



From our moderator,
Keith Shearer,

Welcome to the
FGBC delegates "brunch
and business" meeting.

"Business" is exciting as
long as it is Jesus' busi-
ness. We are looking for-
ward to a great finale to the
Celebration with some food

and fellowship and time to make decisions that will guide
the future of the FGBC.

In addition to annual elections for the Fellowship Council
and 2nd moderator elect we are going to look at some
changes to the way we pay membership fees, assign dele-
gates, recognize cooperating ministries and plan confer-
ence. Most of these changes will be introduced this year
and voted on next year to give delegates ample time to give
us feedback. We will also look at the 2007 budget and talk
about the future of the FGBC.

Hopefully, by now you have made some new friends, intro-
duced new "fire" into your passion for Jesus, and had an
awesome time with your family. God has been incredibly
good to the Grace Brethren movement. We have much to
be thankful for... especially for one another!

I hope you are ready for a great meeting!

Keith

Note: There will be an open forum about proposed changes to the Con-
stitution and Manual of Procedure and for other updates from the Fel-
lowship on Monday at 4:00 in Desert Vista D.

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Agenda
“Business and Brunch”
Thursday, August 3, 2006

Brunch will begin at 10:30. The official business meeting begins at 11:00 with the following agenda.

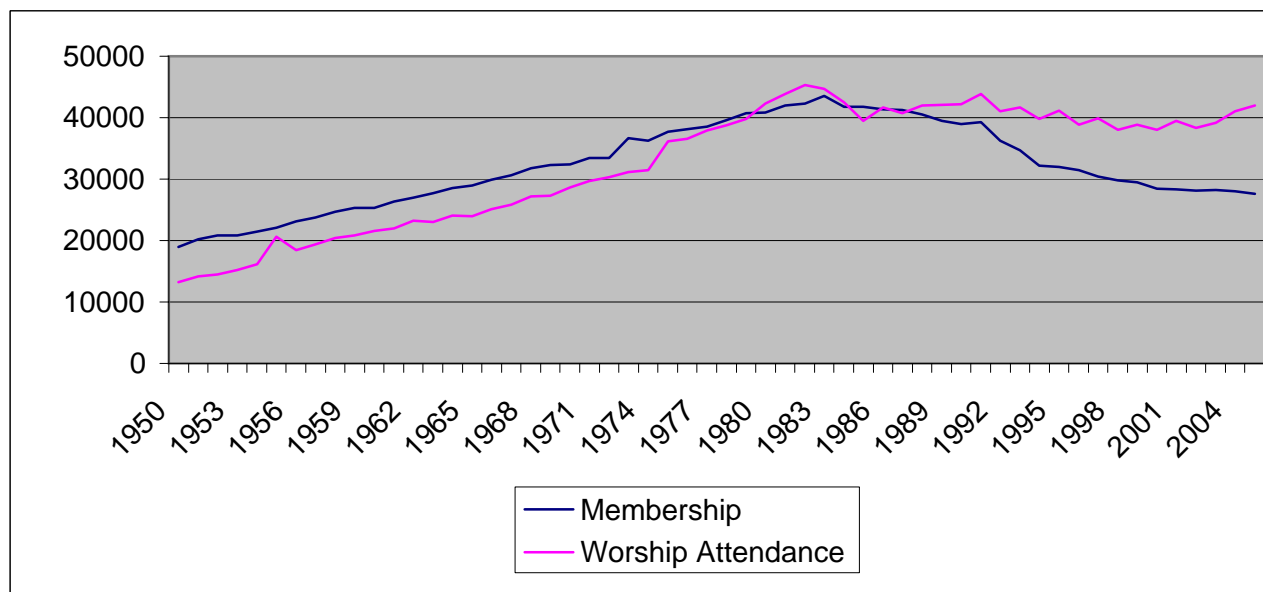
Delegates not participating in the meal can enter at 10:50.

- A) Membership Committee Report
- B) Action to seat delegates
- C) Elections and ratifications (see printed ballot):
 - 1) Leadership Team (Second Moderator-elect)
 - 2) Fellowship Council members
 - 3) Nominating Committee
 - 4) Secretary and Treasurer
- D) Constitution and Manual of Procedure Amendments (see printed ballot and report #12):
 - 1) To change the definitions for cooperating organizations
 - 2) To change the required basis for the Membership Fee
 - 3) To change the schedule for awarding delegates.
 - 4) To change the requirements for national conference advance planning.
- E) Recommendation to recognize GBIF as a separate Cooperating Organization
- F) Run-off Election (if needed)
- G) Social Concerns Committee – Report and New Resolutions (see report #6)
- H) Action on new church applications
 - 1) Crossroads Community Church of Philadelphia – Jim Brown, Pastor
 - 2) Mosaic Riato of Rialto, CA – Mitch Cariaga, Pastor
 - 3) Cocalico Creek Fellowship of Reamstown, PA – Jeff Reifsnyder, Pastor
 - 4) Cornerstone Grace Brethren Church of Springboro, OH – Tim Nixon, Pastor
 - 5) Upper Arlington Grace Brethren Church of Columbus, OH – Dave Bogue, Pastor
 - 6) Encuentro Latino of Coatesville, PA – Carlos Peralta, Pastor
 - 7) Iglesia Comunal La Esperanza, Dover, FL – Jesus Munoz
 - 8) Brazilian Bible Church, Philadelphia PA - Pastor Paul Alencar
 - 9) (Philadelphia, PA)
- I) Announce election results.
- J) Action to accept printed reports
- K) Approve the 2007 budget
- L) Report from the Moderator
- M) Recognition of service

Statistical Report for 2005

Presented to the 2006 Conference
(includes reports received through July 1, 2006)

	2005					2004	2003	2002
	Avg	Min	Max	Total				
# of Churches in the FGBC				260		262*	260	261
# reporting statistics				237		221	221	231
# paying membership fee				237		221	220	231
Sunday Worship	181	3	2,700	41,945		40,992	39,161	38,289
Sunday School	100		1,000	18,601		19,218	19,349	20,040
Recorded Conversions	13	0	418	2,492		2,970	2,821	2,584
Baptisms	9	0	103	1,925		1,931	1,822	1,717
Total Members	117	3	1,440	27,614		28,038	28,213	28,131
Triune Immersed Reported	96	1	1,438	19,211		19,138	19,804	20,403



Churches deleted in 2005

CA, Rialto, Grace Community Church
FL, Brandon, Iglesia Comunal Cristiana of Brandon
IN, South Bend, Grace Brethren Church
OH, Columbus, Rocky Ridge
OH, Wooster, Grace Community Church
TN, Gray, Way of the Cross
VA, Troutville, Grace Brethren Church

Churches added in 2005

CA, Lancaster, Iglesia Biblica De Fe
DC, Washington, Disciples of Christ Outreach
OH, Mason, Mason Family of Grace
PA, Pottstown, Still Waters
PA, Quakertown, Immanuel Grace Brethren Church

*Note: 2004 Statistics missreported church count. Actual count was 262. Maple Valley Closed in 2004 but was not noted in the statistical report.

2006 FGBC MEMBER CHURCH LIST

Listed by: State, City, Church Name, Membership/Avg Worship Attendance (as of Dec 31, 2005)

AK, Anchorage, Dimond Grace Fellowship: *

AK, Eagle River, Grace Brethren Church: 117/120

AK, Kenai, Kenai Grace Brethren Church: *

AK, Soldotna, Peninsula Grace Brethren Church: 127/243

AZ, Gilbert, East Valley Grace Brethren Church: 8/10

AZ, Peoria, ValleyLife Grace Brethren Church: 75/80

CA, Alta Loma, Grace Fellowship of Alta Loma: 39/46

CA, Auburn, Auburn Grace Community Church: *

CA, Beaumont, Cherry Valley Grace Brethren Church: 39/46

CA, Bellflower, Bellflower Brethren Church: 171/354

CA, Canyon Lake, New Hope Community Church: 10/80

CA, Chico, Grace Brethren Church of Chico: *

CA, Fontana, The Fountain Community Church: 20/25

CA, Hemet, Center of Grace Brethren Chapel: 34/32

CA, Lakewood, Iglesia Cristiana De la Comunidad: *

CA, Lancaster, Iglesia Biblica De Fe: 20/50

CA, Long Beach, Community Grace Brethren Church: 77/80

CA, Long Beach, Grace Brethren Church of Long Beach: 494/837

CA, Long Beach, Grace Cambodia Church: *

CA, Long Beach, Los Altos Grace Brethren Church: 119/216

CA, Modesto, La Loma Grace Brethren Church: 209/202

CA, Norwalk, Grace Brethren Church: 90/72

CA, Orange, Grace Church of Orange: 107/320

CA, Ripon, Ripon Grace Brethren Church: 211/262

CA, Riverside, Grace Community Church: 148/265

CA, Sacramento, River City Grace Community Church: 74/124

CA, Salida, Harvest Valley GBC: *

CA, San Diego, Grace Brethren Church: 39/48

CA, Santa Ana, Maranatha Grace Brethren Church: 25/20

CA, Santa Maria, Grace Brethren Church: *

CA, Seal Beach, Grace Community Church of Seal Beach: 386/524

CA, Signal Hill, Awakening Chapel: *

CA, Simi Valley, Grace Brethren Church of Simi Valley: 271/463

CA, South Pasadena, Grace Brethren Church of S. Pasadena: 43/71

CA, Tracy, Tracy Grace Brethren Church: 55/0

CA, Whittier, Community Grace Brethren Church of Whittier: 75/110

CA, Whittier, Grace Brethren Church of Whittier: 30/55

CA, Yucca Valley, Grace Community Church: 20/57

CO, Colorado Springs, Grace Brethren Church: 32/60

CT, Berlin, Colonial Chapel Grace Brethren Church: 20/51

DC, Washington, About My Father's Business: *

DC, Washington, Disciples of Christ Outreach: *

FL, Brooksville, Grace Brethren Church: *

FL, Deltona, Calvary Grace Brethren Church: 20/28

FL, Fort Myers, Friendship Community Church: 10/16

FL, Fort Myers, Grace Brethren Church: 31/40

FL, Gainesville, Grace Bible Fellowship: *

FL, Jacksonville, Haitian Community Church: *

FL, Lakeland, Grace Brethren Church: *

FL, Lauderdale Lakes, Eglise Evangelique De La Freres: *

FL, Melbourne, Grace Brethren Church - Suntree: 35/48

FL, North Lauderdale, Grace Community Church: 34/62

FL, Ocala, Ocala Grace Brethren Church: 42/48

FL, Okeechobee, Grace Christian Church: 38/29

FL, Orlando, Grace Christian Ministries: 31/35

FL, Ormond Beach, Grace Community Church: 34/50

FL, Pinellas Park, Grace Brethren Church of Pinellas Park: 85/107

FL, Port Richey, Gulfview Grace Brethren Church: 142/201

FL, Sebring, Sebring Grace Brethren Church: 79/210

FL, Tampa, Iglesia Comunal Cristiana: 29/86

GA, Marietta, Grace Church at Town Center: 178/158

HI, Mililani, Waipio Grace Brethren Church: 100/105

HI, Waipahu, Grace Fellowship: 108/213

IA, Cedar Rapids, Cedar Rapids Grace Church: 29/31

IA, Dallas Center, Grace Brethren Church: 29/44

IA, Davenport, Grace Brethren Church: 24/38

IA, Des Moines, First Grace Brethren Church: *

IA, Garwin, Carlton Brethren Church: 62/32

IA, North English, Pleasant Grove Grace Brethren Church: 28/36

IA, Udell, Udell Grace Brethren Church: 0/3

IA, Waterloo, Grace Brethren Church: 176/187

IN, Berne, Bethel Brethren Church: 111/79

IN, Clay City, First Brethren Church: 9/13

IN, Columbia City, Community of Hope Grace Brethren Church: 84/295

IN, Flora, Grace Brethren Church: 77/30

IN, Fort Wayne, Grace Brethren Church: 75/78

IN, Goshen, Grace Community Church: 214/839

IN, Indianapolis, Eagle Creek Grace Brethren Church: 63/105

IN, Kokomo, Indian Heights Grace Brethren Church: 21/29

IN, Leesburg, Leesburg Grace Brethren Church: 54/99

IN, Osceola, Grace Brethren Church: 206/368

IN, Warsaw, Community Grace Brethren Church: 201/432

IN, Winona Lake, New Horizon Community Church: *

IN, Winona Lake, Winona Lake Grace Brethren Church: 644/554

KS, Portis, Grace Brethren Church of Portis: 47/58

KS, Wichita, Grace Brethren Church of Wichita: *

KY, Clayhole, Clayhole Grace Brethren Church: 9/21

KY, Hyden, Victory Mountain Grace Brethren Chapel: *

KY, Jackson, Happy Church: 13/48

KY, Lexington, Grace Bible Church of Lexington: 10/19

MA, Essex, North Shore Bible Church: 53/82

MD, Accident, Grace Brethren Church: 8/19

MD, Calvert County, Grace Brethren Church: 367/508

MD, Clinton, Clinton Grace Brethren Church: 286/380

MD, Easton, Mid-Shore Community Church: 24/40

MD, Frederick, Grace Community Church: 215/538

MD, Hagerstown, Calvary Grace Brethren Church: 75/88

MD, Hagerstown, Grace Brethren Church: 315/251

MD, Hagerstown, Maranatha Brethren Church: 168/238

MD, Hagerstown, Valley Grace Brethren Church: 109/223

MD, Lanham, Grace Brethren Church: 85/96

MD, Mechanicsville, Grace Chapel Ministries of Southern Md.: *

MD, Waldorf, Grace Brethren Church: *

MI, Lake East Odessa, Grace Brethren Church: 40/70

MI, Lansing, Grace Brethren Church: 27/26

NC, Raleigh, Hope Community Church: 446/2257

NE, Beaver City, Grace Brethren Church: 27/30

NJ, Hope, Grace Community Church: 35/72

NM, Albuquerque, Native New Life Church: 20/40

NM, Counselor, Cedar Hill Navajo Grace Brethren Church: *

NM, Counselor, Day Mesa Grace Brethren Church: *

NM, Taos, Grace Brethren Church of Taos: 46/43

OH, Akron, Ellet Grace Brethren Church: 105/147

OH, Ashland, Grace Brethren Church: 657/1003

OH, Ashland, Southview Grace Brethren Church: 118/139

OH, Bowling Green, Grace Brethren Church: 4*

OH, Brookville, Brookville Grace Brethren Church: 250/172

OH, Canton, Grace Brethren Church: 196/177

OH, Centerville, Centerville Grace Brethren Church: 95/98

OH, Clayton, Clayton Grace Brethren Church: 75/85

OH, Cincinnati, Grace Church of Loveland: 31/109

OH, Columbus, East Side Grace Brethren Church: 292/587

OH, Columbus, Grace Brethren Church of Columbus: 1427/2010

OH, Columbus, Southwest Grace Brethren Church: 151/150

OH, Columbus, the quest: 13/25

OH, Covington, Friendship Community Church: 90/86

OH, Danville, Grace Brethren Church: 20/24

OH, Dayton, Basore Road Grace Brethren Church: 259/271

OH, Dayton, Calvary Grace Brethren Church of Dayton: 12/20
 OH, Dayton, First Grace Brethren Church: 142/149
 OH, Dayton, North Riverdale Grace Brethren Church: 59/40
 OH, Delaware, Grace Brethren Church: 200/488
 OH, Dublin, Northwest Chapel Grace Brethren Fellowship: 208/1144
 OH, Fremont, Grace Community Church: 740/971
 OH, Galloway, Grace Chapel: *
 OH, Greenville, Greenville Grace Brethren Church: 132/250
 OH, Homerville, Grace Brethren Church of Homerville: 268/207
 OH, Huber Heights, Grace Community Church: 129/212
 OH, Kettering, Calvary Grace Brethren Church: 28/28
 OH, Lexington, Grace Brethren Church: 122/138
 OH, London, London Grace Brethren Church: 16/50
 OH, Macedonia, Western Reserve Grace Brethren Church: 140/311
 OH, Mansfield, Cornerstone Grace Brethren Church: 38/57
 OH, Mansfield, Woodville Grace Brethren Church: 115/136
 OH, Marion, Grace Brethren Church: 47/101
 OH, Marysville, Marysville Grace Brethren Church: 132/245
 OH, Mason, Mason Family of Grace: 0/10
 OH, Medina, Shepherds Grace Church: 112/234
 OH, Middlebranch, Grace Brethren Church: 159/91
 OH, Millersburg, Grace Brethren Church of Millersburg: 95/86
 OH, Minerva, Grace Chapel: 186/249
 OH, Mt. Gilead, Heartland Grace Brethren Church: 35/36
 OH, Mt. Vernon, Grace Community Church: 30/50
 OH, Northwood, Trinity Grace Brethren Church: 33/68
 OH, Norton, Grace Church - South Campus: 393/1421
 OH, Pataskala, Pataskala Grace Brethren Church: 107/175
 OH, Pickerington, Grace Fellowship: 78/123
 OH, Powell, Grace Brethren Church of Powell: 419/588
 OH, Rittman, Grace Brethren Church: 120/109
 OH, Strongsville, Southern Hills Church: 20/50
 OH, Toledo, Maumee Valley Church: 5*
 OH, Toledo, Toledo Grace Brethren Church: 28/22
 OH, Trotwood, Grace Brethren Church: 27/43
 OH, Union City, DayStar Grace Brethren: 65/58
 OH, West Alexandria, Grace Brethren Community Church: 42/35
 OH, West Milton, Community Grace Brethren Church: 513/432
 OH, Wooster, Grace Brethren Church: 1268/1635
 ONT, Mississauga, Grace Community Church: 111/168
 OR, Beaverton, Walker Road Grace Brethren Church: *
 PA, Altoona, Altoona Grace Brethren Church: 50/95
 PA, Altoona, First Grace Brethren Church: 48/37
 PA, Armagh, Valley Grace Brethren Church: 55/53
 PA, Avis, Grace Fellowship: 36/0
 PA, Bethlehem, Lehigh Valley Grace Brethren Church: 91/102
 PA, Blain, Grace Brethren Church of Sherman's Valley: *
 PA, Boswell, Laurel Mtn Grace Brethren Church: 48/44
 PA, Chambersburg, Grace Brethren Church: 50/92
 PA, Chambersburg, Solid Rock Community Church: 13/34
 PA, Conemaugh, Conemaugh Grace Brethren Church: 42/30
 PA, Dillsburg, Hope Grace Brethren Church: 143/319
 PA, Duncansville, Leamersville Grace Brethren Church: 102/200
 PA, Elizabethtown, Grace Brethren Church: 223/220
 PA, Ephrata, Ephrata Area Grace Brethren Church: 64/93
 PA, Everett, Community Grace Brethren Church: 135/219
 PA, Everett, Everett Grace Brethren Church: 49/39
 PA, Greencastle, Living Water Community Church: 10/25
 PA, Hatboro, Suburban Grace Brethren Church: 6/20
 PA, Hollidaysburg, Vicksburg Grace Brethren Church: 131/130
 PA, Johnstown, Davidsville Community Church: 117/94
 PA, Johnstown, Johnstown Grace Brethren Church: 55/63
 PA, Johnstown, Liberty Grace Brethren Church: 48/70
 PA, Johnstown, Pike Grace Brethren Church: 236/276
 PA, Johnstown, Singer Hill Grace Brethren Church: 64/70
 PA, Kittanning, Grace Brethren Church of W. Kittanning: 101/103
 PA, Lancaster, Grace Church at Willow Valley: 173/396
 PA, Lancaster, Lancaster Grace Brethren Church: 54/53
 PA, Lititz, Grace Brethren Church of Lititz: 586/906
 PA, Loganville, Community Cornerstone Church: 25/43
 PA, Manheim, Manheim Grace Brethren Church: 103/119
 PA, Martinsburg, Hopewell Grace Brethren Church: 55/56
 PA, Martinsburg, Martinsburg Grace Brethren Church: 393/545
 PA, Meyersdale, Meyersdale Grace Brethren Church: 309/241
 PA, Meyersdale, Summit Mills Grace Brethren Church: 194/120
 PA, Myerstown, New Beginnings Grace Brethren Church: 196/487
 PA, New Holland, Grace Brethren Church: 157/189
 PA, Palmyra, Grace Brethren Church: 65/95
 PA, Parkesburg, Gateway Grace Community Church: 166/500
 PA, Philadelphia, Crossroads Grace Brethren Church - Frankford: 21/51
 PA, Philadelphia, Crossroads GBC - Wissinoming: 7/21
 PA, Philadelphia, First Grace Brethren Church: 42/0
 PA, Pottstown, Still Waters Home Churches & Worship Center: 28/30
 PA, Quakertown, Immanuel Grace Brethren Church
 PA, Red Hill, Hope Valley Community Church: 57/70
 PA, Reedsville, Kish Valley Grace Brethren Church: 137/220
 PA, Reinholds, Bread of Life Fellowship Grace Brethren Church: 37/50
 PA, Royersford, Grace Church: 20/20
 PA, Souderton, New Life Community Grace Brethren Church: 20/60
 PA, Telford, Penn Valley Church: 310/475
 PA, Tremont, Echo Valley Grace Brethren Church: 65/85
 PA, Uniontown, Grace Brethren Church: 86/89
 PA, Waynesboro, Grace Brethren Church: 83/83
 PA, Wrightsville, Susquehanna Grace Brethren Church: 50/72
 PA, York, Grace Brethren Church: 92/102
 SC, Aiken, Grace Brethren Church: 173/305
 SC, Anderson, Grace Brethren Church: 8/20
 TN, Johnson City, Fountain of Life Bible Church: 600/600
 TX, Longview, Grace Brethren Church: 35/48
 TX, McAllen, McAllen Grace Brethren Church: *
 VA, Alexandria, Grace Brethren Church: 31/43
 VA, Boones Mill, Boones Mill Grace Brethren Church: *
 VA, Buena Vista, First Brethren Church: 204/198
 VA, Covington, Grace Brethren Church: 68/63
 VA, Radford, Fairlawn Grace Brethren Church: 74/58
 VA, Richmond, Grace Brethren Church: 74/139
 VA, Riner, Riner Grace Brethren Church: 33/57
 VA, Roanoke, Clearbrook Grace Brethren Church: 47/54
 VA, Roanoke, Garden City Grace Brethren Church: *
 VA, Roanoke, Ghent Grace Brethren Church: 69/68
 VA, Roanoke, Patterson Memorial Grace Brethren Church: 110/93
 VA, Roanoke, Washington Heights Grace Brethren: *
 VA, Virginia Beach, Grace Community Church: 20/25
 VA, Winchester, Apple Valley Community Church: 20/20
 VA, Winchester, Blue Ridge Grace Brethren Church: 91/107
 VA, Winchester, Winchester Grace Brethren Church: 77/88
 VT, Island Pond, Grace Brethren Church: 39/70
 WA, Goldendale, Community Grace Brethren Church: 45/196
 WA, Harrah, Harrah Grace Brethren Church: 44/54
 WA, Kent, Grace Fellowship of Kent: 76/68
 WA, Mabton, Grace Brethren Church: 78/96
 WA, Mabton, Iglesia De Los Hermanos: 52/110
 WA, Mukilteo, Grace Community Chapel: 39/54
 WA, Prosser, Grace Fellowship: 36/80
 WA, Sunnyside, Grace Brethren Church: 138/177
 WA, Toppenish, Grace Brethren Church: 70/89
 WA, Yakima, Grace Brethren Church: 20/49
 WA, Yakima, Iglesia De Los Hermanos en Yakima: *
 WV, Grafton, First Grace Brethren Church: *
 WV, Martinsburg, Rosemont Grace Brethren Church: 57/65
 WV, Morgantown, New Hope Grace Brethren Church: *
 WV, Parkersburg, Grace Brethren Church: 19/34

*= no statistical report submitted as of July 1, 2006
 260 churches

Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches

Statement of Financial Position

October 31, 2005 and 2004

	2005	2004 (Restated) (see footnote)
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	\$ 82,400	\$ 80,620
Cash - GBIF	93,495	86,066
Accounts Receivable	912	9,727
Inventory		3,027
Prepaid Expenses	6,027	3,322
Total Current Assets	<u>\$ 182,834</u>	<u>\$ 182,762</u>
Liabilities and Net Assets		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	\$	
Advance Registration Fees	1,360	3,035
Accrued Payroll Expense	473	479
Promise of Honor	151,631	172,651
Total Current Liabilities	<u>\$ 153,464</u>	<u>\$ 176,165</u>
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	\$ 29,370	\$ (3,403)
Temporarily Restricted		10,000
Total Net Assets	<u>29,370</u>	<u>6,597</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 182,834</u>	<u>\$ 182,762</u>

Statement of Activities

Year ending October 31, 2005 and October 31, 2004

	2005	2004
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS		
Revenues		
Membership Fees	\$ 136,556	\$ 127,716
Conference Income	116,588	90,856
Focus Retreats	26,435	32,318
Contributions	32,675	28,075
Other Income	6,950	16,113
Total Revenue	<u>\$ 319,204</u>	<u>\$ 295,078</u>
Expenses		
Program Services		
Conference	\$ 122,779	\$ 128,980
Focus Retreats	55,625	54,617
Supporting Services		
Fellowship Council	37,673	44,895
General Administration	80,354	68,146
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 296,431</u>	<u>\$ 296,638</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 22,773</u>	<u>\$ (1,560)</u>
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets:		
Contribution	-	-
Change in Temporarily Restricted Net Asset:	-	-
Change in Net Assets	22,773	(1,560)
NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR	<u>6,597</u>	<u>66,065</u>
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 29,370</u>	<u>\$ 6,597</u>

Note: Payroll expenses are allocated to Conference, Focus Retreat and General Administration expense categories.

Reviewed by Dahms & Yarian, INC., CPA

Footnote: Prior to the 2005 financial report, Promise of Honor assets and potential liabilities were not included in the financial reports of the FGBC. Beginning with the 2005 report, these assets and potential liabilities (based on actuarial tables) are included and the 2004 report has been restated. The report shows an unfunded liability based on current assets and best-case scenario (long life of participants). The Retirement Planning committee believes that the Promise of Honor is adequately funded based on more likely future liabilities and annual gifts from the GBIF and from churches.

Continuing Resolutions of the FGBC

SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE

(From 1982 - made a continuing resolution in 1985)

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

(Added in 1996)

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

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM (From 1987)

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

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

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

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

PERSONAL COMMITMENT (From 1988)

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

- To make four personal commitments.
 - To spend quality time with Jesus Christ in the Word and in prayer.
 - To fellowship with and minister to the body of Christ.
 - To present the gospel to our friends, relatives, associates, and neighbors.
 - To live this day as though Christ would return momentarily.
- To make four prayer commitments.
 - To pray daily for spiritual revival.
 - To pray daily for five unsaved people. -"Handful for Christ."
 - To pray daily for our pastors, missionaries, and other spiritual leaders.
 - To pray daily for those in authority.

HOMOSEXUALITY (from 2000)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Resolutions Recommended by the Social Concerns Committee

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

Sanctity of Human Life (1982 and 1996); Religious Freedom (1987); Personal Commitment (1988); Homosexuality (2000)

2. The Teaching of “Intelligent Design”

We affirm God is our creator, as stated in the United States Declaration of Independence: “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights.” We further affirm that this statement is not an establishment of religion, but a declaration that the foundation of America is theistic, not atheistic

We believe that in the public schools of America discussions of the origin of the universe and life shall present the scientific evidence for Intelligent Design as well as the theory of Natural Selection. This presentation shall be non-sectarian in harmony with the United States Declaration of Independence and sound scientific evidence.

3. Religious Liberty

We express our concern whenever a political agenda overrides the deep religious convictions of a church or individual. Government must not “establish a religion,” – whether it be the domination of one religion over others or the imposition of a secularist, relativist agenda over others. The exercise of religious liberty should not be abridged except in the case of a compelling state interest.

We express our concern whenever “correctness” or “tolerance” or government coercion, restrictions or unfairness interferes with the right to worship, to establish new churches, or to evangelize and influence society.

4. The Continuing Crisis in the Middle East

We believe that God grieves over the loss of innocent human life and in totalitarian oppression of the human spirit and we join in this grieving. We recognize our responsibility to pray for justice and peace and especially to “pray for the peace of Jerusalem.”

Until the day of God’s perfect kingdom, we labor for and support noble human efforts toward peace. We believe our God, who causes the sun to shine and the rain to fall on the unjust as well as the just, is pleased by the efforts of people of good will to pursue a peace that is just and lasting and recognizes the worth of all persons.

5. World Conflicts

We know that conflicts among nations will occur this side of our Lord’s return. Nonetheless, we are obligated to work for peace and to pray for all who are in authority, that we might live peaceful lives in all godliness and holiness. The reality that Christian world missions goes forward better in times and places of tranquility is itself a prime reason for this prayer (I Timothy 2:1-4).

6. Community Involvement

Jeremiah called on the exiled Jews in Babylon to “seek the peace and prosperity of the city” and to “pray to the Lord for it” (Jeremiah 29:7 NIV). As citizens of heaven yet as sojourners here on earth (the theme of I Peter), each of us and each local church is called to a ministry of prayer and “shalom” to our respective communities.

Let us challenge one another to manifest the spirit of prayer and “shalom” in our communities in many creative ways. We recommend that our churches actively and intentionally look for ways to influence, serve and benefit their communities.

7. The Institution of Marriage

We believe that marriage is more than a humanly constructed social contract. It inevitably reflects religious values and according to Judeo-Christian values it has its origin in the creative plan of God. It rests on two Creation principles: (1) God created Man as male and female and (2) God said the man would be united to his wife and thus they would be “one flesh.” These principles are combined and affirmed by our Lord Jesus Christ (Mark 10:6-9) in his teaching on the marriage covenant.

We recognize how marriages, even between Christians, often fall short of biblical standards and healthy unions. The shortcomings of these relationships built on the proper foundation do not thereby negate the foundation and give us cause to change it.

We call on government at all levels to affirm heterosexual marriage, as it has existed for millennia, and to strengthen the institution of marriage through helpful legislation and policies. We believe that God will honor single parenthood when it is consecrated to him, but we also believe that our deliberate effort should always be to bring children into the nurturing and protective environment of a home with mother and father united in the covenant of marriage.

2006 Report of the Social Concerns Committee

“Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you...and pray to the Lord in its behalf.”

-- Jeremiah 27:6

Since our calling as a Christian community is both to prepare for the world to come and to impact our present world with the values and message of the Scriptures, the Social Concerns Committee of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches works to assist our churches in carrying out the social aspects of our biblical mandate.

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

The Social Concerns Committee sees its role as being a voice of instruction and advocacy on moral issues that are informed by the Bible. It is never our role to inject personal political opinions, secular political ideology, or non-biblical issues into our ministry. We believe that the prophetic witness God calls us to includes a comprehensive moral vision. Even though this vision is, in the providence of God, only capable of partial achievement in the present age, God nonetheless raises up government to promote good and oppose evil and God calls his people to be salt and light in the present world and to pray and work for social peace and justice.

The Social Concerns committee’s ministry includes:

- An exhibit at the annual conference
- Seminars
- Writings
- Periodic communication to the Fellowship through e-mail from the Fellowship Coordinator Office
- Responses to inquiries from churches and individuals on specific issues
- Assisting churches in social concerns activism
- Being an influence throughout our Fellowship to increase awareness, commitment and involvement

We urge each of our churches to establish a viable local social concerns ministry. This ministry should include:

- A Social Concerns Committee
- An awareness of the national, state and local issues most in need of impact by biblical values
- An effort to educate the membership on biblical social responsibilities and on current issues
- An activist role, when appropriate, on specific issues
- A strong effort to offer or to support positive alternatives to wrongdoing, such as homes for unwed mothers, pregnancy aid centers, inner-city ministries and mentoring programs for troubled youth
- A goal of being recognized in the community as a church that truly cares and of nurturing a positive community image as a source of good and constructive values

Our committee invites our churches and our members to contact us whenever we can be of assistance in your social concerns issues and ministries.

Respectfully submitted,

The Social Concerns Committee

Donald P. Shoemaker, Chairman
Eric Eickhoff
Bob Fetterhoff
Doug Jensen
Russ Ogden
Glen Rininger
John Smith
John Teevan

Retirement Planning Committee

Kenneth A. Seyfert. Chairman

As of **June 30, 2006**, the total asset value of the Fellowship Retirement Plan stands at **\$ 6,089,898.77**. We now have **315** active participants in the plan.

Sixteen investment options are available to plan participants. Quarterly, individual reports are being sent on a timely basis. Account information can be viewed on-line via a secure website at www.eRetirement.aul.com. Other enhancements have been made to the new bookkeeping system which is very user friendly. We have met with One America representatives to review our plan and discuss ways to improve our cooperative services.

We send **16** checks monthly to elderly retirees under the “Promise of Honor” program. The monthly need is **\$ 1,843.44**. Total current funds on hand as of **June 30, 2006** are **\$80,462.12**. To help with future funding needs, the Grace Brethren Investment Foundation, Inc. will continue its annual grant to “Promise of Honor.”

Respectfully submitted:

Mr. Kenneth A. Seyfert, Chairman

Mr. William Burby

Dr. James L. Custer

Mr. James W. Johnson

Mrs. Linda Leonard: Coordinator of Administration

Fellowship Council February 2-6, 2006 Sacramento California
HIGHLIGHTS

PRESENT: Keith Shearer (Moderator, term ending 07), Doug Courter (replacing Ron Smals, East Region, term ending 07), Tim Boal (Moderator, term ending 07), Ed Waken (West Region, term ending 06), Robert MacMillan (West region, term ending 08), Dan Allan (Moderator, term ending 06), C. Jim Brown (Moderator, term ending 09), Tom Hocking (West Region, term ending 09), Mike Jentes (Central Region, term ending 06), Jesus Munoz (Guest, Hispanic Ministries), Dan O'Deens (replacing Jim Brown-Philadelphia, East Region, term ending 08), Larry Edwards (Central Region, term ending 07), Andy Wirt (Central Region, term ending 09), Dan Gregory (Central Region, term ending 08), Nathan Zakahi (West Region, term ending 07), and Greg Howell (Recording Secretary)

ABSENT: Tom Avey (recovering from surgery), Mike Lee (East Region, term ending 09, dedicating new building) and Vic Young (East Region, term ending 06).

COOPERATING ORGANIZATION REPRESENTATIVES: Larry Chamberlain (Grace Brethren Investment Foundation), Ed Lewis (CE National), Ron Manahan (Grace Schools), Terry White (Brethren Missionary Herald), Janet Minnix (Women of Grace, USA), Dave Guiles (Grace Brethren International Missions), Jeff Carroll (Grace Village), John Haller (Grace Brethren Men).

OVERALL MEETING PLAN: The Council began with a joint session on Thursday (Feb 2) and then met as three commissions: Finances ("What do we spend?"), Structures ("Are we effective?"), Membership ("Are we connecting?"). Friday (Feb 3) the council met with representatives of FGBC cooperating organizations to hear reports and engage in a big picture discussion on leadership development in the FGBC. Saturday (Feb 4) the council considered recommendations arising from commission and leadership discussions. On Sunday (Feb 5) council members participated in area (NorCal District) churches.

Reports from cooperating organizations: Each year the Fellowship Council considered written and oral reports from leaders of FGBC cooperating organizations. They also select one strategic topic for a broader discussion.

This year, the council asked Dr. Manahan (Grace College and Seminary) to launch a focused discussion on pastoral leadership development. Friday morning was spent in an extended discussion of the needs and challenges facing the FGBC in leadership development. Multiple initiatives are in various stages of development across the FGBC to address these needs.

FUTURE FELLOWSHIP COUNCIL MEETING DATES:

July 28, 2006 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm in Indian Wells, CA

January 25-27, 2007 (prior to the Southwest FOCUS retreat)

CONFERENCE AND FOCUS RETREAT REPORTS

1. **EQUIP 05:** Equip05 was a bold and courageous step. The number of people that enrolled in classes (400) exceeded our expectation. There were many good opportunities for our leaders to learn, something for every person and every type of need. The material was excellent!
2. **CELEBRATE 06—Keith Shearer:** The theme of Celebrate06 complements the theme of the Focus Retreats: "Truth on Fire" - "Hearts on Fire". We need the fire in the boiler to keep everything cranking in directions we are going. Keynote speaker, Jim Cymbala has been asked to speak to our need for passion in ministry.
3. **EQUIP 07—Tim Boal:** Equip07 is Sunday July 29 through Friday Aug 3. The theme will be "Continuing your Life-long Pursuit of Wisdom" with four tracks: Understanding my Purpose, Understanding my Family, Understanding my Church, Understanding my World

4. CELEBRATE 08—Jim Brown: The theme will be on evangelism with an encouragement to think outside the box! Jim presented the idea of a cruise where we will be on-mission, sitting around tables with people we don't know including international workers. What if we played out the theme of evangelism while we are learning about it? Theme: Get off the Boat, or Get out of the Boat.
5. 2005/06 FOCUS RETREATS asked the question, "What does it mean to be a hermeneutical church community?"

DECISIONS MADE TO RECOMMEND TO DELEGATES AT 2006 CONFERENCE:

1. To grant separate cooperative organization status to GBIF.
2. To institute a NEW FEE STRUCTURE based on ranges of the average worship attendance of local church as reported on FGBC annual report (like the current NCO system). This will also affect a change to the Constitution and Manual of Procedure. There will be a first reading of the changes this year.
3. New churches be presented for acceptance: Encuentro Latino (Coatesville, PA), Crossroads Community Church (Philadelphia, PA); Cocalico Creek Fellowship (Reamstown, PA), Upper Arlington Grace Brethren Church (Columbus, OH), Cornerstone Grace Brethren Church (Springboro, OH), GBC (Sunbury, OH), and Mosaic (Rialto, CA). Contingent upon receiving satisfactory application and letter: (Braden, FL) and Brazilian church (NE Philadelphia)
4. COOPERATIVE ORGANIZATION NAME CHANGE: The Fellowship Council recommends that "Cooperative Organization" be called "Cooperative Ministries" or "National Ministries" because we are all about ministry not organizations. "Cooperating Ministries" will be more regional in scope and "National Ministries" will be national in scope.

DISTRICT LIAISON ASSIGNMENTS

1. Tom Hocking—Southern California/Arizona & Hawaii
2. Andy Wirt: Northeast Ohio
3. Larry Edwards: North Central Ohio
4. Doug Courter: Mid Atlantic, Allegheny & Western PA;
5. Mike Jentes: Tri-State
6. Dan Gregory: Heartland & Great Lakes District
7. Mike Lee: Blue Ridge
8. Ed Waken: Iowa & Mountain Plains
9. Vic Young: Florida & Southern
10. Dan O'Deens: Northern Atlantic Fellowship & Chesapeake
11. Nathan Zakahi: Northwest & Alaska
12. Robert MacMillan: Northern California

2006 Pastoral Connections Activity Report

Tom Avey, Coordinator

After the 2005 national conference, the Pastor Connections office was moved to the National FGBC office. The FGBC has been well-served by Pastor Greg Howell as Pastoral Connections Coordinator for many years. We are deeply thankful for his careful and prayerful work.

The benefits of this move have been:

1. Better coordination between public online announcements and private inquiries.
2. Better coordination between pastoral connections and the Paraclete Ministry.
3. Better follow-up and counselling with churches that are seeking pastors.

Churches who are seeking pastors have many options:

1. The church may request a Paraclete Ministry connection which includes:
 - a. Phone Counsel
 - b. A visit by the Paraclete Coordinator
 - c. An all-church survey.
 - d. An all-church interview process.
 - e. A detailed written report of strengths and weaknesses provided by the Paraclete Coordinator to church leadership.

Goals of a Paraclete connection can be one or more of the following:

- i. Develop a basis for a profile that will help in a pastoral search.
 - ii. Identify strengths and weaknesses that can become the focus of leadership in an interim.
 - iii. Conflict resolution (if needed).
2. The church can place an “Ad” on www.fgbc.org in the “jobs” section.
3. The church can request a list of possible candidates from the Pastoral Connections Coordinator. The recommendations can take two forms:
 - a. Actual resume’s on file.
 - b. An unqualified list of names for follow-up.
4. The church can request a visit by the Pastoral Connections Coordinator for counsel and encouragement.
5. The church can contact any FGBC pastor, district or national leader for recommendations or counsel.

Pastors who are looking for ministries can:

1. Submit a resume to the Pastoral Connections coordinator.
2. Contact churches directly that place an “ad” on the FGBC web page.

General Comments: Churches in the pastoral search process are in a great position to make significant changes that will strengthen their ministry. In the life of a church, this time is one during which a help from the FGBC, districts or National Ministries is especially appreciated. It is highly recommended that church not try to “go-it-alone” during a pastoral search but seek help and advice from trusted pastors and leaders of the FGBC, it’s districts and it’s cooperating ministries.

2006 Nominee Biographical Data

Leadership Team (second moderator-elect) (2006-2010)

Tony Webb grew up in West Alexandria, OH, across the street from Harry and Ruth Shipley who introduced him to Grace Schools. He began his studies at Grace Schools in 1978 and finished in 1986 with a ThM in New Testament. He worked for Home Missions until 1988 and from 1988 to 1991 pastored at Warsaw Community GBC and taught part time in the Seminary. He currently resides in Columbus, OH, with his wife Cathy and children, Heather and Philip – both students at Grace. He has pastored the Southwest Grace Brethren Church of Grove City, OH, for 15 years. Tony has served the NCO District in various capacities including the Examining Board, District Missions, Vision Ohio and has spearheaded the Metropolitan movement in Ohio. Under his leadership and through the hearts of obedient men and women, Southwest Grace has grown, built, planted twice and currently has two plants in the prenatal phase. Current pursuits include working to establish a chaplaincy program with the Grove City Police Department, Pastors of Excellence program, and Doctor of Ministries Degree through Ashland Seminary.



“I believe that the best we can do in reaching the masses of lost men, women and children for Jesus Christ in our land is to be proactive and intentional with our own faith – serving passionately in our own homes, churches and communities. May our best effort as a Fellowship of churches guide us to a fervor to engage our own churches: to move towards a new level of health and growth through chosen, effective discipleship. May our choice trigger intentional leadership multiplication.

“May we also see our actions move us to intentional church multiplication. Consider how much more successful we are if we have more healthy, effective, connected Grace Brethren churches consumed in the work of reaching the lost and multiplying themselves in all our communities! God is stirring me deep in my soul. This stirring is one that I long to see and will work to see realized while I have breath: a church a day planted in Ohio – regional church multiplication. May we ask Jesus Christ for such a movement and personally engage all that He wants in all regions of our land!”

John McIntosh has been the senior pastor of Grace Brethren since 1983. As senior and teaching pastor, John is committed to God’s Word and ministers by the motto, “the Bible, the whole Bible and nothing but the Bible.” A pastor for more than 30 years, John came to Grace Brethren from Mabton, Washington. Earlier he had served in his hometown of Sunnyside, Washington. He was drawn to the increased opportunity for ministry in the Southern California area and wanted to experience the sufficiency of God’s grace in a fast-paced environment. He supervises a staff that touches the lives of hundreds of families in the community John received both his Bachelors’ and Masters of Divinity degrees from Grace College and Grace Theological Seminary. Awarded the “Pastor of the Year” in 2004 by the National Association of Grace Brethren Ministers, John currently serves on the Board of Directors of Grace College and Seminary in Winona Lake, Indiana. Throughout his ministry, John has also served on several district and national boards for the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches. John and his wife, Carolyn, were married in 1968 and have three married children and nine grandchildren. In his spare time he enjoys spending time with his family, golf, fly-fishing, and riding his Harley with friends.



“The church of tomorrow stands or falls with the willingness of pastors and church leaders to train and mobilize their successors today. Church leadership has got to be willing to empower and release young men and women into productive ministry. When the power people in the church are driven by what they need to do to protect and expand their own influence, the church begins to die.

“Paul put it this way when he wrote to Timothy ...”entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also” (II Timothy 2:2). Pastors must give priority attention to the leaders and influencers in his congregation. These are the faithful, available, and teachable (FAT) folks. Effective training must be given to skills in service, teaching and evangelism. Equip ’09 will be a program that helps pastors and Elders identify these people and constructively help train them to be the leaders in the church of tomorrow.”

Ballots are available at the membership committee desk. Delegates must attend the business meeting on Thursday in order to submit their ballot for inclusion in the vote.

Fellowship Council (2006-2010)

Fellowship Council - Western Region

Chris Ball is the oldest of six children born to missionaries in the Central African Republic. Marsha and Chris have been married over twenty-seven years and have two sons Jason and Andrew, a daughter Sharine and two grandchildren. Chris has served on the Fellowship Counsel in the past and has been involved with District and National service. He served in Africa for eighteen months as a short term missionary, and served in Mexico, Canada, Europe, and a Navajo Reservation. Chris has served as Senior Pastor at Dimond Grace (Anchorage, AK) for over six years with former pastorates in Colorado, Ohio, and Minnesota. Pastor Ball has also served our nation and his local community in chaplaincy ministry with the FBI for six years. He has ministered at headquarters in Washington, D.C., the FBI Academy and the White House. Pastor Chris' favorite thought: Preach the Gospel at all times...if necessary, use words!



Phil Sparling: "I'm Phil Sparling and I pastor the Grace Brethren Church in Auburn, California. It's a privilege to pastor a church that was started over twenty five years ago by my parents and two additional families. As a high school student I traveled in the northeast on an Operation Barnabas Team and had Ed Lewis as our team leader (I've never been quite the same). God touched my heart and called me into ministry that summer and I have been involved in Grace Brethren ministry ever since. My wife, Ruth, and I have been married for over 22 years and have four wonderful children ranging from the ages of nineteen down to eleven. We have watched not only our own ministry in Auburn grow and mature over the years, but have seen some exciting signs taking place in our fellowship as a whole. I am excited to be a part of a moving and progressive thinking group of believers. I see great things coming in the years ahead and would love to contribute to that future. Thanks for the opportunity to possibly serve you. God Bless."



Fellowship Council- Central Region

Dave Lawson: Dave has served on the pastoral staff of Wooster Grace Brethren Church for 12 years. He has a strong passion for Great Commission ministry, serving 11 years as the Associate Pastor of Outreach Ministries and now as Administrative Pastor. He was President of the Support and Advisory Board of Internationals U.S.A. for 9 years and has served on the Northeastern Ohio (NEO) District Mission Board for 12 years, for which he is now the chairman of the Strategy Task Force. He is also this year's moderator of the NEO District. He has been married to his wife, Julie, for 21 years. They have three children, Stephanie, Jacob, and Wade.



Ned Denlinger: Ned graduated from Miami University in 1979 with a BS degree in Systems Analysis, having met the Lord there through Campus Crusade in 1976. Ned married Kathy in 1979 and moved to Troy, OH where they "stumbled" into the GBC and served for 8 years. Ned became a member of the FGBC Ministerium in 1983. In 1987, Ned & Kathy moved to Mason, OH where they served in the Loveland GBC for 17 years. In 2004, they began to focus full-time on their new church of small home groups in their neighborhood and community call "Mason Family of Grace". Ned & Kathy have four children: Kristen (Martin), Nathan, Katie, and Kendra.



Ron Smals: Ron and his wife, Susan (Guiles), have been married for 27 years and have a 20 year old son, Brandon. Ron is a graduate of Grace College and Grace Theological Seminary. Ron has served at Community Grace Brethren Church in Warsaw, IN; Virginia Beach GBC (VA); Greensburg, PA (church plant); Fishers, IN (church plant); and for 11 years at Ocala GBC (FL). He is currently pastoring at the Woodville GBC in Mansfield, OH. He also currently serves in the NCO District as the District Missions' Chairman. He has served as Moderator of the East Central Florida District twice and once in the Indiana District. He served for four years on the Executive Board of the Association of Grace Brethren Ministers.



Fellowship Council - Eastern Region

Larry Humberd: After graduating from Grace Seminary in 1980 (M-Div) Larry T Humberd was the Youth Pastor at Hagerstown, MD GBC 1980-1991. He has been the pastor of Lehigh Valley GBC in Bethlehem, PA from 1991 to the present. While in Hagerstown he served on CE National's Youth Cabinet. He also helped plant the Frederick GBC bringing it from a Bible study group of 20 to Sunday worship services of 60. Since coming to the Northern Atlantic Fellowship, Larry has served as moderator of NAF 3 times, chaired the NAF Youth Commission, directed Teen Camp, and served on Northern Atlantic Mission Board. LVGBC is presently in preparation for its first church-plant in the Lehigh Valley.



Rick Clark: Rick Clark has been the Senior Pastor of the Pike Grace Brethren Church for the past 7 years. He has served in the West Penn District as Moderator, Examining Board Chairman, Ministerium Chairman, Vice-Chairman of District Missions, and in ministry at Camp Mantowagan. Rick graduated from Lancaster Bible College in 1978, and received a Th.M from Grace Seminary in 1983 and a D.Min from Grace Seminary in 1996. He and his wife, Cindy have 3 children and 3 grandchildren. Rick has pastored in the FGBC for 23 years and has written a children's curriculum based on the FGBC Statement of Faith called, Kids Under Construction.



Jesus Munoz: Jesus Munoz is the National Coordinator for the Hispanic Ministry with Grace Brethren North American Missions. He is also a church planter. In the last seven years he, and his family have started four Spanish Speaking churches and he is the senior pastor of "Iglesia Comunal La Esperanza" He is married to Rosa and they have four children, Aaron, Carina, David Munoz and Mathew Melendez. Jesus is a former Board member of Internationals USA and he is a current Board member of Grace College.



Dan Pritchett: "I graduated from Grace College where I met my wife Pam Stoneback, then from Grace Theological Seminary. I was involved in teaching high school for 6 years. The Lord gave us our first church assignment at Calvary Brethren Church in Dayton, Ohio where we served for 4 years. God opened the door for our current ministry at Valley Grace Brethren Church in Hagerstown, MD in 1986 where we are currently serving. Our oldest daughter, Jill, was married to Nick Sowers in May of 2005 and they reside in Myrtle Beach, SC. Our youngest daughter, Jamie, will be a senior at Indiana Wesleyan this coming year."



Proposed Changes to the Constitution and Manual of Procedure

Note: With the exception of the change to the Manual of Procedure: Article III, Section One: Item 2, the submission of these changes constitutes a “first reading” and will be acted upon at the business meeting at national conference in 2007.

To change the definitions for cooperating organizations

Background:

Currently the FGBC [Constitution](#) and [Manual of Procedure](#) allows for the designation of only one type of ministry other than local churches or districts—a “cooperating organization”. In order to be recognized as a “cooperating organization,” it must meet the following criteria:

- It must subscribe to the FGBC statement of faith.
- It must be controlled by members of FGBC churches.
- It must not be a subsidiary of one local church.
- It must have representation on its board of directors from each of the three geographical regions (exception: “an organization serving a specific geographical area”)
- It must have a scope of ministry that is broader than the immediate local church and must exist to serve other Grace Brethren Churches.
- It must meet a recognized need related to the fulfilling of the Great Commission.

The FGBC constitution is very careful to specify that the FGBC does not control cooperating organizations (especially noted for legal reasons).

Current Benefits:

The only benefit of being a cooperating organization, according to the manual of procedure is “The Council shall consult the Corporation's Boards and Cooperating Organizations in its conference planning and may invite representatives of such Boards and Organizations to its planning sessions.”

Recommendation:

The Fellowship Council is recommending the creation of two categories for cooperating organizations. One called a “National Ministry” and the other a “Cooperating Ministry.”

Our first objective is to see these entities that serve the FGBC as “ministries” instead of merely organizations.

The qualifications for both categories would remain the same as above except:

- Cooperating Ministries are not required to have board representation from all three regions.
- National Ministries must demonstrate “a tradition of national influence that has consistently advanced the mission of the FGBC.”

Proposed Benefits:

For the National Ministries, the benefit will remain the same as it is currently for Cooperating Organizations—to be consulted in the planning of conference.

For the Cooperating Ministries, the benefit will be that they can be regional and not restricted to the national representation requirement of the National Ministries and still be fully cooperating with the FGBC.

Reasons for the proposed changes:

- To provide an avenue to recognize and encourage new cooperative ministries in the FGBC.
- To continue to officially value ministries that have demonstrated a strong historic influence in the Grace Brethren movement.

Additional Comment:

Currently all cooperating organizations have equal designation according to the constitution. The creation of two categories will better allow the Fellowship Council to encourage new cooperating ministries while developing more effective ways to partner with ministries that have had a long-term and broader impact on our movement.

Change Article X of the Constitution to read:

ARTICLE X
NATIONAL AND COOPERATING MINISTRIES

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 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 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 2/3rds affirmative vote.

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 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.
- 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.

2. Procedure. Ministries meeting the requirements of Section Two of this Article 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 an annual report as a courtesy, it does not in any way control any of the recognized cooperating ministries.

4. Review: The Fellowship Council has the responsibility to review cooperating ministries regarding the above qualifications. Recommendations for removal of a Cooperating Ministry's recognition shall be approved by the delegates by a majority affirmative vote.

Change the Constitution and Manual of Procedure as follows:

Manual of Procedure: Article III, Section One: Item 1:

Current wording:

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 the Corporation's Boards and Cooperating Organizations in its conference planning and may invite representatives of such Boards and Organizations to its planning sessions. (Expenses for these representatives shall be borne by their respective organizations.)

New wording:

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.)

Manual of Procedure: Article III, Section One: Item 7:

Current wording:

The Council shall receive and evaluate the requests of groups desiring recognition as cooperating organizations of the corporation, recommending the appropriate action to be taken by the conference.

New wording:

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.

Manual of Procedure: Article III, Section One: Item 11:

Current wording:

The Council may serve as an advisory board to the Fellowship, its member churches, recognized districts, cooperating organizations, and other bodies who seek its counsel with no authority other than to offer counsel to these bodies.

New wording:

The Council may serve as an advisory board to the Fellowship, 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.

Manual of Procedure: Article III, Section One: Item 17:

New item:

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

Constitution: Article IV, Section One: Item 6:

Current Wording:

No church shall be denied membership in the corporation because of failure to support any or all institutions or boards, either district or national, or cooperating organizations recognized by the Fellowship except that failure to comply with membership obligations as stated in Article II, Section Three, points #2, 3, and 5 of the Manual of Procedure may subject the offending church to dismissal.

New wording:

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. Only failure to comply with membership obligations as stated in Article II, Section Three, points #2, 3, and 5 of the Manual of Procedure may subject the offending church to dismissal.

Constitution: Article V. Section Two: Item 2

Current wording:

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 total membership of the local church.

New wording:

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.

To change the required basis for the Membership Fee

Background:

The Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches annual membership fees are approved by delegates each year at national conference as a part of the budget approval process. Currently the [Manual of Procedure](#) requires that member churches of the FGBC pay an annual fee based on each local church's membership. (Article I, Section 1, item 3)

Concerns with the present system:

There is a great diversity among our Fellowship of churches in how membership relates to the size of the church. For example: Church #1 with average main-service attendance of approximately 1000 has 650 members; Church #2 with average main-service attendance of approximately 1000 has 200 members. Under the present system, Church #1 will pay approximately \$3,400 annually and Church #2 will pay \$1,050. Such an example demonstrates that the present system is not an equitable way to collect annual fees.

In addition, FGBC statistical reports show that local church membership in FGBC churches is declining over recent years while average attendance is relatively stable. This trend puts pressure on the per-member annual membership fee needed to meet the FGBC budget.

There is also a growing diversity in the form (worship and programming) which our FGBC churches are utilizing. Some do not have an official local church membership. Some do not have a weekly main worship service. As time goes on, it will be increasing difficult to find an objective measurement for church size.

Recommendation:

The Fellowship Council is recommending that the requirement in the Manual of Procedure that the membership fee in the FGBC be based on local church membership be removed. The result would be that the Fellowship Council can recommend and the delegates approve annual FGBC membership fees each year based on other criteria.

Reasons for the proposed changes:

- To develop a fairer basis for annual fees for churches in the FGBC
- To allow the delegates to establish annual fees in ways that encourage diversity in form and a strengthening of the function of the local churches of the FGBC.

Additional Comment:

The North Central Ohio (NCO) District has changed to an annual district membership fee based on ranges of attendance or church size. Each church can, in good faith, place itself in a church-size range and pay the membership fee for that range. This new system has served the district well. The NCO model is one example of an alternate system that has been considered.

Implementation:

The Fellowship Council is recommending the following plan for implementation:

- July 2006 – The first reading of the proposal to change the Manual of Procedure at National Conference.
- July 2006 - Conduct open forums on possible ways to handle FGBC annual membership fees.
- August 2006 - June 2007 – The Fellowship Council will be available for feedback, dialog and to answer questions.
- July 2007 - Delegates vote on the proposed change to the Manual of Procedure.
- July 2007 - Delegates vote on a proposed budget and annual membership fee to take effect in 2008.

Manual of Procedure: Article I. Section One: Item 3

Current wording:

A check for membership fees shall accompany the application. The fee to a member church is based on total membership.

New wording:

A check for membership fees shall accompany the application.

To change the schedule for awarding delegates:

Background:

The Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches holds its annual business meeting each summer as a part of National Conference. Churches are entitled to send delegates to this annual meeting with full voting rights. The delegates elect people to the Fellowship Council, the 2nd moderator elect, approve a budget and delegate fees, approve changes to the constitution, approve and welcome new churches into the FGBC.

The current system:

The current system allows each member church to seat at least two delegates. In addition church can seat 2 delegates for every 25 members. The exact wording is, "Each member church shall be entitled to one delegate for every twenty five members or major fraction thereof; provided that every church shall be entitled to at least two delegates."

Concerns:

Large churches have the ability to have a very strong influence on the outcome of any vote by the delegates. For example, churches with 10,000 members can seat 400 delegates. Additionally, churches representation will also be influenced by membership patterns. Churches with high attendance but low membership will be under-represented.

Reasons for the proposed changes:

- To strengthen the influence of mid and small-sized churches.
- To better batch delegate representation with church attendance.

Constitution: Article V. Section Two: Item 1

Current wording:

Each member church shall be entitled to one delegate for every twenty five members or major fraction thereof; provided that every church shall be entitled to at least two delegates.

New wording:

Each member church shall be entitled to at least two delegates. Additional delegates are designated as stated in Article II, Section Three, Point A of the Manual of Procedure.

Manual of Procedure: Article II. Section Three: Item A.

Add new item and re-designate following items:

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	Assigned 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

To change the requirements for national conference advance planning.

Background:

The Fellowship Council is charged with the responsibility of planning and conducting the annual conference of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches.

Currently:

The Manual of Procedure states that “The Council shall select the time and place for the conference and shall submit its proposals to the conference at least three years in advance. Boards and Cooperating Organizations shall be consulted in the choosing of dates and sites for the conference.”

Concerns over “advance” notice:

Constitutionally, the moderator “...shall present the annual moderator's address on the general theme of the spiritual state of the churches and the challenges facing the Fellowship. He may incorporate recommendations to the Fellowship from the Fellowship Council.”

Traditionally, the moderator has a major role in planning the conference over which he presides. The requirement that the date and location of conference be announced three years in advance restricts the newly elected moderator from participating in important decisions about the conference over which he presides 3 years later.

Concerns over “consulting Boards and Cooperating Organizations”:

Current wording in the Manual of Procedure requires that “Boards and Cooperating Organizations shall be consulted in the choosing of dates and sites for the conference.” This recommendation removes this sentence for the following reasons:

1. The term “Boards” is not defined in the Manual of Procedure or Constitution.
2. The Manual of Procedure: Article III, Section One, Item 1 retains this requirement.

Recommendation:

The Fellowship Council is recommending the following change to the Manual of Procedure:

New wording:

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.

Manual of Procedure: Article III, Section One: Item 2:

Current wording:

The Council shall select the time and place for the conference and shall submit its proposals to the conference at least three years in advance. Boards and Cooperating Organizations shall be consulted in the choosing of dates and sites for the conference.

New wording:

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.