, preaching on "shame" —she just  
36 went through understanding grace this last Sunday.
  - 37 ♦ Ron: Walt Malick—understands he has a choice to hope in the Lord which is an  
38 encouragement to the rest of the family. Elder lead the man who caused the accident to the  
39 Lord, several in the hospital also saved by his direct witnessing
  - 40 ♦ John: Heavy metal member married them a couple years ago. When he left they were  
41 having trouble, leader who admitted to affair since 95, mother who called saying son was  
42 going to commit suicide if he didn't allow him to divorce. Going to match these up with others  
43 who have gone through similar stuff —value of longevity of ministry
  - 44 ♦ Mark: lady 10 yrs cancer, uses every opportunity to share Christ, give hope
  - 45 ♦ Terry: Pompano Beach, Barb witnesses to and kids, kids got divorced dad back to them and  
46 church and Terry married them back to each other. Changed a whole family. Two years her  
47 countenance changed.
  - 48 ♦ Ed: Hess 8 balls of coke a day, blended family of teenagers, leading a house church, abused  
49 by servant lady while growing up in Calif. Rhonda, party woman, came to Christ, husband  
50 refused and rejected, he was caught in middle of affair—divorce/porno/homo—she now has  
51 herpes 1 & 2, broken back through accident falling from ladder, #1 sales with MailWell  
52 envelopes.
  - 53 ♦ Joel: Linda, 1½ blocks from front street mission, often running men off church property.  
54 Lady sitting on front porch—sun worshipper, came to church that Sunday (Joel gone), got  
55 saved—totally changed, street person, drugs, physical appearance. Mentored to get a job.  
56 Friends of hers had to come to church to see if Linda really had gotten saved.

- ◆ Greg: Shawn—called back after 15+ yrs of Rx drug abuse and attention getting to say she has turned back to Christ who is the only true answer.
- ◆ Jeff: Couple known for years, she called heartbroken because husband hooked on porno, she gave Jeff hope because she had been praying for years that his lie would be revealed – as devastating as it is she thought maybe the beginning of confronting and understanding need for healing.
- ◆ Bob: All of our churches are more like Keith's –we have churches full of hurting people who have never learned what "grace" means (Dan). Key to living is knowing the hope. That we would be dispensers of hope. Do we have any pastors here struggling with what they are supposed to do. Do we have any people here who are looking for hope?

➤ Time of PRAYER: For God to use us to help dispense His hope.

➤ 072403-1 Dan Allen told about new church applicant-- Southern Hills—staff member announced when he joined staff that his long range goal was to start a church, about a year old now. 70-80 people there now.

**072403-2 MOTION: That SOUTHERN HILLS COMMUNITY CHURCH, BRUNSWICK, OHIO be recommend to the delegates at this year's Conference for membership in the FGBC. 2/p**

- 072403-3 Membership process—Ron Boehm, wants to do the thing that helps us best. Distributed paper. He highlighted these quotes from his paper:
- ◆ The end result is that we do not have the resolve or the immediate necessity to make a significant change in the way we collect revenues from our churches to fund National operations.
  - ◆ It is hereby recommended that the Fellowship Counsel [sic] direct the Fellowship Coordinator to establish an advisory team for his office for the next five years which will 1) give regular attention to the promotion of the values for being a fellowship of churches and 2) through educational, interactive and networking measures help local leaders encourage membership participation as a way of expressing the Biblical value of love and fellowship. It is also recommended that the Fellowship Counsel [sic] put the matter of changing the basis for our funding plan to rest.
  - ◆ Discussion included: Tom brought this up as a problem, does he need a motion or committee to continue? Functioning committee has been: Ed, Joel, Todd Scoles. John Mc. "we need to do what needs to be done to communicate what it means to be part of the Fellowship—the Fellowship Council needs to be proactive at getting into local churches to promote who we are. We are ministering to a generation that knows not Grace Brethren." Tom: asking the creation of a group to keep massaging this. John: Ought to be on the level of a Cooperating Organization to maintain importance. Recently have seen some renewed emphasis on membership (relationship/identity). Not just for financial reasons. Tom will continue task force.

**072403-4 MOTION: That we keep this discussion about membership and fees and how to promote loyalty alive. 2/p**

- 072403-5 The Heritage Project—Tom called attention to John Teevan's letter to request funds from GBIF for a mural at WLGB. He also desires a committee to be created by/from Fellowship Council (maybe we need a standing committee). We will deal with at meeting at the end of Conference.
- 072403-6 Tom wants to have a special "family time" Sunday night with awards, nat/orgs, worship time, no speaker, Jeff Bogue will emcee and plan to incorporate this into future Conferences.
- ◆ Tom ran through Video presentation that Bob and he will narrate. Stats: 261--churches, 31800 --membership, 43200—attendance. Flat the last couple of years. We can't be in denial. We are declining over past 10 years.

- ◆ Ed: Calming, clarifying, uniting---Laying the foundation for next step in growth. Keith: video whole presentation to distribute to whole fellowship. Leave out stats, replace with Calming, clarifying, uniting—then illustrate with things like FOCUS retreats,
- ◆ Jerry: This is the body that God has given us, now what are we going to do with it. (Not: “we want a bigger one”) Let’s do something fantastic with what we have been given. MacArther: Take care of the people we have and God will give us more. Take care of the things that we have and God will give us more.

- 072403-7 Equipping Conference—should we release AGBM to plan the non-degreed track for the equipping Conference?

Winter meeting date and location—Simi?

NEXT MEETING—Wednesday breakfast 6:30 am

## FELLOWSHIP OF GRACE BRETHREN CHURCHES

**Fellowship Council Minutes** The Westin Innisbrook, Tampa, Florida

### ❖ Wednesday, July 30, 2003

- PRESENT: Bob Combs-04 (Moderator 03), John Teevan-05 (Moderator-Elect 04), Jeff Gill-03 (Past Moderator 02), Tom Avey (Fellowship Coordinator), Dan Allan-06 (2<sup>nd</sup> Moderator-Elect 05), Jerry Young-04, Mike Jentes-06, Keith Shearer-03, John McIntosh-03, Ken Bickel (AGBM President), Mark Saunders-05, Terry Taylor-04, Ed Waken-06, Joel Richards-04, and Greg Howell (Recording Secretary)
- NOT PRESENT: Ted Kirnbauer-05, Vic Young-06, Dave Ogden-05, Ron Boehm-03,
- MEMBERS RETIRING: Jeff Gill (Moderator 02), Keith Shearer, Ron Boehm, John McIntosh

Moderator-Elect John Teevan opened the meeting by asking Tom “what do we have?” and pointing out to Dan how this works.

### OLD BUSINESS

073003-1 We agreed that the AGBM is to plan the non-degreed track for the Equipping Conference. Tim Boal, Larry Orme, Keith Shearer are working on this. Five areas-- core values (teaching, worship, counseling, missions, outreach) very interactive (like FOCUS retreats) Need more “how do I love people” emphasis –most are already well equipped teachers, need to weigh things in that direction. Need to clearly announce where to give input. Jeff commented on receiving 47 surveys, 45 marked very interested. Many marked interested in D. Min. Very encouraged by responses, virtually all indicated that they would be participating. Jeff will have his secretary contact everyone in the Handbook that has not returned a survey.

073003-2 Discussion about Equipping Conferences. There was a question about how DOES the moderator and Fellowship Council interact with an Equipping Conference? Tom: There will be some things, business meeting, worship times, big meeting, but a lot less. Most of the weekly schedule will be set. Evenings may be free. May need to have Sunday marathon corporation meeting. He will suggest to Nat/orgs about having open houses, etc. There are still some elements where the moderator can express himself. Dan sees himself as the flag bearer. Most affect will be at Focus Retreats. This may change the way Moderators function. Question: Is there any feel for how the delegates will react to the lessening influence they will have? Tom: No constitutional change needed, basically a program change not a constitutional change. Need to provide a place for large group interaction, if we are sitting all day in a class room. Classes will be from 8am-4pm, no homework, a lot of evening pockets of time for fellowship. Three-man basketball, volleyball, Grace will have rec center available. Times like Knute just sharing what he has learned with pastors. Questions: What will wives be doing? Beside tracs. Not many classes that women can’t come to. After hours, hanging around the dorms etc., is not probably as appealing to wives. We need to provide ways to challenge women, wives. Need to be careful not to

1 assume that they are all the same, that they will need a variety also. After 3 times (05, 07, 09) we may  
2 put the continuing ed in a different slot. We could also consider going to a 2 year moderator, 2 year  
3 budget, etc. We can continue the Equipping Conferences without taking conference time to do it. No one  
4 came to the question time provided at this conference. We may be too worried about how it will function.  
5 Caring for the needs of women is key. Everyone is going with this. Terrific emphasis for AGBM to help  
6 identify their influence.

7  
8 073003-3 Heritage Committee—John shared his vision and desire. It started as making a place where  
9 we can showcase who, what Grace Brethren are. Like murals (ala Camp Mack) in the new hallway at  
10 WLGB. He got together a committee of nat/orgs. Then they realized the need for an artist and money  
11 to accomplish it. Tom has been concerned about how to retain our history in this electronic age. GBIF  
12 has already promised \$10,000 if we formed the committee. Doesn't have to be at the church, maybe  
13 better at Grace.

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15 **073003-4 MOTION: to authorize leadership team to retain heritage and form a Heritage Committee.**  
16 **2/p**

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18 073003-5 Winter Meeting date and location—John has invited us back to Simi, even though he is going  
19 off the board. Joel has been working on helping us get to Northern California. It would be good to do it at  
20 least once. Sacramento is closest airport to Joel (Modesto). A ministry is starting in San Francisco, may  
21 be too early to visit there. Maybe Simi this year, Nor Cal next year. Joel has connections outside FGBC  
22 also. We will meet after Southern California Focus Retreat: Jan 29, evening —Feb 2. Leadership team  
23 will work with John about providing a tour day.

24  
25 073003-6 Feedback on vision. Presented very well. Nat/orgs and Fellowship Council are on the same  
26 page. Are we going to keep statistics on the Growing, going, leading—no, just rallying points. Makes it  
27 all flexible. Systems to measure don't usually work. When we get to 2010 we will look back and see how  
28 we have grown. Growing is up to God, a prayer, a desire. Consultant once said to John McIntosh, "what  
29 ever is important to us we count." The Ohio district is working on a health of the district measurement.  
30 Tom wants to watch and maybe adapt.

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32 073003-7 2004 SCHEDULE:

33 McClain day disappears (becomes McClain week in 05, 07,& 09) and becomes excursions day for 04.  
34 There are lots of things to do, but over 11/2 hours away. Tom will have the established GBC organize  
35 some of those excursions. There will be less multi tracs, but will be keeping multi-tracs. Bible hour in the  
36 morning, Bible hour in the evening. Brand new Marriott, can be all in one building. Could come back to  
37 Innisbrook in 08 or 2010. 06 in West. Maybe can move multi-tracs to round tables? Question: In 2005  
38 is Winona the only place that Equipping will take place? Tom: Grace is already talking about West Coast  
39 seminary. Maybe offer something in the West simultaneously. If there is interest, Jeff will do it—need 20-  
40 25. John: critical mass is very valuable the first time, so need to offer everything in one place that week.  
41 Jeff is looking to offer classes at other times.

42  
43 073003-8 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

44 Include younger guys at Fellowship Council, (change election, or just invite)

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46 073003-9 FOCUS RETREATS

47 Dan's opportunity both years. Tom's general theme for this year (03-04): confidence, as pastors where  
48 does our confidence lie? Ambassador verses in 2 Cor. God is behind the scenes. Not teaching, but  
49 discovery, sharing. Locations, dates are set. No Alaska one (greenhouse type thing in Oct 17-19?—only  
50 3 churches. Bob did seminars in each church instead, probably more contact than traditional Focus)  
51 Women will be doing own in the West, East will be getting going for a women's Focus soon. Focus dates:  
52 Central Oct. 13-15, East Oct. 27-29, SW Jan 26-28, S Feb. 23-25 NW May 17-19

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54  
55 NEW BUSINESS

56 073003-10 The GATHERING—March 8-10, 2004. John shared the purpose is to draw people together  
57 to determine how we are growing, going, leading. We're at a time where we are at equality, lots of boats.

1 Get together to pray and talk. Have to have boomers ready to pass the baton much sooner than  
2 comfortable. We are on the brink of opportunity, what are we going to do with it. If that sounds vague—  
3 John is glad, no agenda, find out the options and begin to consider how/where God wants us to go. Who  
4 gets to attend? 35-40 people, a bunch of Fellowship Council people, nat/orgs pay for their one staff, and  
5 a couple of board members.

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7 073003-11 Communication: John intends to send a “good Monday morning”, e-mail to everyone on the  
8 list.

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10 073003-12 Thanks to 2003 Conference planners/leaders: Bobbie has done a magnificent job. Tom has  
11 done a tremendous amount of details and program. And Sandy and Charlie are terrific and smiling!  
12 Knute did a tremendous favor, being stuck in Cleveland, allowing John to speak early.

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14 073003-13 Membership brochure still coming—Ed Waken is chairman of membership committee. Will  
15 work to join task-force and Fellowship Council Committee.

16  
17 John closed with prayer at 8AM

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19  
20 NEXT MEETING: Simi GBC, January 29-Feb 2, 2004

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23 Respectfully submitted,

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26 Gregory M. Howell,  
27 Recording Secretary  
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