



The purpose of the Association of Grace Brethren Ministers shall be to encourage, and support, and strengthen leaders who belong to Grace Brethren Churches, and to engage in activities for the benefit of its members as may be determined by the Board of Directors.

Many of the ways that the AGBM has functioned in the past continue to this day. Unfortunately, the past has not been very productive in helping us reach our purpose of encouraging, supporting and strengthening the leaders of the Fellowship's churches. There has been a lot of effort given to make a change so that those who belong to our Association find a team that will come alongside them in ministry.

One of the short comings in many churches is that no one really cares for the shepherd. Some churches do well in providing appropriate levels of compensation and benefits. Many don't. Beyond the pastor's material needs what about the need for spiritual, physical and mental support and refreshment. Who will pastor the pastor? The AGBM cannot do this alone, but we can go a long way in keeping our leaders strong and fit. This may seem a bit ideal, but isn't a healthy church very dependent on a healthy pastor? Additionally, if we can help churches see how they fit in the mix and give them tools and input we will be a much healthier Fellowship.

Look at the following information through these eyes. It is the desire of the AGBM leadership to make changes and adjustment to the end that our members sense we are fulfilling our purpose.

New Board of Directors

The directors met for the first time prior to Equip 07. This was a profitable meeting and many important decisions were made.

The Current Board of Directors:

Ken Bickel, Mark Saunders, Randy Smith, Randy Weekley, Doug Courter, Bob Fetterhoff, Roberto Soto, Terry Daniels, Greg Howell and Ralph Molyneux.

The Current Executive Committee:

Joel Richards, Dan White, Bud Olszewski, Mark Saunders, Ken Bickel, Randy Smith and Jerry Young

Membership

Our current membership stands at a little over 440 men.

The exciting news is that during the last year there were **28 new men** either licensed or ordained. Each of these new members have been given a one year free membership into the Association.

We hope to continue to recruit and welcome new members.

Web Page (agbm.org)

We are making progress. We have cleaned up old information. In fact, if you visit this site during the Fellowship Council meetings you will see a personal greeting. We are far from being done with what this site can do. Eventually, we will have a number of resources that will be helpful to pastors and churches. We're currently working on Ethics issues and a standardized Certification process. When these are complete they will be posted and available for anyone who might benefit from them.

Additionally:

- \$ We are real close to being able to take Membership Payments online (\$100).
- \$ We will soon be uploading the AGBM Newsletters (the printed version).
- \$ We are working on a profile form that will enable (behind a password) any person who registers on the site to maintain their personal information online.
- \$ When people register on the site we will be notified of this by email.

Task Force

We currently have established two different task forces to create important documents and guidelines for the future.

Certification Task Force: It has become clear that we need to have consistency across the Fellowship on how we determined those who are licensed and ordained. The importance for this cannot be overstated. We are fully aware that it is God who calls anyone into service, but there must be an appropriate process whereby this call can be recognized. The price will be too much to pay if we don't have a clear Biblical standard for those certified at any level.

Ethics Task Force: There is probably not a single pastor or church who hasn't wrestled with the issue of ethics. God's leaders must be men of high personal standards who follow clear ethics in their ministry. This is also true for every church.

An ethics document won't put an end to the unethical behavior that plagues the church. However, we can put a real dent in this problem if there is clear direction and agreements when it comes to ethical behavior.

Ministry Director

In January 2009 Jerry Young will no longer be acting in the capacity of Research and Development or interim Ministry Director. His gifts and time have been invaluable to the AGBM. But, the time has come for him to end this agreement. What this means to the Association is that we will need to find a replacement. There is obviously enough money available for a part time person but it is our conviction that this needs to be a full time position. Like any of our National organizations the issue is how do we raise the money to provide for such a position. God will lead us in this matter. We are confident about that!

Some Recommended Initiatives:

- \$ Open the Pastoral Ministry office no later than January 1, 2009
- \$ Seek legal review of the prototype by-laws no later than January 1, 2009
- \$ Seek final approval of the prototype by-laws by the end of 2009
- \$ Receive recommendations from task forces
- \$ Research and develop an "honor roll" of AGBM members who have a long history of service in the FGBC
- \$ Develop a list of men who are willing to provide short-term, interim pastoral work
- \$ Develop the data base
- \$ Strengthen the benevolence fund
- \$ Refine and improve the basis on which we receive information from local churches and districts on who they recognized as licensed and ordained elders
- \$ Find ways to develop standards for women in ministry and ways to have a ministry to our pastor's wives.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel Richards
President, Association of Grace Brethren Ministers