

1 **CONSTITUTION AND MANUAL OF PROCEDURE**
2 **FOR THE FELLOWSHIP OF GRACE BRETHREN CHURCHES, INC.**

3 **CONSTITUTION**

4 **ARTICLE I**
5 **OFFICES**

6 The principal office of the corporation shall be located at Winona Lake, Indiana. The corporation may have
7 other offices as its business may require.

8 **ARTICLE II**
9 **PURPOSE STATEMENT**

10 The Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches exists to encourage and enable member churches in equipping
11 and uniting the saints in fulfilling the Great Commission.

12 **ARTICLE III**
13 **COVENANT AND STATEMENT OF FAITH**

14 Section One. Covenant. The sovereign congregations which are members of this corporation are united in
15 accepting the Holy Scriptures as the sole guide and authority in all matters of faith, doctrine and practice.

16 Section Two. Statement of Faith. The Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches has a corporate commitment
17 to a basic body of beliefs founded on God's revealed truth. The Statement of Faith is the expression of a never
18 ending effort to clarify an understanding of the primary doctrines we accept.

19 It is the understanding of this Fellowship that, although individual Grace Brethren Churches remain
20 distinct, autonomous legal entities, congregational church government relates alone to the incidental affairs of
21 the local congregation and not to doctrinal practices or tenets which must be general or universal -- the same in
22 all congregations. Accordingly, the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, Inc., believing the Bible, the
23 whole Bible, and nothing but the Bible to be the infallible rule of faith and of practice and feeling the
24 responsibility to make known the divine message of the Bible, presents the following articles as a statement of
25 those basic truths taught in the Bible which are common to our Christian faith and practice.

- 26 1. THE BIBLE. The Word of God, the sixty-six Books of the Old and New Testaments, verbally inspired
27 in all parts, and therefore wholly without error as originally given of God (2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Peter 1:21).
- 28 2. THE ONE TRUE GOD. Existing eternally as three persons -the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
29 (Luke 3:22; Matthew 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14).
- 30 3. THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. His preexistence and deity (John 1:1-3), incarnation by virgin birth
31 (John 1:14; Matthew 1:18-23), sinless life (Heb. 4:15), substitutionary death (2 Cor. 5:21), bodily
32 resurrection (Luke 24:36-43), ascension into heaven and present ministry (Heb. 4:14-16), and coming
33 again (Acts 1:11).
- 34 4. THE HOLY SPIRIT. His personality (John 16:7-15), and deity (Acts 5:3-4), and His work in each
35 believer: baptism and in-dwelling at the moment of regeneration (1 Cor. 12:13; Rom. 8:9), and filling
36 (Eph. 5:18) to empower for Christian life and service (Eph. 3:16; Acts 1:8; Gal. 5:22-23).
- 37 5. MAN. His direct creation in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-28), his subsequent fall into sin resulting in
38 spiritual death (Gen. 3:1-24; Rom. 5:12), and the necessity of the new birth for his salvation (John
39 3:3-5).
- 40 6. SALVATION. A complete and eternal salvation by God's grace alone received as the gift of God
41 through personal faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His finished work (Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 3:5-7; 1 Peter
42 1:18-19).
- 43 7. THE CHURCH. One true church, the body and the bride of Christ (Eph. 1:22-23; 5:25-32), composed
44 of all true believers of the present age (1 Cor. 12:12-13); and the organization of its members in local

churches for worship, for edification of believers, and for world-wide gospel witness, each local church being autonomous but cooperating in fellowship and work (Eph. 4:11-16).

8. CHRISTIAN LIFE. A life of righteousness, good works and separation unto God from the evil ways of the world (Rom. 12:1-2), manifested by speaking the truth (James 5:12), maintaining the sanctity of the home (Eph. 5:22-6:4), settling differences between Christians in accordance with the Word of God (1 Cor. 6:1-8), not engaging in carnal strife but showing a Christ-like attitude toward all men (Rom. 12:17-21), exhibiting the fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22-23), and maintaining a life of prayer (Eph. 6:18; Phil. 4:6), including the privilege, when sick, of calling for the elders of the church to pray and to anoint with oil in the name of the Lord (James 5:13-18).
9. ORDINANCES. The Christians should observe the ordinances of our Lord Jesus Christ which are (1) baptism of believers by triune immersion (Matt. 28:19) and (2) the threefold communion service, consisting of the washing of the saints' feet (John 13:1-17), the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11:20-22, 33-34; Jude 12), and the communion of the bread and the cup (1 Cor. 11:23-26).
10. SATAN. His existence and personality as the great adversary of God and His people (Rev. 12:1-10), his judgment (John 12:31), and final doom (Rev. 20:10).
11. SECOND COMING. The personal, visible, and imminent return of Christ to remove His church from the earth (1 Thess. 4:16-17) before the tribulation (1 Thess. 1:10; Rev. 3:10), and afterward to descend with the Church to establish His millennial kingdom upon the earth (Rev. 19:11-20:6).
12. FUTURE LIFE. The conscious existence of the dead (Phil. 1:21-23; Luke 16:19-31), the resurrection of the body (John 5:28-29), the judgment and reward of believers (Rom. 14:10-12; 2 Cor. 5:10), the judgment and condemnation of unbelievers (Rev. 20:11-15), the eternal life of the saved (John 3:16), and the eternal punishment of the lost (Matt. 25:46; Rev. 20:15).

ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP

Section One. Requirements. Any congregation of believers desiring membership in the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, Inc., shall meet the following conditions:

1. It shall agree to ~~and~~ live harmoniously under the Covenant and Statement of Faith as stated in Article III of this Constitution.
2. It shall actively pursue the purpose of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches in Article II.
3. It shall have a basic organization consisting of elder(s) and deacon(s), or similar responsible officers.
4. 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.
5. No church shall be denied membership in the corporation because of failure to support any or all institutions, ministries, or boards, either district, national, or cooperating recognized by the Fellowship.
6. Failure to comply with these membership requirements may subject the offending church to dismissal.

Comment [DET1]: This might be even more satisfactory than current wording. (Tom Avey)

Section Two. Voting Rights. Each member church shall be entitled to be represented at any meeting of the corporation through delegate(s) of its choosing.

1. Each member church shall be entitled to at least two delegates as specified in the Manual of Procedure.
2. Only persons who are members of the Grace Brethren Church they represent shall be seated as delegates to any meeting of the corporation. Representation at National Conference is based on the average attendance at the largest regular gathering of the local church.
3. Each member church shall be entitled to one vote per delegate on each matter submitted to a vote at any meeting of the corporation. ~~(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.)~~

Comment [DET2]: This exception is no longer needed. Hard to imagine when it would apply, since it is worded so narrowly. (Galen Wiley)

92 **ARTICLE V**
93 **MEETINGS OF MEMBERS**

94 Section One. Annual Meeting. The annual meeting of members shall be held at the time and place
95 recommended by the Fellowship Council and approved at a previous annual meeting of members. This annual
96 meeting is referred to in this Constitution and the Manual of Procedure as "the annual meeting of the
97 corporation" and "conference."

98 Section Two. Special Meetings. Special meetings of members may be called by the Fellowship Council for
99 emergency needs at any time and place designated by it. Member churches shall be represented at any special
100 meeting by the delegates who represented them at the last annual meeting or duly certified alternates.

101 Section Three. Quorum. A quorum shall consist of the delegates present, entitled to vote, and voting at any
102 meeting of the corporation.

103 Section Four. Delegates. The following shall be seated as delegates to any meeting of the corporation:

- 104 1. Officers. Officers of the corporation shall be delegates *ex-officio with voting privileges*.
- 105 2. Delegates shall be seated provided that the delegates meet the qualifications of Article IV, Section
106 Two, points #1 and 2.

107 **ARTICLE VI**
108 **FELLOWSHIP COUNCIL (BOARD OF DIRECTORS)**

109 Section One. General Powers. The business and affairs of the corporation shall be managed by its
110 board of directors which shall be known as the Fellowship Council.

111 Section Two. Number and Term. The number of members of the Fellowship Council shall be
112 seventeen. Fifteen members shall be elected by the corporation, and each shall serve a term of five years. The
113 fifteen elected members shall represent the three geographic regions of the United States described in Article
114 V, Section Two, point #3 of the Manual of Procedure with five members to serve from each region. Only one
115 member of any single church or two representatives from any single district shall serve on the Council at any
116 one time, not including *ex-officio* members of the Council.

117 The remaining two members of the Fellowship Council shall be the Executive Director and the
118 Assistant Director. They shall serve a one, two, or three-year term to which they are elected as Executive
119 Director and Assistant Director. Council members will begin their terms at the conclusion of the conference at
120 which they are elected with the exception of the Executive Director and Assistant Director who shall begin
121 their term one year following the conference at which they are elected.

122 Section Three. Qualifications. All nominees for Council membership must be triune-immersed
123 members in good standing of congregations that are members of the FGBC. They must be men who have met
124 the spiritual qualifications for an elder as outlined in 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:6-9. All nominees shall
125 subscribe to the Covenant and Statement of Faith as stated in Article III of this Constitution. They must have
126 given their consent to nomination and service. Members of the Council may not serve consecutive terms but
127 may be re-elected after two years absence from the Council. This restriction shall not apply to members
128 serving fewer than three years or to *ex-officio* members of the Council.

129 Section Four. Election.

- 130 1. Members of the Council shall be elected by majority affirmative vote of the delegates present, entitled
131 to vote, and voting at the Conference from a ballot presented by the Nominating Committee. In the
132 event that no nominee receives a majority affirmative vote, there shall be an additional ballot
133 presented with the two nominees who have received the highest number of votes.
- 134 2. Voting for nominees from each of the three regions shall be restricted to delegates from the churches
135 in those regions.
- 136 3. Nominees elected to the Council shall be the one from each region receiving the majority affirmative
137 vote of the delegates representing those regions present, entitled to vote, and voting.

138 **ARTICLE VII**
139 **OFFICERS**

140 Section One. Officers. The officers of the corporation shall be the Executive Director, Assistant Director,
141 Secretary, and Treasurer. The Executive Director shall serve as chairman of the Fellowship Council, and the
142 vice Assistant Director as vice-chairman of the same body.

143 Section Two. Election. The Executive Director and Assistant Director shall be elected together on a single
144 ballot question to a one, two, or three year term by majority affirmative vote of the delegates present, entitled
145 to vote, and voting at the annual meeting of the corporation one year prior to the beginning of their term.

146 The Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected annually by majority vote of the Fellowship Council at its
147 annual meeting. These elections shall be ratified by the corporation at the annual meeting immediately
148 following the election.

149 Section Three. Term. The Executive Director and Assistant Director will be installed at the conclusion of
150 the conference one year after they are elected and will serve for their elected term or until their successors are
151 elected or appointed and installed. The Secretary and Treasurer will be installed at the conclusion of the
152 conference at which they are elected and will serve for one conference year or until their successors are elected
153 or appointed and installed.

154 Section Four. Responsibilities and Duties. The officers shall have the powers and discharge the duties
155 customarily and usually held and performed by like officers in similar corporations, including, but not limited
156 to those outlined in the Manual of Procedure.

157 **ARTICLE VIII**
158 **COMMITTEES**

159 Section One. Committees. The Fellowship Council, by resolution of a majority of the Council members,
160 may designate one or more committees or persons to exercise the authority of the Fellowship Council to the
161 extent provided in the resolution. The resolution shall include a termination date for the committee's service
162 which may be extended only by specific action of the Fellowship Council or the Conference.

163 Section Two. Nominating Committee.

- 164 1. A nominating committee of six members shall be elected annually by the conference from nominees
165 suggested by the Fellowship Council. All nominees shall be members in good standing of
166 congregations that are members of the FGBC and have agreed to nomination and service. Additional
167 nominations from the floor may be accepted.
- 168 2. The chair shall be selected by the Fellowship Council from among the elected committee members.

169 Section Three. Parliamentary Committee.

- 170 1. A parliamentary committee of three members shall be named by the Fellowship Council prior to the
171 conference.
- 172 2. It shall be the duty of this committee to interpret this Constitution and the Manual of Procedure
173 whenever questions concerning them shall arise and to assist the presiding officer in questions of
174 procedure and in the orderly conduct of the business sessions of the conference.

175 **ARTICLE IX**
176 **AMENDMENTS TO CONSTITUTION**

177 Section One. Amendments. This Constitution may be altered or repealed at any annual or special meeting
178 of the corporation by two-thirds majority affirmative vote of the delegates present, entitled to vote, and voting
179 at said meeting, provided that the proposed amendment had been presented to the delegates at a previous
180 business session of the conference and to the Fellowship Council for study and recommendation.

MANUAL OF PROCEDURE

ARTICLE I MEMBERSHIP

Section One. Procedure.

1. Application for membership shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the Fellowship Council accompanied by evidence of compliance with the conditions set forth in Section One, Article IV of the Constitution. Applications must be received before the first day of January preceding the annual meeting of the corporation. The Fellowship Council may extend this deadline up to two months before the annual meeting if there is a written request for the extension from a national ministry, a cooperating ministry, a cooperating district, or a sponsoring church that is already a member of the FGBC.
2. The Fellowship Council will publish the names and locations of churches who are applying for membership at least one month in advance of the next annual meeting of the corporation.
3. A check for membership fees shall accompany the application.
4. The Fellowship Council shall recommend the appropriate action to be taken regarding the application at the next annual meeting of the corporation.
5. Upon recommendation of the Fellowship Council, a congregation may be received by majority affirmative vote of the delegates present, entitled to vote, and voting at the annual meeting of the corporation.

Section Two. Termination of Membership. Should a member church fail to adhere to the requirements of Article IV, Section One of the Constitution at anytime or fail to submit statistical reports or pay membership fees for a period of three successive years, it shall be subject to dismissal from the Fellowship in the following manner:

1. Upon report of such failure, the Fellowship Council shall investigate the report and determine the validity of the charge. It shall be the intent of the Council to offer assistance to the offending church to enable it to comply with its membership obligations.
2. Upon satisfactory resolution of the problem, a report of the church's compliance shall be entered into the records of the Fellowship Council and may be announced to the Corporation at the discretion of the Council.
3. If no satisfactory resolution of the problem is agreed upon, the finding of the Fellowship Council shall be reported to the next annual meeting of the Corporation.
4. Upon the recommendation of the Fellowship Council the offending church shall be dismissed from the Fellowship by majority affirmative vote of the delegates present, entitled to vote, and voting at the annual meeting of the corporation.

Section Three: Procedure for the Re-Instatement of Dismissed Churches. Should a church that was previously dismissed from the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches desire to become a member again of the FGBC, the following procedures should be followed:

1. The Church seeking re-instatement should comply with all of the procedures for membership as outlined in Section 1 of this Article.
2. The only additional requirement of a church to be re-instated is that along with the application for membership there must be a written statement signed by at least three local church leaders/members that:
 - a. Describe the resolution to any past issues that led to the dismissal.
 - b. Explain the church's reasons to become faithful members again with the FGBC.

ARTICLE II
MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

Section One. Place of Meeting. The Fellowship Council may designate any place within or without the State of Indiana as the place of the annual meeting or any special meeting.

Section Two. Notice of Meetings. Written or printed notice stating the time and place of the meeting shall be given by the Secretary of the Fellowship Council to each member church at least thirty days prior to the meeting. The notice of any special meeting shall state the purpose of the meeting.

Section Three. Delegates. In order to seat delegates, each church must meet the following requirements.

1. The appropriate credential form must be filed with the Fellowship Coordinator by the date specified.
2. The assigned membership fees, assessed by the previous annual meeting of members, shall be received by the Fellowship Coordinator by the date specified.
3. The annual statistical report shall be submitted and received by the date specified.
4. Delegates whose churches fail to meet these requirements shall be seated only upon a two-thirds majority affirmative vote of the delegates present, entitled to vote, and voting at any meeting based upon extenuating circumstances deemed worthy of exception.
5. Member churches are expected to pay membership fees whether or not they send delegates to any meeting of the corporation, and the treasurer is directed to notify delinquent members of this responsibility.
6. Each member church shall be entitled to at least two delegates. Additional delegates are based on the average attendance at the largest regular gathering of the member church according to the following schedule:

Average Attendance	Number of Delegates
0-50	2
51-100	3
101-200	5
201-300	10
301-500	20
501-1000	25
1001-2000	30
2001+	35

Section Four. Transaction of Business. The agenda for the opening session of the conference shall include the report of the Membership Committee, presentation of new churches for membership, approval of an agenda for the business sessions, and the election of officers for the next conference year. Additional reports of the Membership Committee shall be made only at the beginning of each session's business. The agenda of any special meeting shall be an early order of business at the first session.

Any member of a member church, not a delegate, shall have all privileges of a delegate, except that he shall not be allowed to make a motion or to vote upon any question. Persons desiring to speak in the conference must first address the moderator and be recognized. No person shall speak upon the same question more than twice until others have had ample opportunity to speak. Debate shall be limited to ten minutes per speech. Standard rules of order, such as Robert's, shall be followed in all points not specifically provided for herein.

Section Five. Dissent. In the event that divisive issues threaten to disrupt business sessions and subvert the purposes of the Conference, the moderator shall:

1. Stop all further debate on the issue for that business session.
2. Call for a meeting of the Fellowship Council to be held before the next business session to formulate a recommendation on further procedures concerning this issue.
3. Present this recommendation as the first item of business at the next business session.
4. Call for an immediate vote on the recommendation of the Fellowship Council without further debate. Should a recommendation to stop debate fail to pass, debate shall resume.

ARTICLE III
FELLOWSHIP COUNCIL (BOARD OF DIRECTORS)

Section One. Responsibilities. Specific duties of the Council include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. It shall be the duty of the Council to make full and complete arrangements for the conference (and any special meetings), including the preparation of the proposed agenda. The Council shall consult recognized National Ministries in its conference planning and may invite representatives of National and Cooperating Ministries to its planning sessions. (Expenses for these representatives shall be borne by their respective ministries.)
2. The Council shall select the time and place for the conference and shall report its plans to the conference at least two years in advance.
3. The Council shall receive and evaluate applications from churches seeking membership in the corporation, recommending the appropriate action to be taken by the conference.
4. The Council shall investigate reports concerning a member church's failure to adhere to the requirements for membership in the corporation, determine the validity of the charges, and recommend the appropriate action to be taken, if any, by the conference.
5. The Council shall convene any special meetings of the Fellowship for emergency purposes.
6. The Council shall receive and evaluate applications for recognition from prospective districts of churches and recommend the appropriate action, if any, to be taken by the conference.
7. The Council shall receive and evaluate the requests of groups desiring recognition as national or cooperating ministries of the corporation, recommending the appropriate action to be taken by the conference.
8. The Council shall serve as the finance committee for the Fellowship, reporting to the conference the financial condition of the corporation and proposing an annual budget for the conference's approval.
9. At each annual meeting of the corporation, the Council shall report on its own activity, its plans, and recommendations for progress in the Fellowship. It shall alert the conference to potential problems, areas of concern, opportunities for ministry, etc., and shall recommend appropriate action with regard to these matters. Such suggestions may be conveyed to the conference, in consultation with the Executive Director, through his annual address.
10. The Council shall name the endorsing agents of the Fellowship for the military chaplaincy.
11. The Council may serve in an advisory capacity to its member churches, recognized districts, national and cooperating ministries, and other bodies who seek its counsel with no authority other than to offer counsel to these bodies.
12. Each elected member of the Council shall be responsible to communicate with one or more districts in his region as determined by the Council.
13. The Council shall be responsible for the soliciting and the receiving of statistical reports. It shall report significant statistical information at the annual meeting of the corporation.
14. When the moderator stops debate on a divisive issue at a business session of the conference, the Council shall meet to make a recommendation to the next business session. It shall include in this recommendation: 1) whether or not to invoke a moratorium and, 2) if a moratorium is recommended, it shall also recommend procedures for conflict resolution.
15. The Fellowship Council and Nominating Committee shall make reasonable effort to include qualified laity in leadership positions in the Fellowship.
16. The Fellowship Council shall present a name for Executive Director to the conference one year prior to the expiration of the current term for affirmation by the delegates. That Executive Director shall select an Assistant Director, that is approved by the Fellowship Council to be affirmed by the delegates on a single question ballot for a one, two or three year term.
17. Contracts shall be established for employees of the Fellowship Council. Each employee shall be subject to periodic review.

320 18. The Fellowship Council may consult National and Cooperating ministries in the development and
321 implementation of strategic plans as appropriate to the mission of the FGBC, Inc.

322 Section Two. Meetings. The Council will hold an annual meeting just prior to the conference at the place
323 designated for the annual meeting of the corporation. A mid-year meeting of the Council will be held
324 approximately six months after each annual meeting of the corporation at a time and place specified by the
325 Council. The mid-year meeting shall not be held if there is insufficient business to merit the expense and time.
326 Other special meetings of the Council may be called by the chairman in consultation with the other Council
327 members.

328 Section Three. Board Decisions. All actions of the Council must be sustained by a majority vote of the
329 Council membership (nine or more affirmative votes).

330 Section Four. Notice. Notice of any meeting of the Fellowship Council must be given to each member of
331 the Council at least thirty days prior to the meeting. The notice of any special meeting shall state the purpose
332 of the meeting.

333 Section Five. Removal. Any member of the Fellowship Council who ceases to fulfill the Biblical
334 guidelines for leadership as set forth in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 shall be removed from office by majority vote
335 of the remaining Council members. This action shall be ratified by the corporation at its next annual meeting.
336 If a member leaves the region he represents, his position on the Fellowship Council is vacated.

337 Section Six. Vacancies. In case a vacancy occurs on the Council, the remaining members of the Council
338 shall fill this vacancy by appointing a qualified representative from the region represented by the member
339 being replaced. If the unexpired portion of the term remaining extends beyond the next annual meeting of the
340 corporation, the Council's appointment shall be ratified at that meeting.

341 ARTICLE IV 342 OFFICERS

343 Section One. Responsibilities and Duties. The officers shall have the powers and discharge the duties
344 customarily and usually held and performed by like officers in similar corporations, including, but not limited
345 to, the following:

346 1. Executive Director.

- 347 a. He is the chief executive officer of the corporation during the years for which he is elected
- 348 b. He is a member, *ex-officio*, of the Fellowship Council and shall serve as chairman of the Council
349 for the years of his term as Executive Director.
- 350 c. He will serve as moderator, presiding over any and all business meetings of the conference, or he
351 may select another person to serve as moderator. Should he choose another to serve as moderator,
352 the Executive Director shall retain all rights, responsibilities, and authorities described in the
353 Constitution and the Manual of Procedure. Anyone acting as moderator, if he is personally
354 involved in a matter, shall defer to the Executive Director or Assistant Director.
- 355 d. Represent the FGBC as its official spokesperson for all matters related to the official
356 communication, public press releases, or other informational opportunities presented during his
357 term.
- 358 e. Adequately prepare the newly elected Executive Director for the position through education and
359 communication as deemed necessary to provide a smooth transition between administrations.
- 360 f. The Executive Director must agree to the Statement of Faith of the FGBC, be a member in good
361 standing in one of the member churches in the FGBC and be committed to the welfare and health
362 of the FGBC.

365 2. Assistant Director.

- 366 a. He is a member, *ex-officio*, of the Fellowship Council and shall serve as vice-chairman of the
367 Council for the years of his term as Assistant Director.
- 368 b. He shall fulfill the functions of the Executive Director in the latter's absence or illness or when
369 called upon by the Executive Director to do so.
- 370 c. He shall assume the office of Executive Director in the event of his resignation, decease or
371 inability to serve as the Executive Director upon notification by secretary of the Fellowship
372 Council.
- 373 d. Represent the FGBC when delegated to do so by the Executive Director in areas deemed helpful
374 by the Executive Director.
- 375 e. Adequately prepare the newly elected -Assistant Director for the position through education and
376 communication as deemed necessary to provide a smooth transition between administrations.
- 377 f. The Assistant Director must agree to the Statement of Faith of the FGBC, be a member in good
378 standing in one of the member churches in the FGBC and be committed to the welfare and health
379 of the FGBC.

380 3. Secretary.

- 381 a. He shall make and keep an accurate, written record of all Fellowship Council and conference
382 business and make records available for annual publication in a form approved by the Fellowship
383 Council.
- 384 b. He shall secure the service of an assistant secretary to facilitate the execution of his duties.
- 385 c. With the cooperation of the Minutes Review Committee he shall provide printed copies of the
386 minutes of each conference business session for publication.
- 387 d. The Conference may choose to amend published minutes at the first business session succeeding
388 publication.

389 4. Treasurer.

- 390 a. He shall receive and dispense all funds coming to the Fellowship and shall establish and maintain a
391 bank account in which said funds are to be kept.
- 392 b. He shall report to the Council as requested and annually at the annual meeting of the corporation
393 delineating the financial status of the corporation.
- 394 c. He shall invest available funds in such a way as to provide additional income to the Fellowship.

395 Section Two. Fellowship Coordinator and Administrative Staff.

- 396 1. The Council shall employ a Fellowship Coordinator and Administrative Staff as needed. Their
397 remuneration shall be included in the budget proposed to the annual meeting. The Fellowship Council
398 shall establish necessary guidelines.
- 399 2. They shall be directly responsible to the Executive Director and the Fellowship Council and ultimately
400 to the corporation.
- 401 3. They may sit with the Fellowship Council by invitation but shall not have a vote in its proceedings.

402 Section Three. Removal. Any officer who ceases to fulfill the Biblical guidelines for leadership as set forth
403 in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 shall be removed from office by majority vote of the Council. This action shall be
404 ratified by the corporation at its next annual meeting.

405 Section Four. Vacancies. Other than the office of Executive Director, a vacancy may be filled by the
406 Fellowship Council for the unexpired portion of the term. In the case of a vacancy in the office of Executive
407 Director, the Assistant Director will immediately succeed to the office and responsibility of Executive Director
408 upon notification by the secretary.

**ARTICLE V
COMMITTEES**

Section One. Membership Committee.

1. A Membership Committee, consisting of three members, shall be appointed by the Fellowship Council. Members shall serve three year terms, arranged so that one new member is appointed each conference year.
2. The chairman shall be named annually by the Fellowship Council.
3. It shall be the duty of the Committee to provide appropriate credential forms to member churches and a place at which these forms and membership fees shall be received.
4. This Committee shall have no authority to withhold any delegate with properly executed credentials from the conference.
5. In the event of disputed delegations from member churches, the membership committee shall refer the question to the Fellowship Council which, in turn, shall make recommendation of the appropriate action to be taken by the conference.

Section Two. Nominating Committee.

1. The Nominating Committee shall present nominees to the conference for the annual election of the Fellowship Council.
2. Nominees shall be triune immersed members in good standing of congregations that are members of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, Inc. and shall give their consent to nomination and shall agree to serve, if elected.
3. The geographical regions which nominees are to represent on the Fellowship Council shall include the following recognized Districts:
 - a. Western: Arctic, Hawaii, Mountain-Plains, Nor-Cal, Pacific-Northwest, and Southern California-Arizona.
 - b. Central: Heartland, Iowa-Midlands, Northcentral Ohio, Northeastern Ohio, Northwest Ohio, and Tri-States.
 - c. Eastern: Allegheny, Blue Ridge, Chesapeake, Mid-Atlantic, Northern Atlantic, Florida, Southern, and Western Pennsylvania.
4. Each cooperating district may annually submit to the Nominating Committee the name of one member of a church within its district as nominees for the Fellowship Council. These names shall be placed on the ballot. If a district fails to submit a name in timely fashion, the committee may add a nominee of its own choosing from that particular district.
5. This committee shall submit nominations to the Fellowship Coordinator to be included on a printed ballot. The ballot is to be so arranged that only one nominee from each region shall be elected to the Fellowship Council.

Section Three. Parliamentary Committee. The duties of this committee are stated in the FGBC Constitution, ARTICLE VIII, Section Three.

Section Four. Minutes Review Committee. A Minutes Review committee shall be appointed annually by the Fellowship Council to review and approve the minutes of the Conference before they are published.

Section Five. Committee Expenses. Expenses of any committee shall be defrayed by the corporation upon receipt of proper reports to the treasurer.

ARTICLE VI
MINISTRY RELATIONSHIPS

Comment [DET3]: Only Article without title. This recommended by Jesse Deloe.

Section One. National Ministries.

1. Requirements. Although FGBC national ministries remain distinct, autonomous legal entities, such ministries seeking recognition by the corporation and desiring to serve the Fellowship as a national ministry shall meet the following requirements:
 - a. The ministry and its governing body must ~~subscribe to agree~~ to live harmoniously under the Statement of Faith set forth in Section Two of Article III of this Constitution.
 - b. The ministry must be sponsored and controlled by members of FGBC churches. The ministry shall not be a subsidiary of only one local church; it shall have representation on its governing board from each of the geographical regions of the Fellowship as identified in Article V, Section Two, Point #3 of the Manual of Procedure.
 - c. The ministry must have a scope of ministry broader than the immediate local church ministries and exist to serve other Grace Brethren Churches.
 - d. The ministry must meet a recognized need related to the fulfilling of the Great Commission.
 - e. The ministry must be able to demonstrate a tradition of national influence that has consistently advanced the mission of the FGBC.
2. Procedure. National Ministries meeting the requirements of Section One of this Article may be recognized by the Fellowship, upon recommendation of the Fellowship Council, by two-thirds affirmative majority vote of the delegates present, entitled to vote, and voting.
3. Recognized National Ministries. ~~Ministries recognized as national ministries of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, Inc. are not creations of the Fellowship, nor are they an integral part of its organization.~~ While FGBC, Inc. ~~requests~~ requires an annual report ~~as a courtesy~~, it does not in any way control any of the recognized national ministries.
4. Review: The Fellowship Council has the responsibility to review national ministries regarding the above qualifications. Recommendations for removal of a National Ministry's recognition shall be approved by the delegates by a majority affirmative vote.

Comment [DET4]: Make this consistent with church requirement. (Dave Guiles)

Comment [DET5]: Need to tone down this overstatement. Encompass request.

Section Two: Cooperating Ministries.

1. Requirements. Although FGBC cooperating ministries remain distinct, autonomous legal entities, such ministries seeking recognition by the corporation and desiring to serve the Fellowship as a cooperating ministry shall meet the following requirements:
 - a. The ministry and its governing body must ~~subscribe to agree~~ to live harmoniously under the Statement of Faith set forth in Section Two of Article III of this Constitution.
 - b. 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.
 - c. The ministry must have a scope of ministry broader than the immediate local church ministries.
 - d. The ministry must meet a recognized need related to the fulfilling of the Great Commission.
2. Procedure. Ministries meeting the above requirements may be recognized by the Fellowship, upon recommendation of the Fellowship Council, by an affirmative majority vote of the delegates present, entitled to vote, and voting.
3. Recognized Cooperating Ministries. ~~Ministries recognized as cooperating ministries of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, Inc. are not creations of the Fellowship, nor are they an integral part of its organization.~~ While FGBC, Inc. ~~requests~~ requires an annual report ~~as a courtesy~~, it does not in any way control any of the recognized cooperating ministries.
4. Review: The Cooperating Ministry has the responsibility to demonstrate that it desires and qualifies for Cooperating Ministry status at least every five years. The Fellowship Council has the responsibility to review cooperating ministries regarding the above qualifications. Recommendations for removal of

Comment [DET6]: Make this consistent with church requirement.

Comment [DET7]: Need to tone down this overstatement. Already states above that they are "distinct, autonomous legal entities."

a Cooperating Ministry's recognition shall be approved by the delegates by a majority affirmative vote.

Section Three: Cooperating Districts.

Requirements. Although FGBC Cooperating Districts remain distinct, autonomous legal entities, in order to be granted and to maintain the status of a FGBC Cooperating District, the following requirements must be met.

1. A district may be formed with a minimum of three churches.
2. The district may be organized for fellowship and cooperative ministry with area churches and the FGBC.
3. The district and district officers shall subscribe to the FGBC Statement of Faith.
4. The district shall have made application with FGBC for recognition as a cooperating district.

ARTICLE VII MISCELLANEOUS

Section One. Continuing Resolutions. Continuing resolutions may be submitted at the annual meeting of the corporation by the Fellowship Council or from the floor. The resolution must be in writing. If the resolution is submitted from the floor, a written presentation must be given to the secretary during the same business session at which the resolution is presented.

Section Two. Conference Year. The conference year shall begin with the conclusion of the conference and continue to the conclusion of the succeeding conference.

Section Three. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the corporation shall be November 1 through October 31.

Section Four. Affiliations. The Fellowship may affiliate with other fraternal, evangelical organizations only with the adoption of an appropriate resolution by the Conference. Cooperation with such organizations, without formal membership, may be approved by the Executive Committee of the Fellowship Council.

ARTICLE VIII AMENDMENTS TO MANUAL OF PROCEDURE

This Manual of Procedure may be amended by a majority affirmative vote of the delegates present, entitled to vote, and voting at any business session.