

FELLOWSHIP COUNCIL MINUTES

PRESENT: Keith Shearer (M-06), Dan Allan (M-05), Doug Courter (E-07), Tom Hocking (W-09), Robert MacMillan (W-08), Jim Brown (M-08), Dan O'Deens (E-08), Tim Boal (M-07), Larry Edwards (C-07), , Ed Waken (W-06), Mike Jentes (C-06) and Tom Avey (FC), Greg Howell (RSec).

ABSENT: Vic Young (E-6), Mike Lee (E-09), Dan Gregory (C-08), Andy Wirt (C-09) and Nathan Zakahi (W-07).

Keith welcomed us and closed a season of prayer for conference, BNYC, etc.

1) Minutes of January meeting

072806-01: A MOTION Prevailed to approve the mid-year meeting minutes as distributed.

2) New Churches

- a) Brazilian Bible Church (Philadelphia, PA) Paul Alencar, pastor. He and his wife will be at Conference. He is renting the building from Jim Brown in Philadelphia. This is a Portuguese speaking congregation. Keep ears open for Portuguese speaking pastor, even for a couple years.

072806-02: A MOTION Prevailed to recommend to the delegates that Brazilian Bible Church (Philadelphia, PA) be accepted into Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches.

- b) Iglesia Comunal La Esperanza (Dover, FL), Jesus Munoz, pastor.

072806-03: A MOTION Prevailed to recommend to the delegates that Iglesia Comunal La Esperanza (Dover, FL) be received into Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches.

- 3) Budget for 2007 Tom pointed out that the membership fee would increase. This is a general budget that the Fellowship Council will revise in more details in Jan.

072806-03: A MOTION Prevailed to present the 2007 Budget as printed to the delegates for approval.

Discussion

Question: When does the new fee system go into affect?

Answer: Two years. A reading of the change will be read this year treating it as a Constitutional amendment because of the nature of this change and importance of delegates understanding it.

Question: What numbers will churches need to use? Just adults? Or the raw number we use now because it includes babies, kids, etc.? If it is the whole attendance it would be a jump for some churches and probably the Fellowship at large.

Answer: The reading this year should generate a lot of suggestions. The plan is based on "what do you consider your church size to be?" It is an honor system. In reality, our current system is an honor system. We can tweak it every year if necessary since membership fees have to be approved by delegates each year. Our discussion in January was that it would be good to have the year for discussion in Districts and FOCUS, and local churches so all the concerns could be discovered and addressed. It is great to have something to discuss. It might be good to mention that this is an accommodation to Manual of Procedure because of the nature of the change.

4) Ballot

The reason there are four selections for the Eastern representative is because four districts gave names. Only 2 districts in the West offered nominations. The nominating committee is to include names nominated by districts unless the district would be over-represented should their nominee be elected.

5) Equip07 --Tim Boal, Moderator

Tom distributed the promotional catalog. It is first rate! Looks very professional, great course listings and out in plenty of time for year long planning.

6) Celebrate08 --Jim Brown, Moderator

- 1 a) Vision: to do evangelism together as a fellowship. We are seeking a cruise venue to accommodate this
2 vision. We need to have a sense of desperation for people who are lost. Our eschatology makes evangelism
3 more urgent. Since evangelism is more caught than taught, let's model it while we are doing conference. It
4 will be like the BNYC blitzes, teens come back to home churches charged. Statistically 75% of cruise
5 employees are internationals, and the other passengers can't get off the boat (captive audience for week!).
6 We will eat, play, and swim with other passengers plus other venues. And we could have forums like
7 "Moslems about Islam" that we would invite the whole ship to. Jesus did most of His work on water. We
8 could even see church plants from this. Blitzes at port. Acts of kindness. Potential of folks who may have
9 never heard of FGBC wanting to come and be a part of a great movement. We could have a Pentecost
10 happen on this. Note: Gordon-Conwell Seminary ad on back of *Christianity Today* magazine--students
11 required to work on cruise ships. Reminded us of conference at PTL, Heritage USA, when Wayne Hannah
12 announced that a band member needed to be saved and a couple of days later told us that he got saved. "At
13 Goshen, we celebrate people getting saved (whistle, shout, clap, etc.) and act like teens coming back from
14 BNYC."
15
- 16 b) Plans—Theme something like "Get Off the Boat!" FGBC will die if we don't see new conversions. Cost will
17 probably be less per couple than this (Indian Wells) Conference. The dates are still flexible, because cruises
18 don't work 2 yrs out. Most are Thursday to Monday but BNYC gets out on Thursday. We don't want to wait
19 until next week, might need to flip with BNYC.
20
- 21 c) Responses—positive so far, except that GBIM is concerned about what it looks like to missionaries (even
22 though it may be much cheaper). 15 paid participants earns 1 free birth (so maybe churches can bring your
23 missionary for free!). If we can work with indigenous churches some of that goes away. 80-90% workers
24 purported to be Pilipino. It will be to everyone's advantage to get all of our PI missionaries to conference.
25 They would help with Tagalog. DRIVEN leaders are excited enough to talk about that they might even join
26 instead of separate conference that year. A travel agent from Columbus is working with Tom Avey.
27
28

29 7) Equip09

30 In January (at Mid-year meeting) we need to seriously evaluate so can decide if/how to continue beyond 2009.
31 One major concern is that it has been "Way too Anglo", but the team is Anglo. It is time to get new envisioning
32 team (Currently Tim Boal, Dan Allen, and Tom Avey). Tom would like to remain for continuity, but Fellowship
33 Council needs to appoint/select envisioning team at January meeting. We have used the moderators in past
34 because it was new territory. Seems like the Moderator of that year needs to be on it, but we can expand
35 involvement, because we have a working model to tweak now. It was suggest that the Fellowship Council think
36 who we should bring to table, younger, more than three, women's offerings, etc. (TA noted that the one women's
37 track made about \$10,000—and we stumbled upon it.) **This needs to be on AGENDA for January.**
38

39 8) Delegate Meeting Agenda

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41 Tom directed attention to the printed agenda in the packets.
42

43 9) GrowGoLead review vision for 2010
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45 This is the purpose of the "All FGBC Luncheon." It will not be a corporation meeting but a rally for all attenders. Jim
46 Brown (Moderator 08) will be leading, with emphasis on evangelism. Want Fellowship Council representatives to
47 wear t-shirts with new logo at luncheon. Tom urged all to use the evenings for connecting, find somebody and take
48 them out to dinner. Ask twice (are you alright?)—be sure to ask the wife.
49

50 10) Ohio Office
51

52 Tom Avey is working with GBNAM since they are putting an office in Columbus. Tom is going to work in Ohio more
53 often (stay in Ed Jackson's missionary residence). There are good opportunities with lots of people in the area having
54 good knowledge of FGBC. Ohio is one of the largest states and is turning into a political swing state. We need to
55 capitalize on our strengths.
56

- 57 11) Pastoral Connections is becoming a huge time commitment for Tom. After conference he is going to swing
58 through about 4-5 churches to encourage. These are currently without a pastor, which typically is a time when
59 the local church wants FGBC to help. Tom said that this need is hard to handle by himself. Charles Ashman

1 does good work through Paraclete, but some just need a friendly voice with some encouraging direction on the
2 other end of the phone.
3

- 4 12) Fall Structures meeting— Tom wants the Committee to come to Winona Lake for 2 days. Like Membership
5 Committee did last fall to hammer out terms and work on proposals to present to whole. Also, AGBM wants to
6 talk about office. Ed and Mike of the Membership Committee strongly endorsed the value of their meeting. If no
7 objections, Tom will schedule, coordinating with members availability.
8

- 9 13) FGBC Heritage Video—GBIF provided \$10,000 for the project to be available in 2008, which is our 300th
10 anniversary. The purpose is to produce something we can use to define us not just historical, but where we need
11 to be going. Ashland Brethren have a good one that might be a start. Important suggestion--Don't let it be
12 cheesy. John and Kate Ward (Dan Daughtery's daughter) have produced video for DRIVEN. Usability is the key.
13 It might be good to modularize for use in new members class, with DVD chapters. Also, we could make it so local
14 churches could put their own tag at beginning and/or end. Greg Howell volunteered to help Tom Avey. There
15 are a number of other guys who would be good as well (Terry White, Tim Hodge,)
16

- 17 14) DRIVEN07 Mike Jentes: The second one this summer was great. It is a kind of self-announce FGBC young adult
18 conference. DRIVEN leaders talked about getting support from FGBC. Sounds like CE might like to help more?
19 Tim will talk about FGBC getting behind this as part of "us" in his address on "Unity" Saturday. The bigger
20 question as Mike Jentes asked is: "How do we keep encouraging young leaders in Fellowship?" Do we need
21 Fellowship Council representative on DRIVEN steering committee? Robert MacMillan: The traditional church is
22 slowly becoming a dinosaur. Our own kids are leaving and needing parachute. Lot of people in our churches are
23 not comfortable ("that's not the way we've done it" Tracy has planted 3 churches, but all are struggling) We are
24 going to have to do some drastic changing to appeal to upcoming generations. Dan O'Deens: great advocate of
25 Catalyst, DRIVEN, Saddleback's Peace Plan—love to see not another conference, but if we could piggyback
26 (maybe need to create a new dog or at least same location) like to see how to balance things like DRIVEN with
27 other conferences. How many of 140 (DRIVEN) will attend Conference this week? Mike guessed 5. However
28 there were lots more at Equip05. It is best to think about the future in a dualistic sense—Old and new?. National
29 conference still controls where emphasis is. The Fellowship Conference needs to take an active role in who is
30 driving FGBC—nominating committee, etc. We need to work on ways to blend the two (DRIVEN & Celebration).
31 Fellowship Council needs to intentionally hand off the mantle of leadership. Is the FOCUS retreat concept settled
32 this year? Maybe it should be Modern vs Post-modern. Tim Boal—theme for 2006-07 FOCUS is "What is Biblical
33 Community?" Nobody gave or asked permission to start this 3rd (DRIVEN) conference. But this middle ground
34 (between BNYC and "ADULT" Conference) is needed because the traditional church is dying. We need to give
35 permission to the DRIVEN generation to do what they need to do to succeed. "We give you permission to kill us
36 off and do what you have to do to reach the culture." Permission for this part to live and continue. There is now
37 an increasing dualism in evangelicalism—Relational community or Mega-church. We (FGBC) are the in-between
38 which is dying (yard-dog church). MacMillan: Conference needs to do what local churches need to do, release
39 younger leaders to lead. O'Deens: Is this a generational thing or is this an emerging leader thing? Boal: We
40 need to give new leaders permission. We don't want to make the same mistake as the generation above us did
41 by not passing the mantle on in time. We need wisdom from God to know who has the honest desire to lead.
42 MacMillan: suggest structures committee look at way to incrementally pass on the mantle. Does anyone know
43 if this is fad or reality? Boal: hear that traditional church is not working from pastors/leaders inside and out of
44 FGBC saying the same thing. Why is it that people are gone during formative adult years and don't come back
45 until 2nd divorce, or other crisis? Note that church really has 3-4 different crowds. Average faithful person is
46 present 3 out of 8 Sundays. Need to applauded and encourage creative stuff. People who want to get involved in
47 church finally, what will they look for? DRIVEN how do they connect? Always through relationships—almost
48 collective mindset, cf MySpace, go to Mall together, phenomenal networks. They will find a connection when they
49 need it. Yahoo—Love is the "Killer App", Need to connect using modern technology. Unsaved still have
50 memory of old model, and will look for open church building, call and ask what time services are. But also many
51 are using iPod, grouping at home, rather than at church, looking to learn conveniently. Ed Waken: this seems to
52 be pivotal discussion today. Keep talking like this. Love to invite DRIVEN here to consult. Important to endorse
53 and partner with them. Educate conference that we have to give up something to reach the future. Worth it if
54 Jesus is going to tarry another generation. Let's get uncomfortable. MacMillan: I still get root canals, when I need
55 them even though they are not comfortable, I do what is necessary. Larry Edwards: we are working on a diverse
56 format on Sunday nights to reach this generation—post-high. We noticed two groups leaving 20's and 55's.
57 Good to acknowledge that it is not comfortable, but we have always been a progressive group. We love the
58 movement or wouldn't be part of us. Jentes: Like to hear that FGBC is going on a cruise and on mission—and
59 "we're (20-somethings) in." DRIVEN no one under 19 (except child care) 19-23's main ages, but Fellowship

Council members like Jentes (old geezers) also enjoyed. CE National and Jentes created DRIVEN because it was the missing group (BNYC or North of 55). Need a motion to have Tim Boal announce that Fellowship Council endorses DRIVEN conference.

072806-04: A MOTION Prevailed to endorse and support the DRIVEN conference.

This does not put lid on them. Instead they can grow as they ought to (maybe 5 regional DRIVEN conferences?) Will our endorsement be taken negatively? NO. And it is great that they want to be connected. They don't have to report to Fellowship Council or have a representative on their board. Francis Chan gave BNYC permission to be rebels (on the right rebel road)—after all we are “progressives.” MacMillan: something tangible has to start the transition in the next couple of years or there will be a great loss of resources. It will be great to encourage DRIVEN to be part of the '08 cruise. This whole alternating conference idea started with John Teevan. He had great vision (took 10 years to see it start!) Older folks will balk when conference caters to DRIVEN crowd, but then they ought to morph into the North of 55 conferences. Fellowship Council needs to endorse all conferences (“We have something for everyone”).

O'Deens: how does Robert's Rules, Constitution (grey haired stuff) etc., work with young leaders?

Jentes: considers himself bridge (bi-lingual) between old and young leaders. We need more “bi-linguals”.

15) Business Session Question-- Keith Shearer: the Manual of Procedure change is in the packet. Do committee members want to present it or just be available for questions after Keith presents? Jentes: worked on all of them and willing to do what the moderator wants. Mike will present and Keith will steer discussion and vote. Last MoP change is on the ballot.

When we meet in January before FOCUS, Tom Avey looking for place to retreat together so we have down time together rather than in host homes. He thinks this will work better for building relationships among Fellowship Council members. It will be really good to have young leaders also invited. Okay for TA (leadership) to invite? Guys like Cary, Jeff Ramsey, let them get to know each other also.

New Heritage Video might be a really good way to connect. Where the FGBC came from and that it is going in the same direction as DRIVEN. Way to get people talking about what was most exciting time in church and connect back to theological, biblical foundation. (not just “good old days”—or worse “bad old problems”—but how roots and events connect with what Bible teaches we should be as a church.)

Mike showed DRIVEN video. Closed in prayer.

We said good bye to Ed Waken and Dan Allan since it was their last meeting.

Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory M. Howell,
Recording Secretary