

## FELLOWSHIP COUNCIL MEETING

Innisbrook Resort, Palm Harbor, Florida

FRIDAY – July 25, 2008 1:00 PM

**PRESENT:** Jim Brown (Moderator-2009), John McIntosh (Moderator-2010), Dan O'Deens (East-2008), Doug Black (East-2011), Jason Carmean (Central-2009), Ron Smals (Central-2010), Tom Hocking (West-2009), Phil Sparling (West-2010), Oscar Chavez (Hispanic Ministries Consultant), Tom Avey (Fellowship Coordinator), and Greg Howell (Recording Secretary).

**ABSENT:** Steven Joyce (East-2009), Larry Humberd (East-2010), Dan Gregory (Central-2008), Skip White (Central-2011), Robert McMillan (West-2008), Phil Hefler (West-2011), Tim Boal (Moderator 2008),

Moderator Jim Brown invited the members to open with sentence prayers.

### Agenda:

#### 1) iGo08 Update – Jim Brown

Moderator, Jim Brown told tremendous stories of giving (\$72,000) at Momentum East for food for 100,000 (feed my starving children—Dominican Republic of /Haiti) for one year (goal \$15,000) and an orphanage for Asia's Hope (Momentum Orphanage), plus a Super bowl winner said he would sell one of his rings to build another orphanage. Jim encouraged the Fellowship Council to engage the staff here at Innisbrook. He said, "Let's be the most generous, friendliest, joyful group they have ever had." He wants to open each meeting with pictures of staff we are talking with and pray for them. Tuesday night Madam Soque, the director of the orphanage in Bangui that Barb Wooler is coordinating with, will present their ministry. They serve 600 orphans, but most are being supported while living with relatives.

#### 2) Approve Minutes of Winter Meetings

A MOTION PREVAILED to approve the Fellowship Council minutes from January 2008 meetings in Seal Beach, CA as posted on the Fellowship Council webpage.

#### 3) The Finance Committee suggests that: Tom Avey's housing allowance for 2009 be set at \$35,000. IRS requires this to be done in an official meeting prior to the fiscal year.

A MOTION PREVAILED to set Tom Avey's housing allowance for 2009 at \$35,000.

#### 4) Financial Update

##### a) Cash Flow projections in light of conference shortfalls were discussed.

We will be about 300 room nights (x \$125) short of projections, plus lower than projected food income.

##### b) Recommendation from the Finance Commission:

"To approve the use of a line of credit to be accessed for a maximum of three years." Note: Tom has approached GBIF for line of credit -- Ken Seyfert approved \$90,000 but we will probably only need about \$50,000.00. A MOTION PREVAILED to approve a line of credit from GBIF to be accessed by Tom Avey on behalf of the FGBC for a maximum of three years.

Tom Avey mentioned some things he can do in the office to conserve expenses, such as limit his travel and maybe change handbook. His prayer request is that the finance lady (at Innisbrook)

who said “we will work with you on this” means something. It is a complicated picture, but he has 30 days to pay. Tom shared that extra nights after conference would be at half price and he encourage that it be shared word of mouth.

Tom Hocking led in prayer that God would do amazing things to care for the projected shortfall.

5) 2009 Budget

Tom called attention to the printed budget (similar to what was on the web). It needs to be approved by the delegates.

Discussion resulted in directing Tom to leave off the footnotes and that Tom has the power to forgive fees for those churches that communicate their difficulties. Consensus was that the system needs to stay relational. He can also remind those who are balking at the personal increase that it is part of the give and take in being a fellowship. It is appropriate for those who have received in the past (being Home Missions, etc), to give so that others can now receive. Ron Smals stated that the scale is reasonable compared to what other denominations pay. Dan O'Deens interjected that often other denominations' fees include missions also.

Jim Brown mentioned that the system helps satellite churches because there is only one fee for the group of churches.

Tom Avey noted that the scale (using attendance rather than membership) ties the health of the Fellowship to the health of the churches. He does not want to mess with the scale much because it is a mirror of us as an institution.

A MOTION PREVAILED TO approve and present the 2009 Budget minus the notes.

6) Go2 Application/Recommendation

a) Action already taken by the Fellowship Council:

“That Go2 Church Planting be approved provisionally as a National Ministry until annual conference 2010. The fellowship council will review the status of Go2 at its winter meeting in 2010 with a view towards recommending a permanent status for approval by delegates at the 2010 conference.”

b) Recommendation from the membership commission:

“That Go2 church planting be approved provisionally as a National Ministry until annual conference 2010. The Fellowship Council will review the status of Go2 at its winter meeting in 2010 with a view towards recommending a permanent status for approval by delegates at the 2010 conference.”

c) We were unable to approve this motion by email so this recommendation has not been communicated in advance of conference.

Tom Avey stated that there were enough yeses to pass, but enough concerned comments that he did not declare it passed. The Leadership team is convinced that it is okay to approve provisionally. They want Tim to come to 2010 winter Fellowship Council to report.

Dan O'Deens said that this motion allows us to show that we are intentional about church planting. Ron Smals said his greatest concerns are funds to support FGBC and how much time and money will be spent planting non-FGBC's?”

Phil Sparling noted that a provisional motion is based on the reality that Go2 doesn't have a real track record. And there are some real hurts with the speed and necessary lack of communication at the end of GBNAM.

Someone suggested that maybe the lost ministries (Canada, San Francisco, etc) ought to apply to be cooperating ministries.

The FGBC needs to move on and assume that Go2 becomes the new church planting arm. Tom & John need to write down things that Go2 needs to report on at 2010 meeting.

A MOTION PREVAILED (from the Membership Commission) that Go2 Church Planting be approved provisionally as a National Ministry until annual conference 2010. The Fellowship Council will review the status of Go2 at its winter meeting in 2010 with a view towards recommending a permanent status for approval by delegates at the 2010 conference.

7) Vision Ohio Application:

a) Action taken by the membership commission:

"We enthusiastically affirm the vision and appreciate your leadership in the development of the Vision Ohio ministry and look forward to the presentation of your ministry as soon as possible. The Fellowship Council will consider your application for formal recognition after that presentation. We commit to praying with you through this process anticipating that God will bless the FGBC through the Vision Ohio ministry."

b) The Membership Commission has met with Tony Webb by phone conference and decided to [put] Vision Ohio on the Fellowship Council agenda at conference. Tony will probably be at conference some this week.

c) The Leadership team wants Tony to come to 2010 winter Fellowship Council meeting as a Cooperating Ministry --currently have about 10 churches in the works. Good question to ask on application: "How are you getting along with others in the district/fellowship?) Involves several (3) Ohio districts. Consensus that they should prove themselves over the next couple of years and report to the Fellowship Council at the Winter 2010 meeting.

A MOTION PREVAILED That Vision Ohio be approved provisionally as a Cooperating Ministry until annual conference 2010. The Fellowship Council will review the status of Vision Ohio at its winter meeting in 2010 with a view towards recommending a permanent status for approval by delegates at the 2010 conference.

Tom instructed Fellowship Council members to encourage Tony as you see him during the week so he doesn't think that we didn't want to talk with him. Tom Hocking is meeting Tony and Tim already and will explain.

8) New Churches that applied since the Winter meeting

a) Brighton Chapel of Howe, Indiana (Ken Bickel, helping). It used to be an Ashland Brethren church and there were some hurt and bad feelings when the Ashland group moved out. The District leadership should check with their leadership. John McIntosh interviewed the pastor and that did not come up. Jason Carmean's in-laws were part of the congregation. Jason was encouraged to give the pastor a head's up.

A MOTION PREVAILED to recommend Brighton Chapel to the delegates for acceptance as a member church of the FGBC.

b) Community of Hope, Surrey, Canada

A MOTION PREVAILED to recommend Community of Hope to the delegates for acceptance as a member church of the FGBC.

9) Constitution and Manual of Procedure Changes.

## a) Questions

- i) Should the delegates vote on all the amendments at once?
- ii) Voice of paper vote?
- iii) Who will make the amendment to the motion?

## (1) Amendment to motion:

(a) Change Constitution Article VI section Two "The moderator and vice moderator shall serve a three-year term as moderator and vice moderator" to "The moderator and vice moderator shall serve a one, two or three-year term to which they are elected as moderator and vice moderator"

(b) Change Constitution Article VIII section Two "shall be elected together on a single ballot question by majority affirmative vote of the delegates present" to "shall be elected together on a single ballot question to a one, two, or three year term by majority affirmative vote of the delegates present"

(c) Change Manual of procedure Article III section One to add "for a one, two or three year term."

Dan O'Deens will present the five changes and purpose as detailed in the delegates packet so that the delegates can handle all of the changes all at once. He will present that the Fellowship Council heard concerns about pastors being able to serve for 3 years. He will focus on the vision part, history, and introduce it. Tom Avey will take it from there to care for the vote. Tom Avey will change the change sheet handout according to Parliamentary Committee counsel. Dan O'Deens can move the amendments. Tom Hocking will help Dan O'Deens with the presentation. The Business meeting is Thursday.

It was suggested that delegates would need to approve a motion to allow 1<sup>st</sup> place in each Fellowship Council representative ballot to be elected to a 5yr term and 2<sup>nd</sup> most votes to be elected to a 4year term. Then the regular system will work after that.

Phil Sparling asked "if those elected wanted to reverse, may they?"

It was decided that different current Fellowship Council members will contact those present to see if they will serve 5 years under the new system.

A CONSENSUS PREVAILED that we elect 2 from each region and the Fellowship Council will determine which term length each will serve.

Dan O'Deens stressed that part of the strategy of the longevity change is that it is a team. He cited the John & Tom ticket as an example and that the strategy also provides for an Enduring Vision Leadership Team.

Dan O'Deens asked John McIntosh "how many do you see on EVLT?" John replied that he hadn't thought too much about it yet.

Dan noted that the NAT.ORG. part is easy because they are set. It is the 3-5 others that need to be selected. But we have a financial rub because of shortage of funds. But whole purpose of longevity changes is to create the EVLT. We need to keep moving on this process. Who are these 3-5 people? It is time to identify real people. If the Fellowship Council appoints Oscar to fill Tom Hocking's place on Fellowship Council that will help financially. John & Tom H can move it forward.

It was decided that the Fellowship Council would pause for a time of prayer and then share names that God causes to come to mind.

After prayer the following names were mentioned: Phil Bryant, Nathan Bryant, Mike Jentes, Jeff Bogue, Dan O'Deens, Dan Allan, Dave Plaster, Nathan Zakahi, Bob Fetterhoff, Gabe Lyons (leader at Equip 09 — maybe these visionaries don't need to be FGBC?), Tony Webb, Kary Oberbrunner, Jim Brown, and Mike Lee.

John McIntosh requested that Fellowship Council members let him or Tom know when names come to mind.

Tom Avey announced that the Vision Luncheon (Saturday) was intended to be highly relational and visionary. It would be a good time for Fellowship Council members to be there and query informally about up and coming leaders.

Dan O'Deens asked, "What if we asked churches to do like CE does to identify who in their business community they ask to help them?"

Jim Brown thought of Dave Wright who is a part of his church, but not an official leader.

Tom Avey thought that maybe we need to intentionally not choose pastors.

Dan O'Deens mentioned that if we are limited to only 3 this year, maybe we should use only non-pastors.

Jim Brown said that we might use technology (Skype) and not even invite them to meetings—maybe it doesn't need to be face to face to be effective, and thus we could be good stewards of their time.

Dan O'Deens said that we could ask the 5 top picks to prepare a 10 minutes presentation and send to us (maybe that's all the involvement we need and they have time for)

Tom Avey said, "How about asking some of our suggested names to come up with names?"

John McIntosh mentioned that money would not be a problem—they would pay own way. Like the millionaires from Simi that are building a West Coast Christian music center (because everything is in Nashville).

Tom Avey said the Manual of Procedure states that the Fellowship Council will include qualified laity in leadership positions. What if ELVT was primarily lay?

Perhaps what we create as ELVT needs to not be static, but recreated regularly. Might be less enduring, but more visionary. The Leadership Team and NATORGS can supply the enduring part.

Doug Black: "Now we have assigned the enduring part to the lengthened moderator terms we can allow these visionaries to do the visionary stuff."

Jason Carmean: "Do we lose part of the enduring part if the visionaries do their things during the John / Tom term and then fall off (because they are loyal to John & Tom)?"

John McIntosh: "But that is nature of beast visionaries get bored and want to move on when they get their idea into the hands of someone (moderators) to carry the idea."

Ron Smals: "We need to have reps from around the country to get variety."

Tom Avey: "At the Luncheon I want to have Fellowship Council members at different tables with yellow pad to record "top stories" of incredible things happening in your districts, towns, etc."

#### 10) Grace Village

Jeff Carroll was not happy because Grace Village ended up in the Cooperating Ministry category (because board is not regionally represented) thus he was not invited to Fellowship Council in January and he feels slighted. Tom Avey stated that Grace Village was the only original NAT.ORG. that did qualify as a National Ministry. Tom would like someone to meet with him. Maybe we should grandfather them in.

A CONSENSUS PREVAILED to grandfather in Grace Village's involvement with the Fellowship Council's annual winter meeting and treat them as a National Ministry for Fellowship Council relational purposes.
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## 11) Vision Luncheon

See above about Fellowship Council members sitting at different tables.

## 12) Celebrate 10

Tom Hocking distributed a handout with four keys he learned in his doctoral studies: Congregation, Culture, Calling, and Context. These will be the framework for his conference because they are the burdens on his heart. His personal new motto is “to do next to nothing by myself.” He will try to write a brief booklet with guides to becoming more missional for pastors and lay to be handed out at FOCUS retreats. He wants to ask churches to ask themselves what worked well in the past. How can we bring that into the future?

Tom then polled the Fellowship Council for ideas for conference location or setting.

John McIntosh: Inner-city Philly?

Phil Sparling: Somewhere where we can objectively observe another culture and go home to evaluate our culture afterwards in a new and fresh way

Dan O'Deens: If we could intentionalize the relational value of going out together to do ministry He stated that he was scared of Jim sending hundreds of people jumping off the cruise ship because of unpracticed evangelism cf *I Became a Believer and all I got was this T-Shirt*, by Vince Antonucci

Tom Avey: We can do some smaller things well if we plan. We might need to plan smaller, more specific conferences. The purpose of conference is to celebrate, showcase mission, cast vision, and equip or train. Maybe this time in Philly we need to be downtown—really would have put us on location.

Discussion ensued about if conference is down this year because of active evangelism theme more than the economy.

John McIntosh: How about a children's home fund to distribute food to homes in Kentucky? What if we took delegates to Kentucky for camping, slower atmosphere?

Doug Black said he heard of a program taking books to Kentucky kids because of illiteracy.

Phil Sparling wants to take kids to Mexico for servant attitude experience (used to go for the fun and group was large—now smaller groups are better)

Tom Avey's review of past minutes showed that back in the 90's every 6 years we were to go somewhere to plant a church. Maybe now we will have a mindset to be more missional because of this conference.

Dan O'Deens maybe we need to do something in conjunction with Momentum so families can train together. We need to provide a real poverty situation (Africa, Dominican, Mexico, inner city).

Phil Sparling said that then delegates can go home as a team and really evaluate their own ministry.

Jim Brown mentioned that Ed Lewis takes kids downtown LA in large groups.

Tom Hocking noted that Tom Julien said FGBC purpose is Truth, relationship and mission.

When we present —deep seated fear that individuals won't measure up to Christianity. The Church of Jesus Christ will not survive much longer with denominationalism. Need to train people where they are going to be on “D-Day” when it becomes illegal to preach the gospel (soon churches may be seized because they preach against homosexuality in California)

Dan O'Deens: “Can we set up different conference sites for different appetites, maybe even music styles, and bring it all together at end of week?”

## 13) Equip 09?

John McIntosh showed promo DVD.

Ohio churches are pretty convinced they can provide homes for delegates. Some of the session leaders/instructors are: Gabe Lyons, Ed Stetzer, Neil Anderson. There will be opportunity for pastors to preach in Ohio churches the Sunday ahead of Equip. There will be lots of round table stuff—plenty of lunch places near. The District is real excited. John wanted Tony Dungy as a speaker, too expensive however (\$100,000). John and Tom Avey are building in several plenary sessions.

14) Equip 11? We need to decide at our Winter meeting if we will do more Equip

Tom Hocking: What if we do some practical stuff in the evenings (assignments)?

Dan O'Deens: Can we celebrate the success of Vision Ohio? They can be a catalyst for the rest of us. This might be the time to plant a church—Cleveland (use Akron—Knut's church). This would be first conference for the first 3 year moderator.

Fellowship Council expressed great favor toward idea but need to include EVLT input.

iGO 08 (Celebrate 08)

Jim Brown reminded about the planned outings: Baseball game and temple trips

Pray for Mark Cahill, Sunday speaker. He personally knows lots of pro athletes, and has witnessed to Tiger Woods. He is speaking at both services Sunday. Pray that we receive him well.

Tom Avey reminded that Evangelists are gifted to the church (Eph 4:11). It may be a little prophetic that Jim Brown is calling us to do what we don't do regularly. He really does evangelism all the time. He prays for and with waitresses. Relational is key to what we need to work on so that we see the lost get saved.

John McIntosh closed in prayer and Jim Brown adjourned the meeting

Respectfully submitted,  
Gregory M. Howell, Recording Secretary