



From our Executive Directory, Bartley Sawatsky

Welcome to Flinch Conference, the 2015 edition of the National Conference of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches! This year we will be talking about risk as we continue to create a culture for movement in the FGBC.

Excitement is building as we get closer to July. We have our "riskologists" all lined up to challenge us (including popular missiologist Alan Hirsch) and we have a number of exciting "riskursions" planned throughout New York City.

As you know, I am serving as executive director of the FGBC through to our annual conference in 2016. My appreciation for our tribe has grown a lot over the past couple of years and it is a pleasure to serve you and our fellowship!

Attached are business reports for delegates from our partnering churches. I know that we would all rather celebrate than do business but there are a few things we need to care for. Please familiarize yourself with the agenda for our meeting plan. We will keep it brief.

Thanks so much for your help!

Bartley

Reports...

Agenda	1
2014 Statistics	2
2015 Member Church List	3
Financial Statements for 2014	4
Social Concerns Committee	5
Continuing Resolutions of the FGBC	6
New Resolutions	7
Retirement Planning Committee	8
Fellowship Council Highlights	9
Constitutional and Manual of Procedure changes	10
Commitment to Common Mission	11
Bios for Ballot	12
Leadership Team Proposal	13

On separate pages:

- **Ballots**
- **Budget for 2016**

Agenda

Sunday, July 26 at 12:30 p.m.

- 1) Membership Committee Report and action to seat delegates
- 2) Executive Director and Conference Director Ratifications (paper ballot)
- 3) Fellowship Council Elections and Ratifications (paper ballot)
- 4) Ratifications of Treasurer and Secretary and appointments (paper ballot)
- 5) Recommendations of a new member church (pending fellowship council approval):
 - a) New Calvary Evangelical Church (Pastor Henri Cher-Aime)
- 6) Motion to affirm the Pacific Northwest Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches (a cooperating district) action of removing Walker Road GBC from being a cooperating church “for not living harmoniously” and dismiss them from membership in the FGBC.
- 7) Recommendation of new cooperating ministries (pending fellowship council approval):
 - a) SeedNet
 - b) Grow New England
 - c) Kalahari
- 8) The 2016 Budget
- 9) Changes to the Constitution
- 10) New Resolutions
- 11) Election Results
- 12) Identity Initiative Update
- 13) Executive Director’s Address – Bartley Sawatsky

Statistical Report for 2014

Presented to the 2015 Conference

(includes statistical reports received through July 1, 2015)

of Churches in the FGBC (7/1/15)

reporting statistics

Attendance

Small Group

Recorded Conversions

Baptisms

Total Members

2014	
Avg	Total
	249
	194
207	42,281
76	15,494
13	2,553
8	1,608
114	22,991

2013	2012	2011
250	251	244
	200	206
43,594	43,508	43,281
15,426	15,802	16,717
2,616	2,490	2,675
2,054	2,053	1,699
24,589	23,854	24,744

Churches added since last report (3)

Woodside Church: Ashland, Ohio (Pastor Nathan Wells)

Living the Word Church: Ashland, Ohio (Pastor Nathan Wells)

Grupo Amor Cristiano: Dublin, Phil (Pastor Phil Guerena)

Churches deleted since last report (3)

Withdrew Awakening Chapel, Signal Hill, CA

Closed New Horizon Community Church, Winona Lake, IN

Withdrew Heartland Grace Brethren Church, Edison Oh

Closed Bread of Life Fellowship, Reinholds PA

5 yr Numerical Growth (based on a 3% threshold)

Growing	59	31%
Static	18	10%
Declining	112	59%

Churches applying for membership in 2015 (1)

New Calvary Evangelical Church (Pastor Henri Cher-Aime)

FGBC MEMBER CHURCH LIST

(as of July 1, 2015)

Listed by: State, City, Church Name, 2014Avg. Worship Attendance/Membership

AB,Medicine Hat,Grasslands Church: 80/17	IN,Columbia City,Community of Hope Grace Brethren Church: 118/47
AK,Anchorage,Dimond Grace Fellowship: 25/36	IN,Elkhart,Fuente de Vida Grace Bilingual Church: 86/n/a
AK,Eagle River,Eagle River Grace: 152/84	IN,Flora,Grace Brethren Church: *
AK,Kenai,Kenai Grace Brethren Church: 27/n/a	IN,Fort Wayne,Grace Brethren Church: *
AK,Soldotna,Peninsula Grace Brethren Church: 117/72	IN,Goshen,Grace Community Church: 2400/406
AZ,Peoria,ValleyLife Grace Brethren Church: 80/80	IN,Howe,Brighton Chapel Brethren Church: *
AZ,Tonalea,Native New Life Ministries: 92/55	IN,Indianapolis,Eagle Creek Grace Brethren Church: 91/52
BC,Delta,Community of Hope: 85/41	IN,Kokomo,Indian Heights Grace Brethren Church: 20/34
CA,Alta Loma,Grace Fellowship of Alta Loma: 30/39	IN,Leesburg,Leesburg Grace Brethren Church: 80/51
CA,Auburn,Auburn Grace Community Church: 800/162	IN,Osceola,Grace Brethren Church: 233/89
CA,Bellflower,Bellflower Brethren Church: 224/161	IN,Warsaw,Community Grace Brethren Church: 223/198
CA,Canyon Lake,New Hope Community Church: *	IN,Winona Lake,Winona Lake Grace Brethren Church: 783/716
CA,Cherry Valley,Grace Fellowship: *	KS,Portis,Grace Brethren Church of Portis: *
CA,Chico,Chico Grace Brethren: 149/78	KS,Wichita,Grace Brethren Church of Wichita: 4/4
CA,Lakewood,Iglesia Cristiana De la Comunidad: *	KY,Clayhole,Clayhole Grace Brethren Church: *
CA,Lancaster,Iglesia Cristiana La Cosecha: *	KY,Hyden,Victory Mountain Grace Brethren Chapel: *
CA,Long Beach,Community Grace Brethren Church: 57/56	KY,Jackson,Happy Church: 68/39
CA,Long Beach,Grace Brethren Church of Long Beach: 638/461	MA,Essex,North Shore Bible Church: 76/50
CA,Long Beach,Grace Cambodia Church: *	MD,Accident,Grace Brethren Church: 12/5
CA,Long Beach,Los Altos Grace Brethren Church: 150/105	MD,Clinton,Clinton Grace Brethren Church: 310/257
CA,Modesto,La Loma Grace Brethren Church: 111/205	MD,Easton,Mid-Shore Community Church: 30/28
CA,Norwalk,Grace Brethren Church of Norwalk: 85/73	MD,Frederick,Grace Community Church: 533/262
CA,Orange,Grace Church of Orange: 365/177	MD,Hagerstown,Calvary Grace Brethren Church: 47/53
CA,Rialto,Sunrise Mission: *	MD,Hagerstown,Cornerstone Community Church: 55/45
CA,Ripon,Ripon Grace Brethren Church: 218/168	MD,Hagerstown,Maranatha Brethren Church: 155/144
CA,San Diego,Grace Brethren Church: 39/24	MD,Hagerstown,Valley Grace Brethren Church: 272/116
CA,Santa Ana,Maranatha Grace Brethren Church: 35/30	MD,Lanham,Grace Brethren Church: 84/55
CA,Seal Beach,Grace Community Church of Seal Beach: 401/452	MD,Leonardtown,The Point of Grace Church: 62/94
CA,Simi Valley,Grace Brethren Church: 559/220	MD,Mechanicsville,Grace Chapel Ministries of Southern MD: 225/160
CA,South Pasadena,Grace Brethren Church of S. Pasadena: 91/44	MD,Owings,Grace Brethren Church: *
CA,Tracy,Grace Brethren Church Of Tracy: 30/30	MD,Waldorf,Grace Brethren Church: 330/375
CA,Whittier,Community Grace Brethren Church: 85/48	MI,Lake Odessa,Grace Brethren Church: 44/38
CA,Whittier,Grace Brethren Church of Whittier: *	MI,Menominee,Menominee Grace Brethren Church: *
CA,Yucca Valley,Grace Community Church: 59/20	MN,Minneapolis,Twin Cities Church: 250/n/a
CO,Colorado Springs,Grace Brethren Church: 45/32	NC,Durham,Iglesia Cristiana La Cosecha: *
CT,Wethersfield,CenterPoint Community Church: *	NC,Maddison,Greensboro Grace Brethren Church: 30/9
DC,Washington,About My Father's Business: 600/60	NJ,Hope,Grace Community Church: 30/25
FL,Brooksville,Grace Brethren Church: 75/78 *	NM,Taos,Grace Brethren Church of Taos: *
FL,Deerfield,Family Christian Community Center: 15/25	NY,New York,New Horizon Church of New York: 60/70
FL,Fort Myers,Friendship Grace Brethren Church: 24/20	OH,Akron,Ellet Grace Brethren Church: 111/82
FL,Fort Myers,Grace Brethren Church: 55/28	OH,Akron,Grace Church of Greater Akron: 3996/580
FL,Lakeland,Grace Brethren Church: **	OH,Ashland,Eastgate Bible Church: *
FL,Lauderdale Lakes,Eglise Evangelique de la Paix: 25/35	OH,Ashland,Eastgate Mansfield: *
FL,Melbourne,Grace Brethren Church - Suntree: 68/30	OH,Ashland,Grace Brethren Church: 1118/742
FL,Miami,Mispa Missionary Community Church: *	OH,Ashland,Living The Word Church: 10/5
FL,Miramar,El-Elyon Haitian Evangelical Ministry.: *	OH,Ashland,Southview Grace Brethren Church: 190/197
FL,Ormond Beach,Grace Community Church: 35/28	OH,Ashland,Woodside Church: 15/10
FL,Pinellas Park,Grace Brethren Church of Pinellas Park: 75/83	OH,Beavercreek,Harvest Bible Chapel: *
FL,Port Richey,Gulfview Grace Brethren Church: 209/135	OH,Blacklick,East Side Grace Brethren Church: 674/360
FL,Sebring,Grace Church of Sebring: 267/112	OH,Bowling Green,Grace Brethren Church: 70/36
FL,Sunrise,Fraternity Family Worship Center: *	OH,Brookville,Brookville Grace Brethren Church: 95/77
FL,Tampa,Iglesia Comunal Cristiana: 129/52	OH,Canton,Grace Brethren Church: 171/121
FL,Valrico,Iglesia Comunal La Esperanza: 50/20	OH,Centerville,Centerville Grace: 153/n/a
GA,Kennesaw,Grace Church at Town Center: 76/48	OH,Clayton,Grace Bible Church: *
HI,Mililani,Waipio Grace Brethren Church: 120/unknown	OH,Columbus,Capital City Grace Church: 23/n/r
HI,Waipahu,Grace Fellowship Hawaii: 311/112	OH,Covington,Friendship Grace Brethren Church: 62/69
IA,Cedar Rapids,CR Grace Church: 16/23	OH,Danville,Grace Church: *
IA,Dallas Center,Dallas Center Grace Brethren Church: 20/29	OH,Dayton,Basore Road Grace Brethren Church: 122/94
IA,Davenport,Grace Brethren Church: 27/26	OH,Dayton,Calvary Grace Brethren Church of Dayton: 22/13
IA,Garwin,Carlton Brethren Church: 22/40 *	OH,Dayton,First Grace Brethren Church: 112/169
IA,North English,Pleasant Grove Grace Brethren Church: 12/11	OH,Dayton,North Riverdale Grace Brethren Church: 13/26
IA,Waterloo,Grace Fellowship Church: 147/132	OH,Delaware,Delaware Grace: 501/352
IN,Berne,Bethel Brethren Church: 57/95	OH,Dublin,Encounter Church: 91/n/a

OH,Dublin,Grupo Amor Cristiano: *

OH,Dublin,Northwest Chapel Grace Brethren Church: 410/120

OH,Fremont,Grace Community Church of Fremont: 1788/1495

OH,Greenville,Greenville Grace Brethren Church: 398/174

OH,Grove City,Grace Chapel: 10/8

OH,Grove City,Southwest Grace Brethren Church: 63/67

OH,Hilliard,Movement Church: 126/n/a

OH,Homerville,Grace Brethren Church of Homerville: 131/140

OH,Huber Heights,Grace Community Church: 174/151

OH,Jacksontown,Grace Brethren Church of Jacksontown: *

OH,Johnstown,White Stone: 14/

OH,Kettering,Calvary Grace Brethren Church: 31/30

OH,Lexington,Grace Brethren Church: 85/86

OH,London,London Grace: 35/14 *

OH,Macedonia,Western Reserve Grace Church: 550/228

OH,Mansfield,Woodville Grace Brethren Church: 180/106

OH,Marion,Grace Brethren Church: 86/46

OH,Marysville,Marysville Grace Brethren Church: 830/260

OH,Maumee,Maumee Valley Church: 70/41

OH,Middlebranch,Grace Brethren Church: 136/85

OH,Millersburg,Grace Brethren Church of Millersburg: 48/30

OH,Minerva,Grace Chapel: 438/227

OH,Mt. Sterling,Sterling Grace Brethren Church: *

OH,Mt. Vernon,Grace Community Church: 100/

OH,Northwood,Trinity Grace Brethren Church: 26/17

OH,Pataskala,Pataskala Grace Church: 142/102

OH,Pickerington,Grace Fellowship: 2000/281

OH,Plain City,Darby Grace Brethren Church: *

OH,Powell,Grace Church: 834/n/a

OH,Rittman,Grace Brethren Church: 132/102

OH,Springfield,Soma Community Church: *

OH,Tipp City,The Bridge: 31/31

OH,Toledo,Toledo Grace Brethren Church: 28/23

OH,Twinsburg,LifeSprings: 12/9

OH,Union City,DayStar Grace Brethren: 31/19

OH,Upper Arlington,Upper Arlington Grace Brethren Church: *

OH,West Alexandria,Grace Brethren Community Church: 48/99

OH,West Milton,Community Grace Brethren Church: *

OH,Westerville,Grace Polaris Church: 1490/993

OH,Wooster,Grace Church : 2003/1387

ONT,Milton,The Village Community Church: 123/150

ONT,Mississauga,Grace Community Church: 238/137

OR, Beaverton, Walker Road Grace Brethren Church *

PA,Altoona,First Grace Brethren Church: 36/n/a

PA,Armagh,Valley Grace Brethren Church: 47/52

PA,Avis,Grace Fellowship: *

PA,Bethlehem,Lehigh Valley Grace Brethren Church: 110/95

PA,Blain,Grace Brethren Church of Sherman's Valley: 29/n/a

PA,Chambersburg,Grace Brethren Church: 28/9

PA,Coatesville,Encuentro Latino: *

PA,Conemaugh,Conemaugh Grace Brethren Church: 38/29

PA,Coopersburg,Family Life Fellowship: 15/25

PA,Dillsburg,Hope Grace Brethren Church: 206/118

PA,Duncansville,Grace Fellowship Church: 373/183

PA,Elizabethtown,Grace Brethren Church: 128/123

PA,Ephrata,Ephrata Area Grace Brethren Church: 90/54

PA,Everett,Community Grace Brethren Church: 204/142

PA,Everett,Everett Grace Brethren Church: 66/59

PA,Greencastle,Community Grace: *

PA,Hollidaysburg,Vicksburg Grace Brethren Church: 86/98 *

PA,Hopewell,Hopewell Grace Brethren Church: 71/56

PA,Johnstown,Davidsville Community Church: 58/70

PA,Johnstown,Johnstown Grace Brethren Church: 33/44

PA,Johnstown,Liberty Grace Brethren Church: 175/47

PA,Johnstown,Pike Grace Brethren Church: 165/132

PA,Johnstown,Singer Hill Grace Brethren Church: 120/120

PA,Kittanning,Grace Brethren Church of W. Kittanning: 95/78

PA,Lancaster,Grace Church at Willow Valley: 316/168

PA,Lancaster,Lancaster Grace Brethren Church: 36/36

PA,Lititz,Grace Church of Lititz: 600/516

PA,Loganville,Community Cornerstone Church: n/a/15

PA,Manheim,Manheim Grace Brethren Church: 104/80

PA,Martinsburg,Martinsburg Grace Brethren Church: 448/286

PA,Meyersdale,Meyersdale Grace Brethren Church: 162/213

PA,Meyersdale,Summit Mills Grace Brethren Church: 90/106

PA,Myerstown,New Beginnings Grace Brethren Church: 169/127

PA,New Holland,Grace Family Church: *

PA,Palmyra,Grace Brethren Church: 216/74

PA,Parkesburg,Gateway Grace Community Church: 337/219

PA,Philadelphia,Crossroads Community Church - all campuses: 93/n/a

PA,Philadelphia,Grace Community Bible Church: 55/47

PA,Pottstown,Still Waters Home Churches & Worship Center: *

PA,Red Hill,Hope Valley Community Church: *

PA,Reedsville,Kish Valley Grace Brethren Church: 194/139

PA,Saxton,Living Hope Grace Brethren Church: 37/n/r

PA,St Thomas,Solid Rock Community Church: * *

PA,Telford,Penn Valley Church Multi-Site Network HQ: 524/325

PA,Tremont,Echo Valley Grace Brethren Church: *

PA,Uniontown,Grace Brethren Church: 68/60

PA,Waynesboro,Grace Brethren Church: 82/67

PA,Wrightsville,Susquehanna Grace Community Church: 77/36

PA,York,Grace Brethren Church: *

SC,Aiken,Grace Church: 280/132

SC,Anderson,Grace Fellowship Church: 22/25

TN,Johnson City,Fountain of Life Bible Church: *

TX,Longview,Grace Brethren Church: 46/24

TX,McAllen,McAllen Grace Brethren Church: *

VA,Alexandria,Grace Brethren Church: 52/35

VA,Buena Vista,First Brethren Church: 126/177

VA,Covington,Grace Brethren Church: 35/44

VA,Norfolk,Awaken Church: 76/112

VA,Radford,Fairlawn Grace Brethren Church: 50/88

VA,Richmond,Community of Grace Church: 100/55

VA,Riner,Riner Grace Brethren Church: 28/28

VA,Roanoke,Clearbrook Grace Brethren Church: 28/30

VA,Roanoke,Ghent Grace Brethren Church: 65/58

VA,Roanoke,Hope Bible Church: 90/127

VA,Roanoke,Washington Heights Grace Brethren: 36/18

VA,Virginia Beach,Grace Community Church: 20/12

VA,Winchester,Blue Ridge Grace Brethren Church: 85/83

VA,Winchester,Winchester Grace Brethren Church: 90/n/a

WA,Goldendale,Community Grace Brethren Church: 147/60

WA,Grandview,Iglesia Vida Nueva: *

WA,Harrah,Harrah Grace Brethren Church: 34/35

WA,Kent,Grace Fellowship of Kent: 41/37 *

WA,Mabton,Grace Brethren Church: 78/49

WA,Mabton,Iglesia De Los Hermanos: *

WA,Sunnyside,Grace Brethren Church: 165/120

WA,Toppenish,Grace Brethren Church: 60/46

WA,Yakima,Iglesia De Los Hermanos en Yakima: 50/44

WV,Grafton,First Grace Brethren Church: 48/68

WV,Martinsburg,Rosemont Grace Brethren Church: 79/73

WV,Parkersburg,Grace Brethren Church: 22/17

Count = 249

(* = statistical report and/or fellowship fee not returned in time for this report)

Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches

Statement of Financial Position

31-Oct-14

ASSETS

Cash	\$ 112,548
Accounts Receivable - net of allowance	9,612
GBIF Investment	784
Receivables	
Prepaid Expenses	9,622
Total Current Assets	<u>\$ 132,566</u>

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$ 1,561
Accrued Payroll Expense	1,571
Deferred Revenue	11,480
Pension Liability, current portion	1,072
Pension Liability, long-term portion	3,126
Total Current Liabilities	<u>\$ 18,810</u>

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	\$ 113,756
Temporarily Restricted	16,269

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

\$ 132,566

Statement of Activities

Year ending October 31, 2014

UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS

Revenues

Membership Fees	\$ 174,221
Conference Income	138,501
Eagle Commission	86,983
Contributions	89,532
Focus Retreats	60,060
Handbook Income	4,200
Other Income	1,969
Decrease in present value of Pension Obligation	
Total Revenue	<u>\$ 555,466</u>

Expenses

Program Services	
Conference	\$ 186,602
Focus Retreats	88,201
Eagle Commission	76,825
Supporting Services	
Fellowship Council	64,314
General Administration	116,577
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 532,519</u>

Increase (Decrease) in Unrestricted net assets \$ 22,947

Increase (Decrease) in Temporarily Restricted net assets 16,269

Net Assets at Beginning of Year 74,540

Net Assets at End of Year \$ 113,756

Notes:

Payroll expenses are allocated to Conference, Focus Retreat and General Admin exp. Categories.

Reviewed by Himes and Krull, LLC

Report #4

2015 Report of the Social Concerns Committee

The Social Concerns Committee is a creation of 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.

We are thankful for the religious freedom that is an ideal of the Western World. At the same time, we must be watchful when this freedom is under challenge. Today we find Christianity in particular and religion in general increasingly marginalized and pressured in our country. As government grows, the church and parachurch ministries find themselves under more government expectations and mandates.

Our challenge as Christians, ministers and churches is to be “salt and light” in our world in obedience to the scriptures and in tune with the particular social and governmental situation we experience. We must avoid the cultural withdrawal that characterized much of Evangelicalism in the 20th Century. We must also avoid any trends toward a “theocratic America” or “America as God’s chosen nation.” We must affirm the uniqueness of Jesus’ gospel in a pluralistic context where other systems are free to exist. We must affirm the place of good government in God’s rule of the world. We must encourage citizenship and service. We must stand for religious liberty for all.

The Social Concerns Committee’s ministry includes but is not limited to:

- Monitoring cultural and religious trends in America.
- Preparing “Resolutions” for consideration at the annual business meeting of the FGBC
- Seminars and Writings
- Regular communication to the pastors and other leaders of our churches through emails on current issues, thinking and challenges
- 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
- Producing, with legal assistance, a model church policy on weddings.

Let us all devote ourselves to good Christian citizenship, to a strong and constructive church presence in our communities, to seeking the “shalom” of our communities, and to seeking to “love our neighbor as ourselves” via all the implications of what we call “Christian Social Concerns.”

Please contact the Social Concerns Committee whenever we can be of service to you.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald P. Shoemaker, Chairman
Mark Abel
Mark Combs
Scott Henry
Mike Jentes
Jesús Muñoz
Richard Schnieders
John Teevan

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 newly 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 Proposed to the 2015 Conference of The Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches (July, 2015) Prepared by the FGBC Social Concerns Committee

1. The U.S. Supreme Court's Decision on Same-Sex Marriage

Inasmuch as:

- The Supreme Court of the United States has made same-sex marriage legal in all 50 states.
- The Solicitor General of the United States said in oral arguments before the Supreme Court that tax exemption for religious organizations that barred same-sex marriages would "certainly be an issue. I don't deny that."
- Chief Justice John Roberts, in his dissenting opinion, wrote, "Today's decision... creates serious questions about religious liberty. Many good and decent people oppose same-sex marriage as a tenet of faith, and their freedom to exercise religious freedom is—unlike the right imagined by the majority—actually spelled out in the Constitution."

We resolve:

- That same-sex marriage is contrary to the plan of God divinely revealed in Scripture. When Jesus taught on marriage (Mark 10:6-9) he said (1) "God made them male and female" (Genesis 1:27) and (2) "the two will become one flesh" (Genesis 2:24). Thereby, a new bond is formed intended for a lifetime (Mark 7:8-9). Without the two realities of heterosexuality and covenant union, no true marriage bond has been created. Jesus spoke to oppose the easy divorce culture of his time. His words continue to be relevant to that and to same-sex marriage.
- That those who are in a same-sex marriage nonetheless are created in the image of God and thus deserve the dignity and freedom from spiteful treatment as is owed every human being.
- That Christian churches and couples work with renewed commitment to uphold and model strong marriages according to the Scriptures as an important witness to the brokenness of our world.
- That people of all religious faiths, especially Christians, stand for and work for the protection of genuine religious liberty. No church, religious organization, member of the clergy or layperson striving to live out his or her convictions in daily life should be denied the right to the free exercise of religion and should be free of governmental pressure, punishment or ridicule for living out convictions on the nature of marriage.

[A model policy for churches on same-sex marriage is available. Please send an email request to: shoemaker@gracebeach.org.]

2. Law Enforcement—a Responsible Role Established by God

Citizens, residents and guests in our society have the right to be safe and protected from crime. This protection is primarily accomplished through the efforts of the Civil Authority seen as law enforcement of various forms and levels throughout the United States. God Himself has established the authority of law enforcement and has made it His servant (Romans 13:1-4). Law enforcement has the responsibility to protect society from crime and those that desire to prey on it. God and our society have granted to law enforcement the power to respond as needed to deal with the criminal element, including the use of lethal force. Law enforcement has the responsibility to use this power in response to the forces and pressures around it properly and appropriately, utilizing principles from God Himself and from society.

Society, equally, has the responsibility to respond with respect due law enforcement (Romans 13:2), recognizing the difficult task required of law enforcement. Disrespect of law enforcement makes it very difficult for law enforcement to accomplish its assigned responsibility effectively with safety and security for both society and law enforcement. The failure to respect or to respond to the lawful directives of law enforcement place both society and law enforcement in perilous positions, often leading to a disruption of the safety and security enjoyed in a peaceful society. Citizens, residents and guests in our society must be encouraged to respect and honor law enforcement. This respect and honor must be modeled from the leaders in our society, both political and societal. Our children must be taught to respect law enforcement and learn that law enforcement is a necessary part of society for their protection and security.

We honor those who have dedicated their lives to the service of society in the area of civil authority, seen in local, state and federal law enforcement. This includes those who investigate crimes, provide security at our venues, maintain our jails and prisons, prosecute and defend those arrested and charged with crimes, as well as those who serve to enforce the law in other areas in our society.

Our prayer is for the security and safety of every law enforcement officer as well as for these same officers to wear the badge honorably and in compliance with the principles given by God Himself and our society.

3. The Persecuted Church around the World

We grieve at the suffering of our brothers and sisters around the world who face constant threat to their lives and safety and well being because they bear the name of Christ. We covenant to pray for them regularly and to contribute to their needs as God supplies.

4. Terrorism—Domestic and Foreign

We call for and support all lawful measures necessary to protect the public and punish such violence, and we highly commend and

honor those who put their lives at risk to protect innocent civilians. We call on government leaders at all levels and in every country to take the growing threat of terrorism most seriously.

Most of all, we challenge ourselves to intense prayer in the face of terrorism. We call on our Fellowship and Christians everywhere to pray, intercede and give thanks for “all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness” (1 Timothy 2:1-2).

4. Religious Liberty

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution was remarkable for its time in recognizing certain fundamental rights that should not be transgressed by the government. The “First Freedom” in the First Amendment is Freedom of Religion: “Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.” In the United States, we look with alarm when the “free exercise of religion” is suppressed by social pressure to conform to secular values.

We express our deep concern over trends that challenge religious liberty:

- Legislation and court decisions that diluted the free exercise of religion.
- Defense of religious freedom in a general way but a refusal to defend it when it conflicts with the social goals of government or activist groups.
- Political words about “freedom of worship” or freedom for “houses of worship” when these phrases clearly abridge a broader understanding of religious freedom.
- Religious liberty affirmed for clergy but not extended to laypeople.

Religious liberty must extend beyond “the four walls of the church” to every aspect of our lives, for we acknowledge Jesus as Lord of all of life, not just of life within the church.

Religious liberty must apply to all believers as they strive to live out their convictions in their lives away from the church, especially in the workplace.

Religious liberty must extend beyond places of worship to ministries, charities, schools, hospitals and other social services that religious groups provide for society.

While disciples of Jesus understand that there can be a “price to pay” for living under his lordship, we also must understand that we are to “carry each other’s burdens” and thus “fulfill the Law of Christ” (Galatians 6:2). This means coming to the aid of others in their hour of distress and ensuring that no believer has to experience severe financial loss for living the name of Christ.

We affirm that religious liberty is not just the privilege of Christians, but must be extended to all religions in our country. Challenges to the religious freedom of others should be a concern to Christians and may mean that Christian believers and communities will be next.

Finally, we affirm “The Universal Declaration of Human Rights” (adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948) as a standard to be upheld by all nations of the world:

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

5. Immigration Reform

Recognizing that:

- a. All people are made in the Image of God,
- b. Respect for the rule of law is essential in a civil society,
- c. Secure borders are the right and need of every nation,
- d. Israel was frequently reminded by God that she should show mercy to the immigrant because she, too, was once an oppressed and exploited people,
- e. The prophets in Scripture demanded special compassion to the exploited and vulnerable, including the “alien in the land”,
- f. Our nation is populated by people from a multitude of cultures and lands, and
- g. The presence of undocumented immigrants in this country (and in our churches) is a fact and a complex issue not easily resolved,

(1) We call on our churches to give prayer, thought, discussion and action toward addressing the problem of the undocumented immigrant in a God-honoring way.

(2) We recognize the divisive and controversial nature of this debate and we encourage dialogue in the churches that is respectful, open-minded and solution-focused.

(3) We further call on our churches to be the “reconciling presence of Christ” in the midst of a broken system that creates rancor, resentment, racism, selfishness, fear, exploitation, danger and disregard for law.

(4) We call on our society and elected leaders to rise above political posturing and rancor to work toward a solution on immigration that is compassionate, realistic and just.

We recognize that meaningful solutions to this problem are not easily reached. We also recognize the solutions must come through a determined will to reach them. We deplore the present situation when our Federal Government is unable to resolve key immigration issues year after year.

6. Continuing Resolutions

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

- a. Sanctity of Human Life (1982 and 1996)
- b. Religious Freedom (1987)
- c. Personal Commitment (1988)
- d. Homosexuality (2000)

**FELLOWSHIP OF GRACE BRETHREN CHURCHES
RETIREMENT INVESTMENT PLAN
PO BOX 587
WINONA LAKE, IN 46590
574-267-5161**

Retirement Planning Committee

As of **June 30, 2015**, the total combined asset value of the Fellowship Retirement Investment Plan was **\$ 13,216,641.21**. Currently, we have **345** active participants in the plan.

Thirty-four investment options are available to plan participants. Quarterly, individual reports are sent on a timely basis.

Account information is available on-line via a secure website at www.oneamerica.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.

As of **June 30, 2015**, our one retiree, Lois Schrock, "Promise of Honor" member, receives a monthly check of **\$89.32**. Total current funds on hand as of **June 30, 2015** were **\$939.95**.

Respectfully submitted:

Mr. Kenneth A. Seyfert, Chairman
kseyfert@gbif.com

Committee Members:

Mr. Tom Avey
Mr. William Burby
Dr. James L. Custer
Mr. James W. Johnson

Coordinator of Administration:

Mrs. Linda Leonard

Highlights from the January 2015 Fellowship Council meeting.

Location – Seal Beach, California

Overview: Meetings began Wednesday evening the 28th with dinner and a season of prayer. Thursday, January 29th was for reports from our National Ministries and from the Structure commission of the council and a general discussion about the Identity Project. Friday, January 30st included the reports and recommendations from the Membership commission, Finance commission and Executive Director of the FGBC.

Results (includes follow-up actions done by email):

1. The council approved a motion to ask Mike Yoder, the next Executive Director of the FGBC and Tom Avey to be our delegates to the Charis meetings in the fall of 2015. This motion was amended by email to replace Tom Avey with the next Assistant Executive Director of the FGBC. Tom will attend but not as a delegate.
2. A motion was approved to add a section to the FGBC Manual of Procedure that officially creates and guides the Social Concerns Committee. This amendment will be presented to the delegates at the 2015 annual meeting.
3. They appointed members to the Membership Committee, Parliamentary Procedure Committee and the Nominating Committee.
4. A motion prevailed to Appoint the following people as members of the Social Concerns Committee: Don Shoemaker (chairman), Mark Abel, Mark Combs, Scott Henry, Mike Jentes, Jesus Munoz, Rich Schnieders, and John Teevan.
5. The council appointed Phil Bryant to fulfill Matt Householder's unfulfilled term extending him to 2017
6. The council approved a recommendation from the membership team to recommend to delegates the affirmation of Pacific Northwest Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches (a cooperating district) action of removing Walker Road GBC from being a cooperating church "for not living harmoniously" and dismiss them from membership in the FGBC.
7. The council passed a motion grant the Finance Team authority to establish the guidelines and procedures for receiving and distributing emergency relief funds.
8. They passed motions to recommend to the delegates approval of New Calvary Evangelical Church (Pastor Henri Cher-Aime) as a member church in the FGBC.
9. The Fellowship Council accepted financial reports for 2014.
10. There were no new member church applications in hand before for the meeting. Since this meeting the council has received an application for Calvary Evangelical Church (Pastor Henri Cher-Aime). This application has been processed by the membership team and will be considered by the council at its July 23 meeting.
11. There were no new cooperating ministry applications in hand before the meeting. Since then, applications have been received from SeedNet, Grow New England and Kalahari. These applications have been processed by the membership team and will be considered by the council at its July 23 meeting.

Proposed Addition to the FGBC Manual of Procedure

Background: Each year, the Social Concerns Committee presents resolutions to the annual corporate meeting of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, inc. This motion places policies in the Manual of Procedure for the formation and work of the Social Concerns committee. The intention is formalize what we have been doing for decades.

Motion: To add the following to ARTICLE V COMMITTEES of the Manual of Procedure...

Section Four. Social Concerns Committee.

A Social Concerns Committee shall be appointed by the Fellowship Council. Members shall serve indefinite terms. The chairman shall be named by the Fellowship Council. It shall be the duty of the Committee to recommend annual resolutions to the conference for approval by the delegates according to the following guidelines:

1. Resolutions should address societal issues from the standpoint of biblical values.
2. Resolutions are prepared and submitted by the Social Concerns Committee. Resolutions can be proposed to the Social Concerns Committee subject to policies on their focus, style and deadline.
3. Resolutions shall be submitted to Fellowship Council for affirmation at least one month before National Conference.
4. Resolutions affirmed by Fellowship Council should be made available to delegates at least a day before the opening of Conference business.
5. Resolutions are open to discussion but not alteration (except by the chair, for purposes of clarity or corrections of grammar or fact).
6. Resolutions are voted either up or down. "Division of the Question" is permitted.
7. Resolutions are to be communicated to the local churches.



Charis is a multinational network of Grace Brethren church planters and developers [Canada, 1996], whose values are defined by the pursuit of biblical truth, biblical relationships, and biblical mission [Argentina, 1999]. The delegates of the 2008 International Conference affirm the following **Commitment to Common Mission** and encourage the participation of the Grace Brethren churches worldwide:

Church planting

We affirm that the church is God's plan for this age and commit to mobilize our members and resources to plant new churches because:

- the Spirit of Jesus poured out upon the Church is the Spirit of Mission to the nations (Acts 2:1-42; 13:1-4)
- the Church is a fruitful community in which disciples are made (Acts 2:42-47; Eph 4:11-16)
- the Church calls the lost to be reconciled to Christ through its evangelistic efforts (2 Cor. 5:16-21)
- the Church displays the multifaceted wisdom of God (Eph 3:10-11)
- through the Church God is glorified in Christ Jesus (Eph 3:21)

Therefore, we call upon:

- every local church to reaffirm their God-given mandate to reproduce through a concentrated effort to make disciples and form new churches.
- every National Fellowship or Association of Grace Brethren Churches to designate 2010-2020 as the decade of multiplication in which every church will be mobilized to reproduce itself through planting one or more new churches.

Leadership training

We affirm that a leader is a person who influences others towards the fulfilment of defined objectives and is indispensable to the health and multiplication of the Church. We affirm that leadership training:

- Takes place under the responsibility of the local church
- Seeks the equal development of character, knowledge and skills according to giftedness.
- Is a life-long process involving mentors who share their example, values, convictions and experience
- Protects existing leaders from temptations such as pride, exhaustion, family neglect, immorality, isolation, through accountability and team work.

We call upon the churches:

- To develop culturally sensitive strategies and means to train leaders, creating a comprehensive set of tools to:
 - Proclaim the Gospel (from non-belief to salvation)
 - Teach the fundamentals (from salvation to baptism)
 - Enlist in ministry service (from baptism to service)
 - Train leaders according to gifting (from service to leadership)
 - Empower leaders to train others according to gifting (from leadership to coaching)
 - Encourage a life of wisdom (family & work ethics, etc.)
- To share these resources worldwide with appropriate training how to use them (objective, target, content, time, cost, required skill to teach them...).

Integrated ministries

We affirm that God has created human beings with physical, emotional and spiritual needs and that the Church expresses the compassion of Christ in proclaiming the Gospel while caring for various needs of mankind.

We call upon the Church to bless believers, strengthen churches and reach the lost by showing the works which reflect true faith (Jam 2.26):

- Assisting those in need,
- Promoting economic, family, and personal development,
- Encouraging the development of businesses with a missionary focus (Business As Mission)

We recognize that this is still an investigative avenue for mission. We encourage churches to deepen their theological understanding (cf. Charis paper) and further refine the principles governing holistic ministries.

2015 Fellowship Council Nominee Biographical Data

Region A



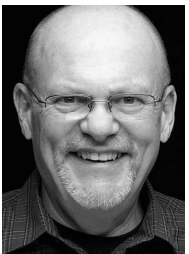
Jeremy grew up in the Wooster Grace Brethren Church and went to Grace College and Seminary. He came on staff of Community of Hope, Indiana as an associate pastor and was voted senior pastor in 2011. He has served as Co-Moderator of the Heartland District for three years. He has been married to his bride, Tonya, for 11 years and has four children, Emma, Isaiah, Hudson, and Evie. His passion is to be the hands and feet of Jesus, shining the Gospel brightly in word and deed.



In 2002, Bart joined the staff Grace Community Church, Mississauga, Ontario as the worship pastor, where he served in a full time capacity until December of 2010. In January of 2011, Bart and his family relocated to Medicine Hat, Alberta, to assist with the launch of Grasslands Church. In

March of 2013 Bart stepped into the role of lead pastor. Bart is married to Elizabeth (since 2002). He has two sons, Silas (12) and Ephraim (11) and a step-daughter, Sarah (24), who is married to Randal Friesen.

Region B



Ron Boehm has participated in Grace Brethren churches since 1970, professionally for 42 years. He has served at Ankenytown, Ohio (youth pastor); Elkhart, Indiana (associate pastor); Bowling Green, Ohio (pastor); Macedonia, Ohio (founding pastor of Western Reserve Grace Church) and Twinsburg (present founding pastor of LifeSprings). He has served on the Fellowship Council and the board of directors for Grace Brethren North American Missions. Presently he is the senior missionary with VisionOhio/USA, and coaches church planters and ministry leaders. He has been married to Chery 44 years, and together they have four adult children and twelve grandchildren.

Region B (continued)



Joe Caruso is a graduate of The College of Wooster (2005) and is currently studying at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. He is the pastor of mobilization at Grace Church of Greater Akron, Ohio, serving at the Bath Campus since 2008. He oversees the “Give It Away” department, emphasizing volunteering and sharing the story of Jesus’ love and hope. Joe has a great passion to see believers become disciples who “get it” – the desire to be a part of Christ’s mission. He is madly in love with his wife Mandy, his daughter Ainsley, and tolerates his two dogs.

Region C



Doug Courter is the Associate Pastor of Church Ministries at Valley Grace Brethren Church. He had been the Senior Pastor of the Calvary Grace Brethren Church for 14 years. Previous to that he was the Associate Pastor of the Winchester GBC in Winchester, Virginia and Pastor of Youth, Music and

Christian Education at the Canton GBC in Canton, Ohio. Doug is married to Barbara and they have four children: Karen, David, Kellyann & Benjamin.



Scott and his wife Jennifer and three children (Canon, Cadence and Coda) moved from Goshen, Indiana to Frederick, Maryland to serve as worship pastor in June of 2012. Scott has a masters of Ministry from Grace College and Seminary and a Bachelors of Music from Grace College. He has

served as worship director at the Grace Brethren Church in Ashland Ohio, as Media and Technical Director at Grace Community Church in Goshen, Indiana.

Nomination for FGBC Leadership Team

Executive Director for three years (2016-2019): Clancy Cruise



Clancy has been part of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches family for 30 years and is the lead pastor at the Marysville Grace, a Grace Brethren Church in Marysville, Oh. He graduated from Grace Theological Seminary (M.Div., '91, D.Min. in process). Following a short internship in Dublin, Ohio, he served on the pastoral staff at the Wooster Grace Brethren Church for 10 years. In 2002 he received a call to partner with the Powell, Ohio Grace Church as a church planter in Marysville. He and his wife, Sandy, and their four children moved to Marysville and have seen Christ build His church. He has served on missions trips to Canada, Germany (twice) and the Central African Republic. Clancy has been active in both the Northeast Ohio and North Central Ohio districts. His hobbies are fishing, golf, reading, exercise and hanging out with friends. This year (2015) Clancy completes a five year term on the Fellowship Council.

Conference Director (aka. Assistant Executive Director) for one year (2017): Keith Minier



Keith Minier is the pastor of a growing church that integrates service and gospel in its community. Keith is the lead pastor at Grace Fellowship in Pickerington, Ohio, where he has served faithfully in this role for eleven years. He is a passionate and skilled communicator and leader, who loves seeing the power of the local church unleashed. Keith is married to Kelly, and they have four children, Kaden, Kaiya, Kooper and Kamille. They reside just outside of Columbus, Ohio.

The Executive Director's term is 1, 2, or 3 years. The FGBC Constitution also calls for an Assistant Executive director. The constitution says "The Executive Director and Assistant Director 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, entitled to vote, and voting at the annual meeting of the corporation one year prior to the beginning of their term."

The term and task of the Executive Director has increased significantly. We are very appreciative of Pastor Tom Hocking, Pastor Bob Fetterhoff and Pastor Bartley Sawatsky for helping us transition from a one-year term to a three-year term. The benefits of quality and consistency have been evident!

The executive director has been leading our national conference, setting the theme of Focus retreats, leading the Fellowship Council, providing many new initiatives (like the Fellowship Forums), celebrating church planting, leadership training, and integrated ministry in the FGBC, and interacting with leaders of our national and cooperating Ministries - all while juggling full-time pastor responsibilities in his church!

This recommendation from the Fellowship Council divides these responsibilities into three categories. Two of these roles require approval by the delegates. In this proposal, the assistant executive director position will be filled by the conference director.

Executive Director: Clancy Cruise

- form vision for FGBC with Executive Team
- cast vision for FGBC
- lead the Executive Team
- lead the Fellowship Council
- attend Focus Retreats
- champion church planting, leadership training and integrated ministry
- take the lead in FGBC-wide communication

Conference Director: Keith Minier

- participate in vision formation with the Executive Team
- plan and implement annual FGBC Vision Conference
- select a creative team to help plan Vision Conference
- work with the executive director in incorporating FGBC vision into the Vision Conference
- preferred: attend FC meetings in January in California

Ambassador: TBD (to be selected by the Executive Director and Conference Director)

- participate in vision formation with the Executive Team
- facilitate the Enduring Visional Leadership Community (initiates Church Planting, Leadership Development and Integrated Ministry)
- facilitate National Ministry Leaders meeting
- attend Young Leaders' meeting
- attend GoNet meetings (East and West)
- represent the Executive Team and FGBC vision at all meetings attended
- preferred: attend FC meetings in Jan. in California