

1 FELLOWSHIP OF GRACE BRETHREN CHURCHES

2 **Fellowship Council Minutes**

3 GBNAM Board Room, Winona Lake, IN

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5 **Saturday, July 30, 2005**6
7 **PRESENT:** Dan Allen, John Teevan, Mike Jentes, Keith Shearer, Tim Boals, Robert MacMillian, Larry Edwards,
8 Ed Waken, Vic Young, Jim Brown, Dan Gregory, Tom Avey, Greg Howell9 **ABSENT:** Mark Saunders, Ron Smals, Nathan Zakahi,10
11 The following will be providing devotions at Jump Start—Jim B. “love your Enemies”, Dan G. “We’re His Church”,
12 Robert M “D-Day the Purpose-Drive Invasion” “Innuendo and out the Other”(Teevan)13
14 Moderator Dan Allen led in devotions from Mark 7-8: ...visualizing being in the crowd Syrophonician woman,
15 healed the man in Sidon who couldn’t hear or speak, encountered Pharisees in chapter 8 v. 7:24-5 did not want
16 anyone to know he was in the house, but couldn’t get away—interesting that Son of God did not want to be
17 bothered—he knew that frustration. After he healed the deaf mute, he commanded them not to tell and the more
18 he did, the more they told. He shared that Holly’s experience with breast cancer caused several to identify, like
19 the older lady who mentioned that she knew what she was going thru. They didn’t stop. He had to process,
20 people’s hard hearts. Cf Max Lucato—Jesus’ deep sigh, Took deaf-mute away from the crowd
21 sigh=communicating symbolically to the man who can’t hear (but could see a sigh) “I have compassion on these
22 people” Jesus lived with some of the same frustrations that we do—certainly can identify with us, powerful picture
23 of understanding the paths we walk. Many times we confuse the heart of God with the situations we encounter.
24 Phillip Yancy, in his book Disappointment with God, talks about the messed up man, and asked if he ever
25 experienced disappointment with God—answer no, never confuse God with life. Mark 7-8 is a good picture of the
26 balance. Dan then led in prayer.27
28 **073005-01 Approve Minutes of the Jan/Feb Meeting: TA**29
30 MOTION: Approve minutes as posted on the FC webpage 2/p31
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33 **073005-02 Vacated seat on the Fellowship Council**34
35 Ron Smals has moved out of the region that elected him. Leadership Team is recommending Dan O’Deens,
36 Parkersburg (Coatesville). No one has talked with him, and we don’t have it on the Conference agenda. We will
37 have conference ratify next year. Q: who were the others on last year’s ballot? A: Carl Baker, Jeff Peeler.
38 Another suggested name is Doug Courter (on ballot this year). Maybe the appointment should be one of the ones
39 who doesn’t get chosen this year. Must be ratified at next year’s conference. Dan will be asked after Monday.40
41 MOTION: Appoint Dan O’Deens to finish Ron’s term. 2/p42 MOTION: That the 2nd choice on Eastern ballot be appointed (Doug or Mike) if Dan O’Deens declines 2/p43
44 **073005-03 Business Meeting Agenda**45
46 The business meeting agenda as given to delegates was distributed. Tom gave out a chart of stats/ churches
47 with second page not given to delegates. It is obvious that we need to be planting churches. We regularly accept
48 4-5 each year, but it needs to be more like 10-12. We really need to be about planting churches. Q: What
49 happened at Ft. Wayne? A: It was getting smaller, some internal strife. They sold the building, gave some to
50 other Ft. Wayne church and some of the people went there. Some young guys are thinking about starting another
51 church on the East side. Tim B. Saw a lot of interest among BNYC kids about planting churches. Greatest
52 challenge for GBNAM is workers not just money. Saw a lot of potential workers at DRIVEN and BNYC53
54 **073005-04 New Church Applications**55
56 New Church applications since our last meeting: Ed Waken

57 Disciples of Christ Outreach Ministry, Washington DC—Kevin Mincey

58 Immanuel Grace Brethren Church of Quakerstown, PA—Scott Klausfelder

MOTION: recommend both be accepted into membership of FGBC 2/p

073005-05 Cooperating Organizations

Asia's Hope has submitted an application for cooperating organization status. We are not prepared to recommend to delegates this year. Membership Committee will do further work on the broader topic of how to better identify cooperating organizations.

IUSA is dissolving into GBIM. There will be an announcement to delegates during the Monday evening joint business meeting.

073005-06 Budget for 2006

Tom Avey distributed a budget for 2006. We need to approve and recommend to delegates. The budget requests a \$.25 increase need to cover health insurance (Tom's). The membership committee is watching the NCO district system that sets fees based on ranges of attendance at what a church considers to it's your size

MOTION: recommend this budget to delegates as printed 2/p

073005-07 Health Insurance for Tom Avey

John Teevan, Ken Seyfert, and Tom Avey are working to formulate a recommendation for the next council meeting. John reported that the committee is favorable to a HSA, (Health Savings Account) Allowance would cover first year start up if needed, it not FGBC would not lose it. If you are healthy you can receive back as retirement.

073005-08 Equip05 – report and feedback.

Class sign-ups 65 women –counseling, 50—spiritual vitality, 36—turn around churches, 360 people involved in classes, new people in data base, so attracting some who have not been to conference yet. Indications are that the degree credit is attractive. We'll debrief more at the Mid-year meeting.

073005-09 TAG Report

TAG Report: Tom Avey and Dan Allan (The Atlanta Group)

Raleigh—felt some urgency, let's not just talk about it, let's pool resources to train guys to make church planting happen. Vic appreciated brain-storming that wasn't a sharing of ignorance. Some wanted to know why they weren't invited—may need to get info out about what it is so that suspicion is quelled.

Powell—to be in Nov, bringing emerging church planters and figure out how to send them out.

Open discussion: Seems that some feel left out. FC did initiate TAG. It is a matter of perception. Pastors need to hang out with people of like passion in different places. We may need to make sure it is not by invitation (travel, expenses were on their own). All of these get-togethers (house church, Neil Cole) need to be reported on at FC. Most of us still live with a high school mentality, wanting to be part of the group, how come I'm excluded? Faithful, effective, innovative were invited. May have established an elitist attitude. Over the years we have chosen to see the churches in this category leave, we are trying to preserve them in the fellowship. Smaller churches feel disenfranchised. Invert the whole concept, strong disciples make a strong church, strong churches make a strong fellowship ---rather than that pastors of large churches have the answers. Pastors of large churches didn't come to Raleigh. Pastors are notorious for needing to be validated. Every pastor knows the challenge of the ministry. Need to be appreciated, but real motivation is Jesus, Gal 2:6

This discussion implies that there is tension between pastors. Maybe need to see TAG's as different gifts, and need to work with the other groups. (metropolitan) We need to continue to learn to celebrate other's success, why does Robert MacMillian have such a problem rejoicing with Mike Lee who is running 2000. THE Problem is the perception that one group has the answers of how everyone else ought to be "doing it" Maybe this discussion is a microcosm of what is happening at large in the FGBC. It is our heart, and the outward expression of

30, 2005

'success'. The council needs to represent all churches. It seems that we are operating with a corporate mentality.
Good place to start: "why is this bothering me?"

073005-10 Next Fellowship Council Meeting

Feb 2,3,4,5 starting the night of 2nd in Sacramento, CA. (note: the starting time was changed to 2:00 on Feb 2).
Travel home day is Monday Feb 6th. On Sunday we will participate in area FGBC churches (preach, teach, short announcement or just participate)

073005-11 Celebrate06

Keith Shearer shared the general plans for Celebrate06. The theme is "Hearts on Fire"

073005-12 Focus Retreats

Keith Shearer - Theme: "Truth on Fire" emphasis on group bible study, praying through some scriptures—Ps. 119, maybe whole commentary at end of all retreats! Theme as communal interpretation is one chapter in Keith's book—Childlike Faith (learning to hear from God in your Bible—historical Brethren uniqueness), cost of book will be built into FOCUS retreat fee.

Dates:

- a) Central: October 17-19, 2005 (Pokagan)
- b) East: October 24-26, 2005 (Sandy Cove)
- c) Southwest: Jan 30 - Feb 1 (Rancho Capistrano)
- d) South: Feb 27 – March 1, 2005 (Haines City, FL)
- e) Northwest: Not sure yet.
- f) Rumor Alaska wants FOCUS this year

073005-13 Churches in re-birth

Referred to Membership Committee

Background: We have had three churches this year that are in the process of re-birth. Discussion is needed to give guidance to these churches regarding their membership in the FGBC.

Brandon FL – Hispanic Church. What has been known as the Brandon church is have not submitted a membership fee and stat report and are cutting off relational ties with the FGBC. However a new Hispanic church in Brandon is in the plans. They (Jesus Munoz) would like to transfer the membership to the new church.

Des Moines, IA – The church is no longer meeting. However, there are plans for a new church plant in Des Moines. GBNAM has asked the old church to maintain it's corporation status in Iowa so that it can be transferred to the new start. The old church is approaching the three-year delinquency mark.

South Bend, IN – the people are still meeting as a small group and are planning to re-launch in the future. They have asked to not be considered a member church and will re-apply when they re-launch.

Question: How should we advise churches rebirthing themselves? Do we need an in-active category?

Closed with a season of prayer. Adjourned at 8:40pm

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory M. Howell,
Recording Secretary