

## **FELLOWSHIP COUNCIL MINUTES**

January 28-30, 2010

Simi Valley GBC, Simi Valley, CA

### **Thursday, January 28, 2010**

**PRESENT:** Mike Sciarra (W-14), Dan Jackson (E-14), Doug Courter (E-13), Bruce Barlow (C-14), Dan Thornton (W-13), Phil Sparling (W-10), Ron Smals (C-10), John McIntosh (Mod-09), Phil Helfer, (W-11), Nathan Bryant (C-13), Larry Humberd (E-10), Chris Ball (W-12), Robert Wagner (E-12), Doug Black (E-11), Brian [Skip] White (C-11), Tom Hocking (Mod-10/11), Tom Avey (Fellowship Coordinator), Greg Howell (Recording Secretary).

**ABSENT:** Jonathan Carey (C-12)

**GUESTS:** Jeff Bogue (Moderator candidate) & Ryan Rodeman (Jeff's Associate); National Leaders: Dr. Larry Chamberlain (Chaplaincy/Eagle Commission), Liz Cutler (BMH), Ken Seyfert (GBIF), Dr. Ron Manahan (Grace Schools), Dave Guiles (GBIM), Dr. Tim Boal (GO2 Church Planting), Ed Lewis (CE National), Janet Minnix (Women of Grace), Joel Richards (AGBM).

Moderator Tom Hocking led in devotions from Col 1:13ff. God is doing something. This meeting is going to be different with some major changes coming. Colossians 1:13 talks about a 'mystery'. How are we going to respond together about this greater mystery that has already been revealed. Pray back this passage to God. Run these scriptures through your heart. Remember it is not about the FGBC, but about Jesus.

Tom gave a summary of where we have been.

1. We approved idea of a Multi-year moderator term.
2. The "Commitment to Common Mission" came out of Charis08.
3. This document has been endorsed by our national ministries.
4. The "Springs of Life" initiative, developed by National Ministry leaders is a tool for an individual to be "on mission."

We need to emphasize the Commitment to Common Mission as best way to fulfill Great Commission through partnering and in context. The "Springs of Life" initiative was also significant in that our national ministries produced it together.

Tom asked the council to pray in 2's.

Since our Winter 2009 meeting, we have narrowed search for moderator to Jeff Bogue.

Tom Hocking introduced Jeff Bogue, Sr Pastor of Greater Akron GBC, who gave his observations after introducing Ryan Rodeman, his associate pastor of spiritual formation.

Jeff shared his personal history: He has worked In FGBC for 16 yrs starting as youth pastor. He has had strong involvement with CE National and Momentum Youth Conference. Jeff is now the senior pastor at Grace Church of Greater Akron (both campuses) having taken over for Bob Combs at his retirement.

### **Jeff's observations of the health of the FGBC**

#### **STRENGTHS**

- Commitment to Biblical accuracy, culturally relevant,
- We are small enough to bring about realistic changes (260 churches, all tend to know each other. We are all a phone call away)
- We are big enough to have an effect on the world—very rich heritage outside of USA, rich history
- We have a history of change.
- We have great national ministries (Momentum, GBIM, Grace, etc) for our size
- We have access to great ideas (GO2, Vision Ohio)
- We have a brotherhood. We are oddly loyal to each other. We get on each other's nerves, but rush to each other's defense.
- This is a defining moment, we need to change and have good reasons to change. Attainable changes. Need to trust each other's heart, and be able to put comfort aside.

Jeff met with many of the National Ministry leaders and gave his analysis of FGBC to them in December. We need to face the facts:

#### WEAKNESSES:

- We are just maintaining. Our statistics have been flat for 10 years. Several churches have exploded, but many have declined or closed. .
- 33% of our people attend the largest 10 churches
- 39% of conversions come from 6 of these 10 churches.
- Many churches see no conversions.
- Our largest church (Raleigh/Cary) has withdrawn from FGBC—not because they have a problem. They were great advertisement for us. Very Grace Brethren, but took 10% (4,000) from us.
- This departure is either a wake-up-call or a domino effect.
- Many keep asking what is the benefit & drawbacks of being part of FGBC? FGBC is in a very tipping point right now (if 1/3 attend 10 church).
- 25% of our churches are growing, 75% are plateauing or declining.
- Our congregations are aging and our base of pastors is aging. The next 10 years will be critical. We have not developed a base of young pastors to take over when our older pastors retire. Younger pastors are bringing in their non-GB connections. This will compound our difficulties. As we decline this will affect more and more. According to national statistics, 90% leave church after High School and the average church has 2 college students. This will result in less support for Grace, GBIM, etc. We are not raising our own pastors, missionaries. We don't have strong supplemental programs to train these people. We can't get pastors from Grace if we don't send them the raw material. There is a growing disconnect between the FGBC and growing churches.
- There is a nagging question: "Why am I a part of the FGBC?" How do we honestly answer this question? Common answers: Unified? Really! Only when you need me. I seek training outside FGBC, many have no roots in FGBC. Districts are as a large part non-existent or the wrong people are at the district meetings.

Open Discussion...

Catalyst for Cary's departure: When they absorbed another campus the FGBC Statement of Faith would have kept them from merging and growing.

One of the benefits of being part of the FGBC is access to funding for capital projects through Grace Brethren Investment Foundation. Without this option churches may not be able to secure local funding, especially now.

Conversion growth is what we are promoting. However Cary left because they could not come to terms with the difference of our distinctives. It is inevitable that larger churches will sometimes leave.

How did loyalty die off in Mike but is still alive in you (Jeff)? Mike was flashpoint of a lot of criticism and he was isolated from FGBC centers. What didn't we do? How do we celebrate?

What is the root of some of us liking to take potshots at each other? (Ungodliness? It is not in scripture to talk about a brother over a blog.) Devotion to God's Word may have caused us to take a defensive mode (about everything). We can be so independent that we don't like someone leading us.

Many FGBC pastors would not die for trine immersion and three-fold communion. We are protecting our distinctives. Akron is still closed membership (requiring trine immersion). We need to train people how to deal with criticism and cynicism.

How could we restructure our culture to better celebrate truth, mission, relationship?

### **Jeff's proposed path.**

We have a vision problem, not unity or financial problem. Rx will be to help determine and communicate vision.

What we lack the most is a consistent vision and consistent way to enact. We need a clear call to vision and not alter from it.

Step one: We need an Enduring Vision leadership team (using the leaders of the 25% growing churches) our weakness is that we all come to the table as equals, but causes us to play to the lowest common denominator. If you don't let your leaders lead, they will leave (or at least disengage). Identify leaders and let them lead. Do not dismantle anything about the current programs that support the 70% of our churches that are not seeing numerical growth.

Continued consistent leadership is great but the moderator needs to be re-elected and re-elected again. It will take 10 years to affect a paradigm change. We should rename the position to something more descriptive of vision.

We should define direction as opposed to seeking group consensus. God's work is not a democracy. We should not all come to the table as equals in terms of leadership impact.

The primary goal of FGBC should be church planting and church expansion. We have some things going. Many independent churches would partner with our fellowship if we put baptism and communion in proper priority. We should teach each other how to expand (venues, campuses, etc.) Leadership needs to be exercised and must set the agenda. We need to identify, develop and embrace our young leaders. We need to take a look at our second men. Growing churches are being led by previous youth pastors. They need to be engaged and developed for the long-term. They need internal training including but not exclusively my Grace Schools. For example, local church, regional training, and the internet. We can't be looking to single resources for training. We must have a greater networking outside the FGBC, partnering and drawing from one another. We need to revamp the Statement of Faith. Some have talked of a multi-tiered: universal doctrine (non-negotiable, evangelicals would take a bullet); distinctive; the cultural issues we should address. We should re-work our national documents so it steers us rather than protects us. In the process of joining the FGBC, can there be levels of association? Can we be a coalition of churches allowing networking? Some propose we change the name of FGBC. Is there a name that better describes who we are today

We should consider the development of GoNet Could be the home of the enduring leadership community. Features include: Pastors/Churches make a 2-3 yr commitment; those desiring to participate have to apply; there is defined set of outcomes (church planting, church expansion); not a group where you would learn a model; but would be a round table.

Jeff is looking for influential leaders in the FGBC that will sign on to the Path Forward.

### **A Path Forward**

We, as leaders and fellow-journeymen within the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches of North America, agree that thorough evaluation and dynamic action are necessary to build a vibrant, biblical and God-honoring path forward.

We, therefore, affirm the following principles and direction so that the FGBC, working with *Christ-following believers and ministries* ~~the larger evangelical community~~, might make more and better disciples of Jesus Christ—thus fulfilling the Great Commission to the glory of God!

1. We agree there is a great need for a recognized enduring leadership community within the FGBC. This community must be entrusted with the development—and long-term implementation—of a consistent and clear vision.

2. We agree this vision must be built around the biblical goal of making disciples by meeting physical, emotional, and spiritual needs, planting churches, and developing leaders.

3. We agree that to accomplish this goal the FGBC must aggressively seek out and nurture relationships among *like-minded believers and ministries*.

4. In *our pursuit of biblical truth, biblical relationship, and biblical mission* we agree to evaluate and ~~retool~~ *renew* our statement of faith, national constitution and the process of joining the FGBC movement\*. We also agree to reevaluate any other items—such as the title, “Moderator,” and the name of our movement, “The Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches”—*to allow for clear, culturally relevant, communication of our beliefs and mission*.

5. We agree to make a concerted effort to identify and train young leaders within our ranks. This training must provide a consistent and clear pathway of ministry and leadership development. We further agree these pathways of training do not need to be centralized, but will need to be endorsed by the enduring leadership community.

Note: the “Path Forward” was modified based on feedback from the Fellowship Council and the working version is slightly different.

More Discussion...

Our growth is flat right now. If we don’t make some changes now, we may not even still be flat.

Dave Guiles expressed gratitude at being invited to consider moderator. He had strong personal and organization reasons for declining. He spurred us on to realize that our autonomy is against us and that all will have to give something for this to work.

Ed Lewis mentioned all of heroes and strong leaders that he knew at the beginning of his ministry. We need to keep developing leaders. Love the balance and uniqueness of FGBC that is biblically balanced and culturally relevant.

Movements rise and fall on passionate leadership.

We will sleep on and respond tomorrow.

### **Friday, January 29, 2010**

John McIntosh lead devotions from 2 Cor 6: "Love of Christ constrains me" or "compels me." John remembers Sunnyside GB and Clear Lake Camp with Rev. Beary describing Barabas running through the streets screaming "he died for me." John has four generations in his home. He is consumed by Carolyn's love for him—overwhelming. In ministry, I'm controlled by the love of Christ. The dying man is consumed by the thought of meeting the Lord and is afraid he didn't love Christ enough. A friend once said, "You've got it wrong. It's not our love for Christ, but the measure of Christ's love for us." John's prayer is that in ministry, when he is gone that they will remember that I was motivated by love for them. Remember that Christ loves us should motivate, compel us to love and serve.

Tom Hocking reviewed the status of our discussion:

- We need to nominate a moderator to follow Tom Hocking

A straw vote was conducted and the council agreed with Jeff's assessment in general. Many wanted more discussion on the details.

### **STRUCTURES COMMISSION REPORT**

1. The Structures commission met and talked about the moderator name change there was strong support for the name "Executive Director."
2. About the Fellowship name change... discussion revealed more apathy towards the idea but was not necessarily opposed
3. About changing the constitution: the discussion centered around making changes now or later. It all depends on the goal. To engage the discussion now might distract from our goals.

<b>MOTION to ACCEPT STRUCTURES COMMITTEE REPORT : passed</b>
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Open Discussion...

We should engage a discussion this summer to open up doctrinal tent a bit more. Who determines the group that works on this?

There would likely be plenty of volunteers however they may not necessarily be the best.

Possible time frame: 1<sup>st</sup> draft by conf, discussion at FOCUS.

Need to present positive reasons for changing.

Tom Hocking reviewed the constitution prior to this meeting. We need to update apart from Jeff's ideas. The simple point is there are some problems with our constitution.

Our web site should promote vision not defensiveness. If we rework the Statement of Faith we could put vision forward (with links to doctrinal and historical background), and also promote evangelism and embrace missional believers,

We should add statements of Biblical relationships and Biblical mission not just doctrine as the Statement of Faith is now.

Possibly three sections: Essentials, Beliefs, Practices.

Possible sections: "We practice [this] but we accept [this].

Give biblical evidence for other views.

We should establish committee(s) three priorities—Essentials of Gospel over Practices & Procedures, Common mission over extinction, Church of Jesus over our Fellowship. Church, Mission, Gospel... let's make our documents say that.

Liz suggested that we talk to groups that have made name changes—Terry White has gone thru this with another denomination.

Jeff—we need to be willing to lay anything on the altar. Are we serious about being healthy enough to put everything on the table, even if we don't change the name, we need to examine everything.

Larry H - Include in your thoughts and communication; focusing on the integrity of Scripture as part of reason we are making changes. If we let the Statement of Faith supersede everything else then we are creedal (ie: if Bible is not on top).

The Path Forward suggests that retooling the State of Faith will allow others to embrace and join us

Jeff—Let the associations come another way. If we retool what's right for us, the other associations will be attracted. Push hard to do what it takes to turn us around and when we advertise what we are for rather than what we are against the doors will be open. We need to communicate with our culture correctly. For example should we communicate defensively and protectively or with biblical truth, relationship and mission.

Note: as a result of this and subsequent discussion (email exchanges) "a Path Forward" was changed to:

### **A Path Forward** (revised)

We, as leaders and fellow-journeymen within the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches of North America, agree that thorough evaluation and dynamic action are necessary to build a vibrant, biblical and God-honoring path forward.

We, therefore, affirm the following principles and direction so that the FGBC, working with Christ-following believers and ministries, might make more and better disciples of Jesus Christ—thus fulfilling the Great Commission to the glory of God!

1. We agree there is a great need for a recognized enduring leadership community within the FGBC. This community must be entrusted with the development—and long-term implementation—of a consistent and clear vision.

2. We agree this vision must be built around the biblical goal of making disciples by meeting spiritual, emotional, and physical needs, planting, expanding and reviving churches and developing leaders.

3. We agree that to accomplish this goal the FGBC must aggressively seek out and nurture relationships among like-minded believers and ministries.

4. In our continued pursuit of biblical truth, biblical relationship, and biblical mission we agree to evaluate and renew our statement of faith, national constitution and the process of joining the FGBC movement. We also agree to reevaluate any other items to allow for clear and culturally relevant understanding and communication of our beliefs and mission.

5. We agree to make a concerted effort to identify and train young leaders within our ranks. This training must provide a consistent and clear pathway of ministry and leadership development. We further agree these pathways of training do not need to be centralized, but will need to be endorsed by the enduring leadership community.

MOTION passed to adopt path forward with Jeff & Larry's changes which will be approved via email.

MOTION passed to nominate Jeff as moderator.

MOTION passed to appoint Larry Chamberlain, Tom Avey, Liz Gates, Dan Thornton and Greg Howell to a Constitutional revision committee

MOTION passed to appoint Doug Courter, Mike Sciarra and Phil Sparling to a Statement of Faith Revision committee.

MOTION passed to appoint Dan Jackson and Ron Smals to a Statement of Mission committee.

MOTION passed to appoint Joel Richards, Bruce Barlow, Skip White to a Statement of Relationship committee.

MOTION passed to ask Nathan Bryant, Doug Black, and Liz Gates to work on communication and process for the proposed changes and new documents.

#### FINANCE COMMISSION REPORT: Doug Black

Funding plan for decade of multiplication 180,000 over 3 years (60/yr)

##### Phase 1

- A. GBIF gives \$20,000 annually for 3 years = \$60,000
- B. Each GB churches give a one-time gift of \$500 = \$130,000
- D Any extra \$ at end of 3yrs be restricted to decade of mult

##### Phase 2

Continue to solicit gifts from churches and individuals.

MOTION passed to approve this funding plan.

MOTION passed that Cooperating and National ministries also be invited to contribute to Phase 1.

Tom Hocking asked national leaders that were present to respond to “a Path Forward” and to share updates from their ministry.

GRACE BRETHREN INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS REPORT: Dave Guiles

The new prayer guide for GBIM emphasizes “what you do **through** the missionary” not for the missionary. GBIM is encouraging each church to take a global prayer walk during February and March (can sign up on the web). There were meetings in Dallas called the Lausanne Conference (in 1974) after the World Council of Churches in 1968 declared a moratorium on world missions. This resulted in the Lausanne covenant which many groups have adopted as a statement of faith. Lausanne emphasized people-groups instead of nations. In 1989 Lausanne2 was about “Proclaim Christ Until He Comes.” A prominent place was given to: 3<sup>rd</sup> world leaders, the gospel for whole person (evangelicals have forfeited social needs to emphasize gospel, 2/3<sup>rd</sup> nations sought to reclaim the gospel for the whole person). Lausanne3 will be in Cape Town and Dave has been invited to attend. One out of 400 North American evangelicals are invited as a part of 4000 who will attend globally.

How will GBIM interact with path forward? We need to think through how North American decisions might have international repercussions and how to communicate in advance.

Day of Generosity was a great success. The goal was \$320,000 and \$326,000 has been received to date. The goal was to encourage fields to develop their own sending agencies. It advances a fraternal model... GBIM partnering with nationals. Day of Generosity was a way to celebrate global fellowship. Approximately 70 churches participated. Many smaller churches participated. Bruce prayed for Dave and GBIM.

ASSOCIATION OF GRACE BRETHREN MINISTERS REPORT: Joel Richards

They can't respond to Path Forward because they weren't at the December meeting. AGBM executive committee meets next week and will discuss the Path Forward.

An ethics document was approved this summer.

The AGBM certification document relates to #5 of the Path Forward. AGBM is very aware that we have an aging ministerium and have been working and encouraging for several years for pastors to mentor younger men. They been talking about decline for a long time. Churches are going anywhere to get pastors. The Path Forward should help us “reign and train” in these new pastors.

The AGBM would like to train a qualified group to do mediation. The Paraclete ministry was valuable but we more.

Tom A prayed for AGBM, Joel and Jerry Young

Broke for lunch at Marie Calendar's hosted by Grace Village (thank you Jeff Carroll)

GRACE BRETHREN INVESTMENT FOUNDATION: Larry Chamberlain and ken Seyfert

Jeff's evaluation was humbling. GBIF will have a tremendous part in the future. We have nearly tripled in deposits over the past decade and contributed back into FGBC ministries over \$500,000 annually. Praise and



credit to pastors teaching sound biblical financial principles. GBIF has been known to say yes most often when called upon to serve and will do the same (already contributed \$20,000) with regard to the path forward. It will take a combination of old school and new school to pull this off—communication and coalition will be very important. GBIF desires broader participation financially coupled with GBIF seed money. Pray that it not die prematurely due to lack of funding.

GBIF has loaned \$7m over last decade with NO lost or delinquent investments.  
GBIF now has an online banking and new website

EAGLE COMMISSION REPORT: John Schumaker

47 pastors are or have been chaplains. His book, *A Soldier of God Remembers* is a primer for men considering chaplaincy (in 4<sup>th</sup> printing, also Spanish). God has given John the privilege of working with “super bowl” quality men. GBIF board has adapted the Chaplaincy as a missions field. Four currently in Iraq, two preparing to go to Afghanistan. The Chaplaincy is a large piece of the FGBC outreach ministry.

Dan T prayed for GBIF, John, Ken, Larry, and JP & David.

CE NATIONAL REPORT: Ed Lewis

CE is very much committed to Jeff’s proposal. They are very much committed to staying true to the Bible while reaching out to other evangelical groups. Groups like Green House, Mike Calhoun (Word of Life), other denominations and large churches are coming to our youth conference. We can remain Grace Brethren and still impact evangelicalism. More than 200 teens made commitments to missions at Momentum. CE National is working on leadership training. Over 2500 have been trained through OB. Many around the room (in the Fellowship Council) were OB’ers or youth ministers or trained/connected with CE somehow over the years. Youth conference is an event that helps local churches. Adult conference will partner with Momentum to minister together in the Cincinnati area. In one conference, the event director got saved at end of conferences after watching communion: “I give up—what do I need to do to get God?” Ed Lewis discovered that the older I get the more trouble I have with my eyesight—I can see clearly out there, but trouble up close. Same thing can happen in churches—see clearly missions need in world, but what about here at home? Ed has been living in Philly for the past 4 months, next to homeless. 24 adults have come to Christ - 10 baptisms. We all need to do evangelism and discipleship. We need to be setting some patterns and encouraging pastors and by helping their people catch the vision for local ministry.

Bob Wagner prayed for Ed and CE.

BRETHREN MISSIONARY HERALD REPORT: Liz Cutler Gates

BMH distributed out copies of Doug Fagerstrom’s book *The Volunteer*, and the “A Common Commitment” brochure. FGBC World now in magazine format. Issues will follow the Charis document areas of focus. Economy down however BMH has five new titles this year. The web has a twitter feed as well.  
Doug B prayed for Liz and BMH

GRACE COLLEGE AND SEMINARY: Dr. Ron Manahan

Dr. Ron Manahan expressed strong commitment to the Path Forward. There are 1,500 on campus at Grace. Partnerships go back to 1994 in the context of education. Grace has students in 16 countries—Fiji next with those working with Hindu students. Grace is working with all the water resources in Indiana connecting also with a Michigan university. They are involved in the HERO project—energy savings for poor families in our county. They are involved in research projects with diabetic patients. 60 students are in Turkey, Asia, Los Angeles. They have made extensive inroads into the business community. Local Ortho foundations are reaching into San Diego. Grace is developing their Online education capability—3 degrees are being approved

by the accrediting assoc that will be available totally on line. David Kim, a retired Korean pastor who is well respected in Asia, is willing to work with Grace's Korean students opening a North Korean university in his home town. We don't know what God has in store.

Larry H prayed for Dr. Manahan and Grace

#### WOMEN OF GRACE, USA: Janet Minnix

Janet is excited about what she heard yesterday. We want to be a resource, to encourage and challenge to be radically in love with Christ and committed to impacting their communities. Women's summits are encouraging women to strengthen them for ministry. There is a meeting tomorrow in Alaska about a possible summit in September. SMM and Girls of Faith—they will be influencers in our churches and communities in the future. Check out the web site that Viki Rife keeps up to date. Magazines can be ordered from web site. Also can donate and read more about WOG.

Chris Ball prayed for wives, WOG and Janet.

#### GO2 CHURCH PLANTING: Tim Boal

GO2 is also connected with the Lausanne Congress through Doug Birsall. There are 4 sites around the country using the technology that Dave Guiles shared. When Jeff shared his Path Forward it connected with what Tim was thinking God was impressing upon him. Coming off of the gap between GBNAM and GO2 (about 4 yrs), the Springboard initiative is giving feet to faith. We are propagators, not protectors of the truth. There has been a lot of prayer to get to this place. Instead of working from the inside out, Go2 is now trying to work from the outside in. We can't fight a war without an army. And we need supplies for the army. So inside of FGBC seem to be few harvesters for NA, hard to find church planters within us. There are lots of church planters outside looking for family ties. Tim is very Grace Brethren: preach the word, live your convictions—never confuse the two. Tim might be willing to take a bullet for the distinctives if it has to do with how we interpret scripture. We should be able to hold hands with those who are as evangelical as we would like to be. What really counts is that lost people come to Christ and serve Him. Looks like the day of Christ is coming soon. We need to redeem the time and use the resources of God to reach the world. Go2 is pursuing 1,765 Circles of Grace. Act1v8.us or .me creates a social network nationally that will open up communication between believers and unbelievers. We are looking for beta network partners (40% of the profit comes back to your church planting group). Bill Hybels opened up his top 30 donors to GO2. Visions that have great capacity need funds to operate. This is what is going to take to see this stream of Christianity continue on until Jesus comes. Go2 is grateful that God has laid the Path Forward on Jeff's heart. We come out of the progressive stream—all of the leaders that have come out of our stream have had great vision—whoever dreamed up GBIF or BMH were ahead of their time and very progressive to our benefit today.

MOTION passed to extend the title "moderator" to dba Executive Director effective immediately.
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#### MORE FROM THE STRUCTURES COMMISSION...

Suggestions for nominating committee: : Ron Smals, Larry Humberd, Phil Sparling, Nathan Zakahi, John Ward, Tim Sprankle, Joe Cosentino, Dan Pritchett, Keith Shearer, Rick Horner, Ron Sheranko, Roland Maust, Don Eshleman, Jeremiah Olson, Keith Minier, Todd Scoles

Suggestion for chair of nominating committee: Mark Saunders (1<sup>st</sup> choice), Paul Mutchler (2<sup>nd</sup> choice)

Suggestions for parliamentary committee: Jesse Deloe, Dave Plaster, Galen Wiley, Mark Soto, Bud Olszewski, Doug Courter, Todd Scoles, Fenton McDonald, Doug Sabin

Suggestions for membership committee: (1) Roy Halberg (California), Terry Daniels (California), Larry Edwards (Ohio), Roland Maust (Ohio), Christian Becker (Virginia), Don Eshelman, Brad Kelley ('06), Steve Shipley, Charles Thornton, Richard Todd

MOTION passed to accept the appointments and nominations as listed above.

MEMBERSHIP COMMISSION: Phil Sparling

New church applications

MOTION passed to recommend that FC present to the delegates the Mispa Missionary church for acceptance into membership.

MOTION passed to recommend that FC present to the delegates the Capitol City church for acceptance into membership

MOTION passed to take Vision Ohio off provisional and make them a full cooperating ministry. (note: requires approval by delegates at conference)

MOTION passed to remove provisional status from Go2 Church Planting and accept them in as a fully national ministry status. (note: requires approval by delegates at conference)

A new cooperating ministry application: CPR-3 and NextChurch

NextChurch appears to be a consulting firm, not a church plant ministry. The idea is to come along side churches planting to coach and consult. We received this late so the membership commission would like to table this request until the meeting before conference.

MOTION passed to table the CPR-3/NextChurch application until July 2010 meeting.

MOTION passed to endorse the "A Common Commitment" brochure as the official piece to promote the "our Commitment to Common Mission" document.

A "WHY ASSOCIATE" brochure has been developed that we will send to churches when reminding them of fellowship fees and statistically report.

MOTION passed to endorse the WHY ASSOCIATE brochure.

GBIM requests that the Fellowship Council (FGBC National office) take oversight of the Global Associates program. There are many missionaries serving around the world but not with GBIM. Global Associates gives these people a place to be recognized and prayed for by their FGBC family.

There would be a link on FGBC web site, membership committee would annually review the names and This information would appear in the FGBC Handbook not in a GBIM publication.

MOTION passed that FC accept the Global Associates oversight.

FINANCE COMMISSION; Doug Black

MOTION passed to approve the 2009 financial review , new company Owens, C.P.A

MOTION passed to ADOPT 2010 detailed budget as presented/printed.

MOTION passed that Dan Jackson be assistant treasurer to succeed Doug when he goes off next year.

Charles Ashman has been a deep blessing to the FGBC and specifically to the National Office. There is no adequate way to recognize all of his sacrifice for our family of churches. We want to end his formal employment in the FGBC with a sincere recognition of his service.

MOTION passed that we pay Charles Ashman \$5,000 til conference this August and a give him a \$1000 gift and formal recognition of his years of service at the 2010 conference.

Wooster GBC has offered to host Equip11. Wooster is not as convenient as some locations (airports and hotels) but the location is excellent. A steering team has been formed to begin planning the conference.

Question: What can we share as a FC report? Highlights will be available soon.