

Fellowship Council Highlights

January 28-30, 2010 in Simi Valley, California

Overview: The council met on Thursday, January 28 through Saturday morning, January 30. Commissions (Membership, Structures, and Finance) met prior these dates via conference calls to care for administrative tasks and begin discussion on agenda items. Executive Directors of FGBC National Ministries met with the council on Friday to present reports from their ministry.

Results:

1. The council welcomed three new members to the team: Mike Sciarra from Orange; California, Bruce Barlow from Winona Lake, Indiana; and Dan Jackson from Myerstown Pennsylvania.
2. Moderator, Tom Hocking reviewed the development of a longer-term for moderator as well as the development of the "Commitment to Common Ministry" document that arose from the Charis08' meeting of representatives from the global community of Grace Brethren Churches. This document focuses on a decade of multiplication, leadership development and integrated ministry and is available on the FGBC web site and on page 5 of the 2010 FGBC handbook.
3. The council met with a potential nominee for a three-year term as moderator of the FGBC starting after national conference in the summer of 2011. Lord willing, this nominee will be formally announced in advance of "Take the Plunge," our annual celebration conference which will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio (7/16-20/2010).
4. "Vision 2020: a town hall meeting" was planned for Monday, July 19 during "Take the Plunge". Every Grace Brethren pastor and church delegate is encouraged to attend this meeting where we will consider a nominee for our first three-year Moderator and a plan to advance the "Commitment to Common Ministry" in North America for the next decade.
5. The council received applications from three churches for membership in the FGBC: Darby Grace Brethren Church, Plain City, Ohio; MISPA Missionary Community, Miami, Fla.; Cap City Grace Brethren Church, Columbus, Ohio. All were recommended for acceptance into the Fellowship.
6. At the 2008 "IGO" conference, Go2 Church Planting was granted *provisional* national ministry status and Vision Ohio was granted *provisional* cooperating ministry status. After reviewing these ministries, the Fellowship Council is pleased to recommend that the provisional nature of these recognitions be removed.
7. The council adopted a proposal from Grace Brethren International Missions (GBIM) to recognize missionaries sent from member churches through agencies other than GBIM. This process will be in place in the fall of 2010.
8. A detailed budget for 2010 was approved based on the budget approved in 2009 by delegates.
9. Nominees for the Nominating committee and appointments to the membership committee and parliamentary committee were approved.