



From our Executive Directory,
Bartley Sawatsky

Welcome to Vision Conference 2014: Fellow-Shift! - the National Conference of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches!

We have been extremely encouraged by the registrations and "buzz" related to this year's conference. We have a great location, an innovative program, and lots of good progress to talk about. We will celebrate, collaborate, catalyze and commemorate in order to create a culture for movement in the FGBC.

I will serve as Executive Director of the FGBC through our annual conference in 2016. It is my pleasure for serve you and our fellowship!

Attached are business reports for delegates from our partnering churches. I know that we would all rather celebrate than do business but there are a few things we need to care for. See the agenda for our meeting plan. We will keep it brief.

Thanks so much for your help!

Bartley

Reports...

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On separate pages:

- **Ballots**
- **Budget for 2015**

Agenda

Wednesday, July 21 at 8:30 a.m.

- 1) Membership Committee Report and action to seat delegates
- 2) Fellowship Council Elections and Ratifications (paper ballot)
- 3) Ratifications of Treasurer and Secretary and appointments (paper ballot)
- 4) Recommendations of new churches:
 - a) Woodside Church: Ashland, Ohio (Pastor Nathan Wells)
 - b) Living the Word Church: Ashland, Ohio (Pastor Nathan Wells)
 - c) Grupo Amor Cristiano: Dublin, Phil (Pastor Phil Guerena)
- 5) Recommendation of new cooperating ministries:
 - a) Great Commission Bible Institute
 - b) Vision Alaska
 - c) Grace Refuge Outreach Worldwide
 - d) Design Outreach
 - e) Metro Grace
- 6) The 2015 Budget
- 7) Run-off ballots if needed
- 8) Changes to the Constitution
- 9) New Resolutions
- 10) Break for Encompass Corporation Meeting
- 11) Election Results
- 12) Executive Director's Address – Bartley Sawatsky

Statistical Report for 2013

Presented to the 2014 Conference

(includes statistical reports received through July 1, 2014)

of Churches in the FGBC (7/1/12)

reporting statistics

Attendance

Small Group

Recorded Conversions

Baptisms

Total Members

2013	
Avg	Total
	250
199	43,594
73	15,426
13	2,616
10	2,054
117	24,589

2012	2011	2010
251	244	248
200	206	207
43,508	43,281	40,741
15,802	16,717	15,292
2,490	2,675	2,479
2,053	1,699	1,478
23,854	24,744	24,366

Churches added since last report (4)

Movement Church: Hilliard, Ohio

LifeSprings: Twinsburg, Ohio

The Point of Grace Church: Leonardtown, Maryland

Fraternity Family Worship Center: Sunrise, Florida

Churches deleted since last report (5)

Merged Crossroads Community Church - Frankford-, Phila., PA

Closed Neighborhood Church, Tracy, CA

Withdrew Garden City Grace Brethren Church, Roanoke, VA

Closed Grace Point Church, Strongsville, OH

Withdrew Grace Brethren Church, Island Pond, VT

5 yr Numerical Growth (based on a 3% threshold)

Growing	67	35%
Static	11	6%
Declining	113	59%

Churches applying for membership in 2014 (3)

Woodside Church: Ashland, Ohio (Pastor Nathan Wells)

Living the Word Church: Ashland, Ohio (Pastor Nathan Wells)

Grupo Amor Cristiano: Dublin, Phil (Pastor Phil Guerenia)

FGBC MEMBER CHURCH LIST

(as of July 1, 2014)

Listed by: State, City, Church Name, 2013 Avg. Worship Attendance/Membership

AB, Medicine Hat, Grasslands Church: 62/16
 AK, Anchorage, Dimond Grace Fellowship: 29/35
 AK, Eagle River, Eagle River Grace: 155/88
 AK, Kenai, Kenai Grace Brethren Church: 31/17 *
 AK, Soldotna, Peninsula Grace Brethren Church: 129/95
 AZ, Peoria, ValleyLife Grace Brethren Church: 84/60
 BC, Delta, Community of Hope: 75/37
 CA, Alta Loma, Grace Fellowship of Alta Loma: 32/39
 CA, Auburn, Auburn Grace Community Church: 700/325
 CA, Bellflower, Bellflower Brethren Church: 237/163
 CA, Canyon Lake, New Hope Community Church: 120/0
 CA, Cherry Valley, Grace Fellowship: 54/55
 CA, Chico, Chico Grace Brethren: 190/120
 CA, Lakewood, Iglesia Cristiana De la Comunidad: 70/51
 CA, Lancaster, Iglesia Cristiana La Cosecha: *
 CA, Long Beach, Awakening Chapel: *
 CA, Long Beach, Community Grace Brethren Church: 60/64
 CA, Long Beach, Grace Brethren Church of Long Beach: 674/468
 CA, Long Beach, Grace Cambodia Church: *
 CA, Long Beach, Los Altos Grace Brethren Church: 150/104
 CA, Modesto, La Loma Grace Brethren Church: 129/207
 CA, Norwalk, Grace Brethren Church of Norwalk: 110/80
 CA, Orange, Grace Church of Orange: 359/175
 CA, Rialto, Sunrise Mission: *
 CA, Ripon, Ripon Grace Brethren Church: 233/187
 CA, San Diego, Grace Brethren Church: 39/28
 CA, Santa Ana, Maranatha Grace Brethren Church: 35/30
 CA, Seal Beach, Grace Community Church of Seal Beach: 399/338
 CA, Simi Valley, Grace Brethren Church: 420/242
 CA, South Pasadena, Grace Brethren Church of S. Pasadena: 79/48
 CA, Tracy, Tracy Grace Brethren Church: 40/40
 CA, Whittier, Community Grace Brethren Church: 89/43
 CA, Whittier, Grace Brethren Church of Whittier: *
 CA, Yucca Valley, Grace Community Church: 62/20
 CO, Colorado Springs, Grace Brethren Church: 30/35
 CT, Wethersfield, CenterPoint Community Church: 56/21
 DC, Washington, About My Father's Business: 50/50
 FL, Brooksville, Grace Brethren Church: 75/70
 FL, Deerfield, Family Christian Community Center: 25 /24
 FL, Fort Myers, Friendship Community Church: 26/25
 FL, Fort Myers, Grace Brethren Church: 50/28
 FL, Lakeland, Grace Brethren Church: 10/13
 FL, Lauderdale Lakes, Eglise Evangelique de la Paix: *
 FL, Melbourne, Grace Brethren Church - Suntree: 30/25
 FL, Miami, Mispa Missionary Community Church: 45/
 FL, Miramar, El-Elyon Haitian Evangelical Ministry.: *
 FL, Ormond Beach, Grace Community Church: 39/26
 FL, Pinellas Park, Grace Brethren Church of Pinellas Park: 80/83
 FL, Port Richey, Gulfview Grace Brethren Church: 188/147
 FL, Sebring, Grace Church of Sebring: 396/103
 FL, Sunrise, Fraternity Family Worship Center: *
 FL, Tampa, Iglesia Comunal Cristiana: 126/52
 FL, Valrico, Iglesia Comunal La Esperanza: 60/35
 GA, Kennesaw, Grace Church at Town Center: 86/53
 HI, Mililani, Waipio Grace Brethren Church: 120/6
 HI, Waipahu, Grace Fellowship: 295/110
 IA, Cedar Rapids, CR Grace Church: 18/23
 IA, Dallas Center, Dallas Center Grace Brethren Church: 32/30
 IA, Davenport, Grace Brethren Church: 29/26
 IA, Garwin, Carlton Brethren Church: 22/50
 IA, North English, Pleasant Grove Grace Brethren Church: 14/11
 IA, Waterloo, Grace Fellowship Church: 144/135
 IN, Berne, Bethel Brethren Church: 62/99
 IN, Columbia City, Community of Hope Grace Brethren Church: 124/62
 IN, Elkhart, Fuente de Vida Grace Bilingual Church: 78/
 IN, Flora, Grace Brethren Church: 13/22
 IN, Fort Wayne, Grace Brethren Church: *
 IN, Goshen, Grace Community Church: 2253/425
 IN, Howe, Brighton Chapel Brethren Church: 274/33
 IN, Indianapolis, Eagle Creek Grace Brethren Church: 96/50
 IN, Kokomo, Indian Heights Grace Brethren Church: 32/42
 IN, Leesburg, Leesburg Grace Brethren Church: 79/49
 IN, Osceola, Grace Brethren Church: 221/99
 IN, Warsaw, Community Grace Brethren Church: 223/193
 IN, Winona Lake, New Horizon Community Church: *
 IN, Winona Lake, Winona Lake Grace Brethren Church: 808/716
 KS, Portis, Grace Brethren Church of Portis: *
 KS, Wichita, Grace Brethren Church of Wichita: 4/4
 KY, Clayhole, Clayhole Grace Brethren Church: 13/13
 KY, Hyden, Victory Mountain Grace Brethren Chapel: *
 KY, Jackson, Happy Church: 63/32
 MA, Essex, North Shore Bible Church: 75/55
 MD, Accident, Grace Brethren Church: 12/5
 MD, Clinton, Clinton Grace Brethren Church: 323/245
 MD, Easton, Mid-Shore Community Church: 38/35
 MD, Frederick, Grace Community Church: 537/275
 MD, Hagerstown, Calvary Grace Brethren Church: 53/54
 MD, Hagerstown, Cornerstone Community Church: 50 /41
 MD, Hagerstown, Maranatha Brethren Church: 152/132
 MD, Hagerstown, Valley Grace Brethren Church: 275/123
 MD, Lanham, Grace Brethren Church: 78/62
 MD, Leonardtown, The Point of Grace Church: 65/95
 MD, Mechanicsville, Grace Chapel Ministries of Southern MD: 250/174
 MD, Owings, Grace Brethren Church: 522/337
 MD, Waldorf, Grace Brethren Church: 240/325
 MI, Lake Odessa, Grace Brethren Church: 55/50
 MI, Menominee, Menominee Grace Brethren Church: *
 MN, Minneapolis, Twin Cities Church: 150/150
 NC, Durham, Iglesia Cristiana La Cosecha: *
 NC, Maddison, Greensboro Grace Brethren Church: *
 NJ, Hope, Grace Community Church: 30/30
 NM, Albuquerque, Native New Life Church: 10/0
 NM, Taos, Grace Brethren Church of Taos: 25/29
 NY, New York, New Horizon Church of New York: 60/70
 OH, Akron, Ellet Grace Brethren Church: 121/80
 OH, Akron, Grace Church of Greater Akron (all campuses): 4347/615
 OH, Ashland, Eastgate Bible Church: 100/
 OH, Ashland, Eastgate Mansfield: *
 OH, Ashland, Grace Brethren Church: 1144/721
 OH, Ashland, Southview Grace Brethren Church: 183/180
 OH, Blacklick, East Side Grace Brethren Church: 730/368
 OH, Bowling Green, Grace Brethren Church: 80/35
 OH, Brookville, Brookville Grace Brethren Church: 109/85
 OH, Canton, Grace Brethren Church: 166/128
 OH, Centerville, Centerville Grace: 139/
 OH, Clayton, Grace Bible Church: 77/50
 OH, Clayton, Harvest Bible Chapel: *
 OH, Columbus, Capital City Grace Church: 26/na
 OH, Covington, Friendship Grace Brethren Church: 54/64
 OH, Danville, Grace Church: *
 OH, Dayton, Basore Road Grace Brethren Church: 119/103
 OH, Dayton, Calvary Grace Brethren Church of Dayton: 20/12
 OH, Dayton, First Grace Brethren Church: 112/158
 OH, Dayton, North Riverdale Grace Brethren Church: 14/31
 OH, Delaware, Grace Brethren Church: 526/343
 OH, Dublin, Encounter Church: 74/na

OH,Dublin,Northwest Chapel Grace Brethren Church: 456/90
 OH,Edison,Heartland Grace Brethren Church: 41/17
 OH,Fremont,Grace Community Church: 1647/1440
 OH,Greenville,Greenville Grace Brethren Church: 385/177
 OH,Grove City,Grace Chapel: *
 OH,Grove City,Southwest Grace Brethren Church: 63/67
 OH,Hilliard,Movement Church: 106/
 OH,Homerville,Grace Brethren Church of Homerville: 143/181
 OH,Huber Heights,Grace Community Church: 185/153
 OH,Jacksontown,Grace Brethren Church of Jacksontown: *
 OH,Johnstown,White Stone: 25/
 OH,Kettering,Calvary Grace Brethren Church: 34/30
 OH,Lexington,Grace Brethren Church: 100/na
 OH,London,London Grace: 42/16
 OH,Macedonia,Western Reserve Grace Church: 550/200
 OH,Mansfield,Woodville Grace Brethren Church: 185/151
 OH,Marion,Grace Brethren Church: 81/51
 OH,Marysville,Marysville Grace Brethren Church: 814/260
 OH,Maumee,Maumee Valley Church: 70/36
 OH,Middlebranch,Grace Brethren Church: 124/85
 OH,Millersburg,Grace Brethren Church of Millersburg: 42/32
 OH,Minerva,Grace Chapel: 416/182
 OH,Mt. Sterling,Sterling Grace Brethren Church: *
 OH,Mt. Vernon,Grace Community Church: *
 OH,Northwood,Trinity Grace Brethren Church: *
 OH,Pataskala,Pataskala Grace Brethren Church: 143/100
 OH,Pickerington,Grace Fellowship: 1180/200
 OH,Plain City,Darby Grace Brethren Church: 100/52
 OH,Powell,Grace Church: 838/
 OH,Rittman,Grace Brethren Church: 126/101
 OH,Springfield,Soma Community Church: 110/na
 OH,Tipp City,The Bridge: 31/na
 OH,Toledo,Toledo Grace Brethren Church: 29/36
 OH,Twinsburg,LifeSprings: 16/10
 OH,Union City,DayStar Grace Brethren: 30/36
 OH,Upper Arlington,Upper Arlington Grace Brethren Church: 80/65
 OH,West Alexandria,Grace Brethren Community Church: 65/100
 OH,West Milton,Community Grace Brethren Church: 244/221
 OH,Westerville,Grace Polaris Church: 1712/1328
 OH,Wooster,Grace Brethren Church: 1812/1376
 ONT,Milton,The Village Community Church: 121/65
 ONT,Mississauga,Grace Community Church: 248/139
 OR,Beaverton,Walker Road Grace Brethren Church: 40/23
 PA,Altoona,First Grace Brethren Church: 40/17
 PA,Armagh,Valley Grace Brethren Church: 48/52
 PA,Avis,Grace Fellowship: 64/53
 PA,Bethlehem,Lehigh Valley Grace Brethren Church: 117/90
 PA,Blain,Grace Brethren Church of Sherman's Valley: 31/34
 PA,Chambersburg,Grace Brethren Church: 78/44
 PA,Coatesville,Encuentro Latino: /
 PA,Conemaugh,Conemaugh Grace Brethren Church: 35/27
 PA,Coopersburg,Family Life Fellowship: 25/35
 PA,Dillsburg,Hope Grace Brethren Church: 218/131
 PA,Duncansville,Grace Fellowship Church: 300/183
 PA,Elizabethtown,Grace Brethren Church: 129/114
 PA,Ephrata,Ephrata Area Grace Brethren Church: 95/54
 PA,Everett,Community Grace Brethren Church: 198/
 PA,Everett,Everett Grace Brethren Church: 73/59
 PA,Greencastle,Community Grace: 65/45
 PA,Holidaysburg,Vicksburg Grace Brethren Church: 109/96
 PA,Hopewell,Hopewell Grace Brethren Church: 75/59
 PA,Johnstown,Davidsville Community Church: 59/74
 PA,Johnstown,Johnstown Grace Brethren Church: 33/40
 PA,Johnstown,Liberty Grace Brethren Church: 160/41
 PA,Johnstown,Pike Grace Brethren Church: 166/139
 PA,Johnstown,Singer Hill Grace Brethren Church: 123/119
 PA,Kittanning,Grace Brethren Church of W. Kittanning: 91/73
 PA,Lancaster,Grace Church at Willow Valley: 339/165
 PA,Lancaster,Lancaster Grace Brethren Church: 40/37
 PA,Lititz,Grace Church of Lititz: 648/448
 PA,Loganville,Community Cornerstone Church: 27/11
 PA,Manheim,Manheim Grace Brethren Church: 110/79
 PA,Martinsburg,Martinsburg Grace Brethren Church: 425/300
 PA,Meyersdale,Meyersdale Grace Brethren Church: 182/182
 PA,Meyersdale,Summit Mills Grace Brethren Church: 94/99
 PA,Myerstown,New Beginnings Grace Brethren Church: 179/128
 PA,New Holland,Grace Family Church: 142/111
 PA,Palmyra,Grace Brethren Church: 229/72
 PA,Parkesburg,Gateway Grace Community Church: 324/225
 PA,Philadelphia,Crossroads Community Church (all campuses): 131/na
 PA,Philadelphia,Grace Community Bible Church: 55/47
 PA,Pottstown,Still Waters Home Churches & Worship Center: *
 PA,Red Hill,Hope Valley Community Church: *
 PA,Reedsville,Kish Valley Grace Brethren Church: 218/122
 PA,Reinholds,Bread of Life Fellowship Grace Brethren Church: 11/7
 PA,Saxton,Living Hope Grace Brethren Church: 38/NR
 PA,St Thomas,Solid Rock Community Church: 45/28
 PA,Telford,Penn Valley Church Multi-Site Network HQ: 532/325
 PA,Tremont,Echo Valley Grace Brethren Church: 100/55
 PA,Uniontown,Grace Brethren Church: 70/69
 PA,Waynesboro,Grace Brethren Church: 81/76
 PA,Wrightsville,Susquehanna Grace Community Church: 72/37
 PA,York,Grace Brethren Church: 90/88
 SC,Aiken,Grace Church: 280/132
 SC,Anderson,Grace Brethren Church: 26/13
 TN,Johnson City,Fountain of Life Bible Church: 500/500
 TX,Longview,Grace Brethren Church: 50/19
 TX,McAllen,McAllen Grace Brethren Church: 12/9
 VA,Alexandria,Grace Brethren Church: 42/35
 VA,Buena Vista,First Brethren Church: 111/103
 VA,Covington,Grace Brethren Church: 41/47
 VA,Norfolk,Awaken Church: 80/120
 VA,Radford,Fairlawn Grace Brethren Church: 40/86
 VA,Richmond,Community of Grace Church: 100/56
 VA,Riner,Riner Grace Brethren Church: 30/30
 VA,Roanoke,Clearbrook Grace Brethren Church: 28/30
 VA,Roanoke,Ghent Grace Brethren Church: 65/57
 VA,Roanoke,Patterson Memorial Grace Brethren Church: *
 VA,Roanoke,Washington Heights Grace Brethren: 39/20
 VA,Virginia Beach,Grace Community Church: 30/22
 VA,Winchester,Blue Ridge Grace Brethren Church: 88/80
 VA,Winchester,Winchester Grace Brethren Church: 90/na
 WA,Goldendale,Community Grace Brethren Church: 119/59
 WA,Grandview,Iglesia Vida Nueva: *
 WA,Harrah,Harrah Grace Brethren Church: 37/
 WA,Kent,Grace Fellowship of Kent: 42/55
 WA,Mabton,Grace Brethren Church: 82/52
 WA,Mabton,Iglesia De Los Hermanos: *
 WA,Sunnyside,Grace Brethren Church: 170/121
 WA,Toppenish,Grace Brethren Church: 60/40
 WA,Yakima,Iglesia De Los Hermanos en Yakima: *
 WV,Grafton,First Grace Brethren Church: 56/68
 WV,Martinsburg,Rosemont Grace Brethren Church: 52/70
 WV,Parkersburg,Grace Brethren Church: *
 Count = 250
 (* = statistical report and/or fellowship fee not returned in time for this report)

Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches

Statement of Financial Position

31-Oct-13

ASSETS

Cash	\$ 73,712
Accounts Receivable - net of allowance	12,946
GBIF Investment	938
Receivables	5,375
Prepaid Expenses	6,299
Total Current Assets	<u>\$ 99,270</u>

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$ 888
Accrued Payroll Expense	1,236
Deferred Revenue	17,460
Pension Liability, current portion	1,236
Pension Liability, long-term portion	3,660
Escrow Funds	250
Total Current Liabilities	<u>\$ 24,730</u>

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	\$ 74,540
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 99,270</u>

Statement of Activities

Year ending October 31, 2013

UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS

Revenues	
Membership Fees	\$ 161,141
Conference Income	132,781
Eagle Commission	95,077
Contributions	123,645
Focus Retreats	53,642
Other Income	4,634
Decrease in present value of Pension Obligation	12,515
Total Revenue	<u>\$ 583,435</u>
Expenses	
Program Services	
Conference	\$ 174,422
Focus Retreats	81,524
Eagle Commission	90,110
Supporting Services	
Fellowship Council	69,929
General Administration	115,804
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 531,789</u>

Increase (Decrease) in Unrestricted net assets	\$ 51,646
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	<u>22,894</u>
Net Assets at End of Year	<u><u>\$ 74,540</u></u>

Notes:

Payroll expenses are allocated to Conference, Focus Retreat and General Admin exp. Categories.

Reviewed by Himes and Krull, LLC

Report #4

2014 Report of the Social Concerns Committee

The Social Concerns Committee is a creation of the National Conference of the FGBC. It was originally established in 1980 as the “Sanctity of Life Committee”. In 1985 the committee assignment was broadened and the committee was renamed the “Social Concerns Committee” in recognition of the need to address additional issues where biblical teaching and Christian ethics and theology intersect with societal and governmental issues.

The Social Concerns ministry exists to be an interface between the FGBC and our larger culture. Its purpose is not to address issues or doctrinal matters within the fellowship but rather those issues in our contemporary world that either affect the church or are of such a nature that the church must address them.

Religious liberty is one of these issues. The United States has a strong tradition of religious liberty, initially set forth in the Bill of Rights (the First Amendment) and in other documents. Our social activism works in light of this strong tradition. Christians in other nations must work in light of their own cultural and governmental understandings of the roles and rights of religion. Even in Canada, neighbor to the U.S., religion and the state interface differently. In some countries, secularism or religions other than Christianity dominate the culture and suppress Christians. In those circumstances, religious freedom as we know it is an unimagined luxury and faithful believers, with our prayer and helpful support, must struggle and face persecution and even martyrdom.

Indeed, the persecuted church around the world should be one of our greatest “social concerns” and high on the list of our missional priorities.

The Social Concerns Committee intends to be a strong and regular voice of communication to our churches and spiritual leaders and, as needed, to our larger culture and governmental officials. Through resolutions presented to the annual conference, we highly key matters needing exposure and action. We stand ready to assist churches and individuals in the questions and pressures they may face.

Let us all devote ourselves to good Christian citizenship, to a strong and constructive church presence in our communities, to seeking the “shalom” of our communities, and to seeking to “love our neighbor as ourselves” via all the implications of what we call “Christian Social Concerns.”

Respectfully submitted,

Donald P. Shoemaker, Chairman

Committee Members: Mark Abel, Doug Jensen, Mike Jentes, Jesus Muños, Russ Ogden, Richard Schnieders, John Teevan

Continuing Resolutions of the FGBC

SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE

(From 1982 - made a continuing resolution in 1985)

Human life is worthy of respect and protection at all stages from the time of conception. The sanctity of human life is established by creation (Gen. 1:26-27), social protection [Gen. 9:6] and redemption (John 3:16).

(Added in 1996)

We sympathize with the plight of childless married couples who desire offspring, but who are unable to conceive. We oppose, however, new fertilization techniques which do not respect the unique worth of each newly conceived life and which cheapen life by treating it as simply the property of another.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM (From 1987)

We commend the efforts of our governmental leaders, which strive to preserve the free exercise of religion guaranteed in the First Amendment of the Constitution.

We express our strong objection to those efforts in government which would move the state away from "benevolent neutrality" to religion toward a secularistic "anti-religion" attitude, and which would reshape our nation as a secularist state.

We believe the free exercise of religion includes such activities as:

1. Freedom to meet in public places and in private homes for worship, Bible study, prayer, and evangelism, including freedom for our children to have equal access to the use of public school facilities for such purposes.
2. Freedom to operate private schools to instruct our children in the relation of our faith and values to all life.
3. Freedom to determine the qualifications for membership in our churches and schools and to exercise discipline on the basis of these qualifications.
4. Freedom to determine the standards for employees of our churches and schools, and to discharge employees who fail to maintain these standards.
5. Freedom to offer personal and family counseling according to the teachings of the Bible to those who seek it, without being licensed by a state agency, and without fear of reprisal from those who do not agree with the counseling.
6. Freedom to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with others both publicly and privately.
7. Freedom to teach and practice what we believe the Bible teaches about morals, sexuality, personal relationships, private and public conduct, and all other matters that come within the scope of our religious concerns.
8. Freedom to strive to influence public policy from the perspective of our Christian values.

PERSONAL COMMITMENT (From 1988)

We resolve as a national fellowship of churches, as local churches, and as individuals:

To make four personal commitments:

- ❖ To spend quality time with Jesus Christ in the Word and in prayer.
- ❖ To fellowship with and minister to the body of Christ.
- ❖ To present the gospel to our friends, relatives, associates, and neighbors.
- ❖ To live this day as though Christ would return momentarily.

To make four prayer commitments:

- ❖ To pray daily for spiritual revival.
- ❖ To pray daily for five unsaved people. - "Handful for Christ."
- ❖ To pray daily for our pastors, missionaries, and other spiritual leaders.
- ❖ To pray daily for those in authority.

HOMOSEXUALITY (from 2000)

We do not believe that the practice of homosexuality excludes anyone from the fundamental rights and respect that are properly due to all persons because of their inclusion in the human race (as image-bearers of God) or because of their citizenship.

We believe that the practice of same-sex sexual relations is contrary to the pattern of sexuality created by God and directed by his commandments.

We affirm marriage to be a monogamous and heterosexual covenant entered into before God and man. We oppose same-sex marriage and legally constituted "domestic partnership" arrangements that act as substitutes for the marriage covenant.

We oppose all governmental and corporate coercion that requires secular employers and religious organizations to acknowledge "domestic partnerships" in order to be full participants in civic or business affairs. No person or organization should lose rights because they do not support homosexual rights.

We oppose the introduction of "speech codes" or the forbidding of so-called "hate speech." Such restrictions on speech lead to prohibiting, intimidating or discouraging people from expressing their convictions on homosexuality or being able to discuss or debate the issue in a reasonable way. We oppose the use of civil authorities to monitor such "hate speech."

We affirm that it is virtually impossible for those in public education to discuss homosexuality (or other issues of human sexuality) in the absence of some kind of ethical framework. Educators should not presume that their policies and teaching are "value neutral" or "only health issues" and should approach such topics sensitive to and with a reasoned analysis of the ethical and religious issues involved.

Resolutions Proposed to the 2014 Conference of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches (July, 2014)

By the FGBC Social Concerns Committee

1. True Religious Freedom in the United States and Around the World

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is the best controlling principle on religious liberty and is a model to governments everywhere. True religious freedom is realized through a dynamic, generous understanding of the First Amendment's limitations on government. "Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." Freedom to embrace and practice our religious beliefs and values without government coercion is a fundamental American principle and human right.

Health mandates are presently proposed that threaten true religious freedom for many. We resolve that religious organizations (not just "houses of worship" but also schools, medical ministries, social service agencies and other programs) should not be coerced into paying for health care benefits, such as for contraceptives and abortifacients, when this requirement forces these organizations to violate their core beliefs.

Increasingly, student groups organized to be distinctively Christian are subject to discrimination on secular campuses.

Genuine religious freedom is violated in other nations in a variety of alarming ways. Doctors are told they must provide abortion services, religious conversions are forbidden and even punishable by death, freedom to evangelize is curtailed, worshippers are not permitted to worship openly, Christian citizens are not able to speak their convictions freely, and more. Anti-blasphemy laws that on the surface may even seem laudable are really instruments to coerce and curtail religious expression or opposition.

We pray to God and beseech the world's nations (including the United Nations itself) that Article #18 of "The Universal Declaration of Human Rights" (adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948) be upheld by all nations of the world:

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

We do give thanks to God for the level of religious liberty experienced in the United States in spite of all challenges. We urge our federal government to further the cause of liberty at home and around the world in word and in deed through every good avenue available.

2. Same-Sex Marriage and Religious Liberty

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 (Mark 10:5-9).

We resolve that no churches, clergy (whether compensated or serving in a voluntary role as clergy), chaplains, or other individuals fulfilling their gainful employment (whether in the service of the church or in secular vocations) who oppose same-sex marriage should be coerced or punished or treated in any intolerant way whatsoever for expressing their convictions or exercising their freedom of religion on this issue.

3. Prayer, Terrorism and the Persecuted Church

These resolutions come at a time of immense increase in terrorist activity in the Middle East and Africa. Christian communities are among many that are suffering because of terrorism and domestic unrest, including the threat of civil war in Iraq and conflicts in Chad, the Central African Republic and Nigeria.

As our world faces domestic and international terrorism, unjust war and persecution of Christians and people of other faiths, we resolve as churches and as individuals to commit ourselves to regular, specific intercessory prayer for all who are in authority, that we might live peaceable and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness (1 Timothy 1:1-2).

We believe God's ear is especially turned toward his people in times of persecution (Revelation 6:9-11). We also believe that all who suffer in Jesus' name are near to the heart of our Lord (Matthew 25:34-40; Acts 7:54-56). We pray especially for the persecuted church throughout the world and will not forget those who suffer because of the name of Christ.

4. Responsible Government Fiscal Policies

“The borrower is servant to the lender.” (Proverbs 22:7)

We express our concern over the federal government’s high deficit spending over the past several years and call on government at all levels to practice prudent fiscal policies.

It is vital that governments, including our own, avoid a careless attitude toward government debt and inflation if they are to act in harmony with the biblical responsibility to rule with integrity and in harmony with the biblical importance of savings.

We call on our nation’s leaders to lead with responsible integrity and to protect the heritage of our children and the assets of its citizens by acting responsibly with respect to the federal deficit, the federal debt and federal money creation.

5. Immigration

Recognizing that:

- a. All people are made in the Image of God,
- b. Respect for the rule of law is essential in a civil society,
- c. Secure borders are the right and need of every nation,
- d. Israel was frequently reminded by God that she should show mercy to the immigrant because she, too, was once an oppressed and exploited people,
- e. The prophets in Scripture demanded special compassion to the exploited and vulnerable, including the “alien in the land”,
- f. Our nation is populated by people from a multitude of cultures and lands, and
- g. The presence of undocumented immigrants in this country (and in our churches) is a fact and a complex issue not easily resolved,

(1) We therefore call on our churches to give prayer, thought, discussion and action toward addressing the problem of the undocumented immigrant in a God-honoring way.

(2) We recognize the divisive and controversial nature of this debate and we encourage dialogue in the churches that is respectful, open-minded and solution-focused.

(3) We further call on our churches to be the “reconciling presence of Christ” in the midst of a broken system that creates rancor, resentment, racism, selfishness, fear, exploitation, danger and disregard for law.

(4) We call on our society and elected leaders to rise above political posturing and rancor to work toward a solution on immigration that:

- a. Respects the God-given dignity of every person,
- b. Rejects the nativism that ignores the love of God for all and our country’s history of immigration and openness

to the foreigner, as captured in the words enshrined on the Statue of Liberty,

- c. Protects the unity of the immediate family and seeks the best interests of native-born children of undocumented immigrants,
- d. Respects the rule of law,
- e. Holds employers accountable for ensuring the legal status of workers,
- f. Creates secure national borders,
- g. Ensures fairness to taxpayers,
- h. Develops a generous and fair “guest worker” program,
- i. Protects all immigrants from exploitation and violence, and
- j. Establishes a pathway toward legal status and/or citizenship for those who qualify and who wish to become permanent residents or citizens—a pathway that both achieves justice and loves mercy.

We recognize that meaningful solutions to this problem are not easily reached. We also recognize the solutions must come through a determined will to reach them and must not be ignored time after time, year after year.

6. We reaffirm the Continuing Resolutions passed by previous conferences of the FGBC:

- a. Sanctity of Human Life (1982 and 1996)
- b. Religious Freedom (1987)
- c. Personal Commitment (1988)
- d. Homosexuality (2000)

Respectfully submitted,

SOCIAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

Donald Shoemaker, Chair
Mark Abel
Doug Jensen
Mike Jentes
Jesus Muñoz
Russ Ogden
Rich Schnieders
John Teevan

**FELLOWSHIP OF GRACE BRETHREN CHURCHES
RETIREMENT INVESTMENT PLAN
PO BOX 587
WINONA LAKE, IN 46590
574-267-5161**

Retirement Planning Committee

As of **June 30, 2014**, the total combined asset value of the Fellowship Retirement Investment Plan was **\$ 12,228,719.84**. Currently, we have **385** active participants in the plans.

Thirty investment options are available to plan participants. Quarterly, individual reports are sent on a timely basis.

Account information is available on-line via a secure website at www.oneamerica.com. Other enhancements have been made to the new bookkeeping system which is very user friendly. We have met with One America representatives to review our plan and discuss ways to improve our cooperative services.

As of **June 30, 2014**, we sent **1** monthly check to our retiree, Lois Schrock under the "Promise of Honor" program. The monthly need was **\$89.32**. Total current funds on hand as of **June 30, 2014** were **\$2,011.79**.

Respectfully submitted:

Mr. Kenneth A. Seyfert, Chairman
kseyfert@gbif.com

Committee Members:

Mr. Tom Avey
Mr. William Burby
Dr. James L. Custer
Mr. James W. Johnson

Coordinator of Administration:

Mrs. Linda Leonard

Highlights from the January 2014 Fellowship Council meeting.

Location – Seal Beach, California

Overview: Meetings began Wednesday evening the 29th with dinner and a season of prayer. Thursday, January 30th was for reports from our National Ministries and from the Structure commission of the council and a general discussion about the Identity Project. Friday, January 31st included the reports and recommendations from the Membership commission, Finance commission and Executive Director of the FGBC.

Results (includes follow-up actions done by email):

1. The council unanimously passed a motion to officially commend Janet Minnix for her service to Women of Grace, USA and to the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches.
2. They appointed members to the Membership Committee, Parliamentary Procedure Committee and the Nominating Committee.
3. The Fellowship Council passed a motion to balance fellowship council representation according to the new regional definitions as follows: Greg Serafino's term is extended one year (2018), Joe Cosentino's term is shortened one year (2017), appoint Tim Hodge to serve a 4 year term (2018). These changes require ratification by the delegates at conference.
4. They passed a motion to recommend to the delegates at Conference 2014 that the Manual of Procedure, Art VI, Sec Two, 1.b be changed From: "The ministry must be sponsored and controlled by members of FGBC churches. This requirement is satisfied if a majority of the board of directors are members of churches which are members of the FGBC." to "The ministry must be sponsored by at least four FGBC churches or controlled by members of FGBC churches."
5. The council passed a motion to recommend to the delegates at Conference 2014 that the Manual of Procedure, Art VI, Sec Two, 1.d. be changed From - "The ministry must meet a recognized need related to the fulfilling of the Great Commission." To - "The ministry must meet a recognized need related to the Commitment to Common Mission of the FGBC." If approved this will affect the qualifications for a cooperating ministry.
6. They passed motions to recommend to the delegates approval of the following churches as a member churches in the FGBC: Woodside Church: Ashland, Ohio (Pastor Nathan Wells), Living the Word Church: Ashland, Ohio (Pastor Nathan Wells), Grupo Amor Cristiano: Dublin, Phil (Pastor Phil Guerena)
7. Motions were passed to recommend the following cooperating ministries: Grace Commission Bible Institute, Vision Alaska, G.R.O.W., Design Outreach, Metro Grace
8. A motion was passed to collaborate with AGBM about churches that are delinquent with stats and/or fees to help them remain in the FGBC in conjunction with FC annual evaluation to assist member churches.
9. The Fellowship Council accepted financial reports for 2013

Changes to the Constitution and Manual of Procedure

Changes to the FGBC Constitution require a 2/3rds vote and must be presented at a prior meeting of the delegates.

Changes to the Manual of Procedure require a simple majority and can be presented and voted on in the same meeting.

Motions to be presented for action or consideration at the 2014 business meeting are:

Motion to amend the Constitution, Article IV, Section two, item 3: by removing the phrase "(Exception: delegates from churches which receive members without triune immersion may not vote on any matter involving the subject of water baptism in relation to church membership. This limitation does not apply to medical exceptions.)"

Reason: The constitution states "Requirements and responsibilities for membership by the several local churches shall be established by each church and shall not determine the church's membership in the Fellowship."

Therefore according to our constitution, there cannot be a "vote on any matter involving the subject of water baptism in relation to church membership." Amendments to the constitution require a prior reading before action is taken. This motion was presented at the 2013 annual business meeting of the FGBC.

Motion to amend the Manual of Procedure, Article VI, Sec Two, 1.b to be changed From: "The ministry must be sponsored and controlled by members of FGBC churches. This requirement is satisfied if a majority of the board of directors are members of churches which are members of the FGBC." to "The ministry must be sponsored by at least four FGBC churches or controlled by members of FGBC churches."

Reason: Some present and potential cooperating ministries have significant sponsorship through financial support or personal involvement but they do not have internal requirements for control by members of FGBC churches. The intent is to recognize partnerships with ministries that are already helping the FGBC and its churches reach our strategic goals.

Motion to amend the Manual of Procedure, Article VI, Sec Two, 1.d. to be changed From - "The ministry must meet a recognized need related to the fulfilling of the Great Commission." to "The ministry must meet a recognized need related to the Commitment to Common Mission of the FGBC."

Reason: The intent is to recognize partnerships with ministries that are already helping the FGBC and its churches reach our strategic goals. We have formally adopted goal categories in the Commitment to Common Mission (Church Planting, Leadership Development and Integrated Ministries). This change would more clearly describe the purpose of a cooperating ministry.



Charis is a multinational network of Grace Brethren church planters and developers [Canada, 1996], whose values are defined by the pursuit of biblical truth, biblical relationships, and biblical mission [Argentina, 1999]. The delegates of the 2008 International Conference affirm the following **Commitment to Common Mission** and encourage the participation of the Grace Brethren churches worldwide:

Church planting

We affirm that the church is God's plan for this age and commit to mobilize our members and resources to plant new churches because:

- the Spirit of Jesus poured out upon the Church is the Spirit of Mission to the nations (Acts 2:1-42; 13:1-4)
- the Church is a fruitful community in which disciples are made (Acts 2:42-47; Eph 4:11-16)
- the Church calls the lost to be reconciled to Christ through its evangelistic efforts (2 Cor. 5:16-21)
- the Church displays the multifaceted wisdom of God (Eph 3:10-11)
- through the Church God is glorified in Christ Jesus (Eph 3:21)

Therefore, we call upon:

- every local church to reaffirm their God-given mandate to reproduce through a concentrated effort to make disciples and form new churches.
- every National Fellowship or Association of Grace Brethren Churches to designate 2010-2020 as the decade of multiplication in which every church will be mobilized to reproduce itself through planting one or more new churches.

Leadership training

We affirm that a leader is a person who influences others towards the fulfilment of defined objectives and is indispensable to the health and multiplication of the Church. We affirm that leadership training:

- Takes place under the responsibility of the local church
- Seeks the equal development of character, knowledge and skills according to giftedness.
- Is a life-long process involving mentors who share their example, values, convictions and experience
- Protects existing leaders from temptations such as pride, exhaustion, family neglect, immorality, isolation, through accountability and team work.

We call upon the churches:

- To develop culturally sensitive strategies and means to train leaders, creating a comprehensive set of tools to:
 - Proclaim the Gospel (from non-belief to salvation)
 - Teach the fundamentals (from salvation to baptism)
 - Enlist in ministry service (from baptism to service)
 - Train leaders according to gifting (from service to leadership)
 - Empower leaders to train others according to gifting (from leadership to coaching)
 - Encourage a life of wisdom (family & work ethics, etc.)
- To share these resources worldwide with appropriate training how to use them (objective, target, content, time, cost, required skill to teach them...).

Integrated ministries

We affirm that God has created human beings with physical, emotional and spiritual needs and that the Church expresses the compassion of Christ in proclaiming the Gospel while caring for various needs of mankind.

We call upon the Church to bless believers, strengthen churches and reach the lost by showing the works which reflect true faith (Jam 2.26):

- Assisting those in need,
- Promoting economic, family, and personal development,
- Encouraging the development of businesses with a missionary focus (Business As Mission)

We recognize that this is still an investigative avenue for mission. We encourage churches to deepen their theological understanding (cf. Charis paper) and further refine the principles governing holistic ministries.

2014 Fellowship Council Nominee Biographical Data

Region A



Roy Halberg grew up in the Grace Brethren Church in Long Beach, CA and was privileged to serve on the pastoral staff there for nine years before leaving to pastor the Sacramento, CA GBC. Since then, Roy has served on the staff of the Big Valley Grace Community Church in Modesto, CA, the Grace Church of LaVerne, CA, and the Grace Church of Orange, CA. Roy currently serves as pastor for Grace Fellowship Church, Alta Loma, CA. Roy has served as the president of the So CA/AZ district ministerium for the past three years and held that same position in the Nor-Cal district while serving there. Roy has served on district executive council as well as on the district examining boards in both So CA/AZ and Nor-Cal. Roy served on the CE National board for several years in the 1970s and 1980s, including one year as President. Currently Roy is serving out an appointed term on the Fellowship Council. Roy is a graduate of BIOLA University and Grace Graduate School of theology having earned his BA, MA, and D.Min. degrees. Roy and his wife Andrea met at Brethren High School in Long Beach, CA and have been married for 43 years. They have been blessed with two children and five grand children.



Nathan and Kelly have been living in Sunny-side, Washington for the last seventeen years where he pastors the Grace Brethren church there. They have two grown sons and two grandchildren. Nathan graduated from Grace Seminary in 1986 and served as pastor at his home church in Hawaii for ten years before moving to the Pacific Northwest. He has served as district moderator, summer camp director for the Northwest District, and currently serves as the director of the Hispanic Bible Institute and is also a member of the Grace Schools board of Trustees. Besides the pastoral ministry, Nathan has also coached baseball at the Middle School and High School level.

Region B



Kevin earned a Master of Divinity degree from Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary and a Master's degree in counseling from Liberty University. Before becoming a pastor, he enjoyed working in construction, banking, law enforcement, as an emergency medical technician and in dignitary protection. In 1990, Kevin came to Grace as a Youth Pastor/Custodian. In 1993, he became the Lead Pastor. Kevin and his wife, Pam, have three children. Kevin enjoys pointing people to our Savior, spending time with his family, weight lifting, being in the mountains, watching football and traveling both at home and abroad.

Region B (continued)



Doug has been the lead pastor at Liberty Grace in Johnstown, PA for ten years. he Enjoys engaging the community through hunting, fishing, and coaching football. Doug is married to Kaye and they have three children; Allyson, Jonathan, and Madlyn.

Region C



Dennis Fay joined the pastoral staff of Grace Brethren Church in Waldorf, Md in January 2003. His job responsibilities have exponentially increased to include the following: overseeing a 17 acre, multi-building complex, church administration, finance pastor, education pastor, assimilation pastor and overseeing the front door ministries, i.e., ushers, greeters, nursery. He is currently the Executive Pastor of GBC, Waldorf. During the untimely home going of Pastor Jeff Thornley, he was the lead pastor of GBC, Waldorf, MD for approximately 18 months and led the process of finding the current senior pastor. Dennis is the husband of Kathy Fay and has two daughters and two grandsons. His oldest daughter is involved in ministry in New Jersey and is the wife of a family pastor. His youngest daughter is a Bible teacher and the Athletic Director of GCA of Waldorf.



Larry Orme was ordained to the Gospel Ministry in 1984 serving in the inner-city of Chicago before coming to Telford, PA. He is the Executive Pastor of the Penn Valley Church Network and Campus Pastor in Telford. He and his wife, Judi, have four children and six grandchildren. Larry has a passion for leadership development and church planting.



Doug is President of Mid Atlantic District Ministerium. He is a past member of the Fellowship Council, and a gifted pastor.

2015 Budget

		2015 Budget	
		Proposed	
Revenues			
(1)	Membership Fees	\$	199,000
(2)	Identity Initiative fee		10,000
(3)	Conference Income		100,000
(4)	Focus Retreats		35,000
(5)	Donations		68,750
(6)	Brotherhood		25,000
	Other Income		500
Total Revenue		\$	438,250
Expenses			
	Program Services		
(3)	Conference		139,000
(4)	Focus Retreats		60,500
	Supporting Services		
	Fellowship Council and Executive Director		78,700
(6)	New ministry initiative using Brotherhood Contribution		25,000
(2)	Identity Initiative		10,000
	General Administration		124,550
Total Expenses		\$	437,750

Footnotes

- (1) **Fellowship Fee Schedule**
- | | | |
|---|----------|----------|
| Per attender (before May 15) | Proposed | |
| Per attender (after May 15) | \$ | 5.00 |
| Identity Initiative fee (for 2015 only) | \$ | 5.50 |
| Maximum per church | \$ | 0.40 |
| | \$ | 7,000.00 |
- (2) **Identity Initiative**
The estimated cost to send 3 representatives go the final Identity Initiative meeting in Southeast Asia in the fall of 2015
- (3) **National Conference Income and Expenses**
National Conference income and expense amounts will change with the size (attendance) conference. The difference between these amounts is the amount of salaries allocated to conference from office staff salaries .
- (4) **Focus Retreat Income and Expenses**
Focus Retreat income and expense amounts will change with the size (attendance) of the retreat. The difference between these amounts is the allocation of office salaries to focus retreats plus anticipated loss due to financial aid and operation costs.
- (5) **Donations From National Ministries**
National Ministries have voluntarily supported the National office since 199. Additional funds have been given for the establishment of a moderators office since 20
- (6) **Brotherhood Donation**
Brotherhood Mutual provides commercial liability insurance to many of our churches. If we have a low claim-rate in 2014 we will receive a check from Brotherhood in 2015 for a portion of the profit they realize. The amount shown as "Brotherhood Donation" income is not guaranteed nor predictable. This amount and an equal portion of the Fellowship Council and Executive Directors expenses is contingent upon the amount received. Anything above the amount indicated "Brotherhood Contribution" will be held for use in 20
- (6) **Fellowship Council and Executive Directors Office Expenses**
Fellowship Council expenses include the cost of annual meetings of the Fellowship Council and operational and ministry costs for the Moderator's office.
A portion of this amount is contingent upon the Brotherhood Mutual donation.
Proposed changes for 2014/15 for Executive Directors Office Expense:
Increase monthly honorarium to \$1,500
Increase annual compensation to local church to \$16000

Why increase the membership fee by \$1 (per attender)?

The three year Executive Director position has provided:

- more consistent leadership.
- relational strengthening.
- a raised standard for excellence and impact at our annual conference.
- Focus retreats that are seen more as a part of a larger strategy than an isolated event.
- positive connections to younger leaders.
- Also, while not a direct cause and effect, we believe we are on the cusp of a church starting movement in our fellowship. A consistent message is important to this movement.

The proposed budget for 2015 demonstrates the value we place on this roll with an even stronger investment from our churches by...

- increasing the Executive Director honorarium.
 - Bob Fetterhoff, Bartley Sawatsky and Tom Hocking estimate that they spend 15-20 hours per week on the FGBC on average.
 - Since August 1, 2013, Bartley Sawatsky has been away from his church at least 33 days.
 - On average he does a 1 hour Skype meeting each week.
 - We have not increased this honorarium since 2010
- increasing the administrative contribution to the church from \$6,000 to \$16,000
 - Bellflower Brethren, Wooster GBC, and Bartley's church report programmatic strain due to decreased access to their lead pastor. This would allow more resources for that local church to staff for that decreased access.
- increasing the base fellowship fee from \$4.40 to \$5 per attender (based on average weekly attendance). Typical annual increases have been .25.

ALSO

In October of 2015 we will send 3 representative to the global Identity Initiative meeting in Southeast Asia. The estimated cost for 3 representatives to attend is \$10,000. So we are recommending an additional 40 cent increase FOR 2015 ONLY!

SO

If the delegates approve this budget, it would increase member fees by \$1 in 2015 and expenses starting November 1, 2014. 40 cents of this increase would be for one year (2015) only.