

**NOTE: FC Members are sworn to secrecy about the new name. Not to be revealed until the rebranding team unveils it at conference 2017.**

Thursday, February 2, 2017

**PRESENT:** Clancy Cruise (Exec. Dir. 2018), Phil Bryant (A-17), Greg Serafino (A-18), Roy Halberg (A-19), Jeremy Wike (A-20), Adam Copenhaver (A-21), Joe Cosentino (B-17), Mark Lingenfelter (B-18), Kevin Pinkerton (B-19), Ron Boehm (B-20), Doug Black (B-21), Randy Weekley (C-17), Tim Hodge (C-18), Larry Orme (C-19), Scott Avey (C-20), Doug Courter (C-21), Tom Avey (Fellowship Coordinator), and Greg Howell (Recording Secretary)

**NAT/ORG LEADERS** Dave Guiles (Encompass), Nathan Bryant (GO2), Bill Katip (Grace Schools), Ken Seyfert (GBIF), Ed Lewis (CE National), Joel Richards (AGBM), Viki Rife (Women of Grace), Liz Cutler Gates (BMH), John Schumacher (Eagle Commission), and Don Shoemaker (Social Concerns).

Devotions: Our meetings began with Devotions by Executive Director Clancy Cruise who shared from Ephesians 4:11 reminding us to keep sight of the purpose, referring to Alan Hirsh's test and gave time to pray for lost in twos.

Clancy gave his Executive Directors Review, explaining that his report would come later. He expressed that we are in a new era. He, quoting Bartley, stated that the Goal, the job of the Executive Director is to set direction/focus and then to hand off the baton. From his track days he is reminded that both the runner and the receiver must be up to full speed for an effective handoff. He gave a quick review of the topics and actions in front of the Fellowship: report from the Rebranding group, AGBM credentialing tools using the identity document, forward process to implement CCCI, focus retreats. Clancy expressed that he is committed to the FGBC, but, "when the mission emphasis changes—I get off the train." In general "doing good" earn an audience for the good news. Tom Julien 20 years ago introduced our three-prong purpose—Biblical truth, Biblical Mission, and Biblical Relationships. He was impressed with the national leadership meeting in January—networking, young leaders network (Access—counterpart cohorts, worship leaders/youth pastors, women's leaders). Clancy review the Agenda suggesting that the FGBC's emphasis ought to be to be Good neighbors, creating good will, for the opportunity to share the Gospel.

Minutes of the July 2016 meeting were reviewed.

A MOTION PREVAILED to approve the minutes of the July 2016 Fellowship Council meeting as provided on the FGBC/FC website.
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National Ministry Reports

Grace College and Seminary - Bill Katip

Bill explained that Tom Avey reminded him to be connected with the Fellowship right before he became president of Grace. Historically the FGBC has been connected by truth, so much more now relationships are important. He presented his report with good slides and PowerPoint attached to the Fellowship Council binder on the website. He started with Grace's Mission statement: *Grace is an evangelical Christian community of higher education which applies biblical values in strengthening character, sharpening competence, and preparing for service.* He is excited how a student recently handled a negative reaction to her question to a legislator with Scripture. He also expressed gratefulness that the students raised funds for the homeless—a couple thousand. He is encouraged by the new Initiatives: Faith-based, Measure of Grace lowered tuition 9% and lower tuition each year \$500 for continuing students. He shared the new record enrollment of 2333. Ron's greatest legacy was community connection—Grace is very well respected. When he began as president, he didn't feel it necessary to deal much with the seminary, being he is the first non-theologian president. But that has changed greatly in his mind. New programs Aspire and Deploy (local church based seminary) expected to increase seminary enrollment, probably triple. He concluded by giving thanks for opportunity to report to the Fellowship Council, "we really value the FGBC even though majority of students are not Grace Brethren, but it's been that way from the beginning." Bill was in the hospital for another reason when Mrs. Manahan died and able to be with and pray with Ron. The memorial was uplifting and well attended at the Manahan Center.

Eagle Commission – Col. John Schumacher

John will retire June 1, 2017 as FGBC Endorsing Agent. When he started there were only four chaplains. Several of course have retired, but there will be 27 when he hands off to Col. Mark Penfold. John has served 22 years as our Endorsing Agent. He was honored by National Association of Chaplains for his longevity and contributions. Col. George Youstra is chaplain to the joint chiefs, with an office in the Pentagon. The military doesn't have enough chaplains. John also announced that there are 3500 copies of his book, A Soldier of God Remembers, in circulation and in several languages. A complete list of chaplains and their contact information is included in report in binder. These men would welcome opportunities to speak in GBCs.

Social Concerns - Don Shoemaker

Don called attention to his written report that was in the Fellowship Council binder. The only actions he requested were that the Fellowship Council approve the appointment of Kathryn Macmillan (Pastor Robert Macmillan's daughter, and a Grace Seminary graduate) to the Social Concerns Committee. And the need for a Fellowship-wide endorsed Statement of Confidentiality (wording provided) especially for pastors. Similar to a lawyer's client-attorney privilege. It would be strongest if made by national leaders. Referred to the AGBM which meets tomorrow.

A MOTION PREVAILED to appoint Kathryn Macmillan as a member of Social Concerns Committee.
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Go2 - Nathan Bryant

Nathan shared confidentially that Tim Boal was let go from the Telford church. And three of the four remaining GO2 board members resigned. Nathan being the fourth, feels burdened to continue GO2, convicted that God was directing him to lead. GO2 has \$1.2 million in liabilities, with property that is worth about half of that. Nathan's relationship with Telford church is phenomenal. There is a concern with the Northern California district. Nathan initially thought the ministry could be repaired but rename GO2. Now it appears probably not, but they will still deal with concerns however. And there is a need to patch relationships. Nathan said the good thing about all this is that we can push the reset button on church planting in the FGBC. So the question now is, How do we go forward? Nathan has met with key players in November. There are five major items on the table 1) what kind of churches we want to plant, 2) broaden the scope of the adoption of churches, 3) create a structure to be able to say "no" so projects can be done with confidence—a vetting system, 4) protect people who shouldn't be church planters, and 5) become the national church planting organization for the FGBC. He established a steering committee to report back to the larger group in March. They plan to create a new agency and put GB Canada under it. But the new entity needs FGBC status. Nathan asked if the Fellowship Council could transfer GO2's status to this new organization. Nathan distributed a chart of the intended structure. This new agency will not plant churches, but will partner with churches, organizations, and districts to coordinate with the goal of expanding the FGBC family.

Women of Grace, USA - Viki Rife

Purpose is mentoring women. She expressed great praise that their deficit was made up with some in reserve now for special projects. So much they do is intangible. So she read excerpts from a letter thanking for personal impact because of help with a scholarship as a teen and now as an adult the author is joining Barb Wooler on a crisis response team. Viki gave complimentary copies of their magazine *Spectrum*.

GBIF and R.I.P. - Ken Seyfert

Ken advised that the military needed official action from Fellowship Council to change our Endorsing Agent and offered the correct wording supplied by Col. Schumacher.

A MOTION PREVAILED that the Fellowship Council (Board of Directors) of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches appoint Colonel Mark Penfold to serve as the endorsing agent for the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches to the United States Department of Defense and the Veterans Administration effective June 1, 2017.

Ken expressed that John will be hard to replace because of his heart for each chaplain. Martha is as much of the ministry as John. But Mark will be a great Endorsing Agent. He is more techy and has some good ideas about his new responsibilities.

Talking about the GBIF, he stated that there is a greater emphasis on paying down debt in local churches during the past few months. It is a credit to pastors and teams for their plans to pay off early. Also Ken says he is seeing more concerns about planning and praying and unity to the project. 70% of GBIF funds is earmarked to church planting. The decentralized church planting

1 is flourishing. Hopefully what Nathan is doing will help coordinate the partnering in church  
2 planting and greatly increase it even more.

3  
4 BMH - Liz Gates Liz stated that they are basically doing business as GraceConnect. She read  
5 Philippians 1:3-6 from the Message and shared that it is the theme for the year. E-news is sent  
6 weekly. She urged us to share with people in our churches and respond to the authors. She  
7 wishes more were connecting with each other this way. She expressed concern that book sales  
8 are down and that is a significant part of their income. She has transferred much of the  
9 archives to the Grace Library. BMH sold their building to Winona Lake Grace Brethren Church  
10 and downsized so BMH can focus more on communications to the Fellowship. They moved the  
11 inventory to Grand Rapids where all of the distribution of orders is handled by a third party.  
12 2016 was a year of change; she is so looking forward to year of no change.

13  
14 Encompass - Dave Guiles

15 With the Charis Commitment to Common Identity adopted he can now concentrate on one of  
16 his passions – reengaging deep in the missions of local churches. He showed a short video of  
17 the need for missions/evangelism. Their intention is to provide curriculum for small groups—  
18 because we need to take back the storyline. It is a four week study with 4<sup>th</sup> week just  
19 completed and titled “How our church is doing the Great Commission.” He said as a Christian,  
20 you are either going to be a goer or a sender. The other topics are; How to welcome and  
21 disciple and how to develop a mobilization team within your church. The curriculum has been  
22 being developed since 2006. It will now be beta tested in different places.

23 Q & A How do we deal with refuge insanity. ANSWER: See blog on web. We need to  
24 remember that the first refuges were Adam & Eve, the 2<sup>nd</sup> was Cain. In fact the Gospel centers  
25 around refuges—Joseph, Daniel, Mary & Joseph. We need to let the biblical storyline drive our  
26 understanding and direction. We need to seize back the storyline.

27  
28 Association of Grace Brethren Ministers - Joel Richards

29 Joel passed out his report and introduced Mark Lingenfelter as new president beginning after  
30 2017 Conference. He gave a little history of his involvement with the AGBM leadership. He  
31 stated that 2002 was the best Conference and the worst. He received the Pastor of the Year  
32 award that year (Pastor being honored that year—not the best pastor that year) but he was  
33 very discouraged with the pastoral statistics since it was reported so many would be retiring  
34 with few to take their places during the next few years. So he complained to President Ken  
35 Bickel and 4 years later became president himself. He worked hard at trying to encourage  
36 pastors and wives with subsidized meals at Conference, gifts, regional representatives, a new  
37 position Director of Shepherding-- Matt Wheelock, discounts to Focus Retreats, discounts to  
38 Conference, and free Christianity Today subscriptions, all for AGBM members. He and the  
39 Board have worked hard to provide some member benefits. Next month 17 members are  
40 taking advantage of a \$100 discount for Israel trip with Dr. Randy Smith. Joel is excited about  
41 spirit that exists in our Fellowship and now many more young guys involved. A lot of Training  
42 going on in local churches—such as pastored by Jeff Bogue, Clancy Cruise, and Randy Smith.  
43 AGBM has offered \$1000 Scholarships for pastors’ education, four so far have taken advantage  
44 and the donors increasing so two were given last year and two more will be this year. It seems

1 like members are not asking “what do I get for my dues” as much anymore. The big thing the  
2 Executive Board will be working on this weekend following the Fellowship Council meetings will  
3 be retooling and providing a standardized examining system—process and exam. The key  
4 component will be that the candidate is mentored before rather than after the oral. It used to  
5 be that a mentor was offered if they failed before they were reexamined. Now nobody will fail  
6 because candidates will only take the exam (written then oral) only after their mentor is sure  
7 that they are ready. When we have process operational then we will push down into churches  
8 to train local leadership to train up new pastors. The Exam is changed now to affirm, rather  
9 than to determine, who God has called. On a personal note, Joel shared that he has had about  
10 1900 opportunities to preach at La Loma with 21 left. He intends to retire this fall after that.

11  
12 CE National - Ed Lewis – Report Ed has served 44 years at CE and stated he can tell a lot of  
13 things historically. Reminded us of their purpose “to be a catalyst for all believers to be trained  
14 and mobilized to be ‘on mission.’ This is done by impacting the rising generation, reaching  
15 neglected people, and equipping biblical leadership.” He noted with great enthusiasm the  
16 ministry to the marginalized in Philadelphia through the ministry of Urban Hope and highlighted  
17 several of CE’s ministries as described in his written report.

18  
19 E-Net (now Equipping Church Network) Report from Tom Julien - Tom was not present, see  
20 written report in binder

21  
22 Global Identity process Dave Guiles gave an update. He said that we now need to  
23 conceptionally visualize and articulate the principles of the clusters so that they are internally  
24 owned. He showed pictures of several factors in our movement to help us visualize. We are  
25 not creedal. We have created statements of what we believe but our commitment has always  
26 been to the Bible. There has always been tension between autonomy and group cooperation.  
27 In establishing new churches, we need to continue to plant the essence of our movement w/o  
28 transferring the form. It is a counter or super cultural but should not be a foreign culture. We  
29 need to proclaim the essence of Jesus (cf Acts 15 council of Jerusalem), and be multi-  
30 generational, not North American driven. The November 2015 Charis gathering in Bangkok  
31 solidified that we are all equal at the round table. Dave stated that the Identity Statement that  
32 was produced is “far, far better because it is a product of all of us.” And the CCCI is no longer a  
33 dream. He illustrated with desert pillar formation with a small flat pinnacle and said, “we can’t  
34 draw the circle too tight (mesa) that excludes, because we need to not only tolerate, but  
35 celebrate a great degree of diversity.” He suggested that the AGBM needs to be able to create  
36 enough space to include all who God wants in—or we wouldn’t have split in 1990.  
37 We need to keep in mind that the goal was never the CCCI. The goal was commitment together  
38 to make disciples. He said he is proud to “put the jersey on” because it is based on relationship.  
39 Now that we have established the team, we’ve got to get back to our common mission  
40 (planting, gospel, doing good in community).

41  
42 After lunch we honored Col. John & Martha Schumacher for 22 years as our Endorsing Agent  
43 and presented them with a Warsaw cut glass engraved (Eagle Commission) platter.

Fellowship Council Historical review presented by Tom Avey

Tom shared how the Fellowship Council came about (he has served as Fellowship Coordinator for 20 years). He emphasized the weakness of changing leadership and how the current vision, identity, and direction have strengthened us. He gave praise to the Charis group beginning the process that has led to the CCCI. He made several observations:

1) Autonomy is our number one distinctive

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) Fellowship Council is a stream/river members step into—must move it forward

4) It is a matter of managing tensions (but rudder underneath) pick the players then form the keel/rudder)

Tom's analogy of a sailboat:

5) Go back to our 3 mission categories and put substance to what it means to:

- Start churches
  - Train leaders
  - Do good (integrated ministries)
- Identify and develop resources

How about a class at conference on what it means to be FGBC before churches become members—better than just checking a box and it makes membership start out relationally (come spend time with us)---things are more caught than taught.

Identity Initiative Discussion led by Dave Guiles

Feed back/ touch points that we have heard since Bangkok. Dave and Tom reported that it has been pretty quiet indicating that the FGBC has strongly accepted the CCCI with little to no dissention. It is a great praise that North America unanimously approved to join the Charis Alliance at Toronto Conference and be a charter member. And the greatest thing is that we didn't start it, Charis did.

Tom Avey presented some suggested changes to the constitution: Article III adding CCCI "cooperate harmoniously" and section VI Position Statements. Tim Hodge explained that position statements are not resolutions but resolutions may be elevated to Position Statement status. Position Statements are what outsiders will evaluate us by and may be elevated to the international documents (3<sup>rd</sup> cluster).

Discussion: Should 4<sup>th</sup> cluster be "Position Statements"? (things that are Nationally based)

Ron Boehm asked "What sentence describes 4<sup>th</sup> cluster/position statements?"

Suggest that "(first established 2015)" be added after CCCI or its current edition

Current agreed upon/affirmed--- assigned to G Howell to reword

The CCCI (established 2015) as currently approved by the national conference is the expression of our ongoing quest to apply the unchanging truth of God's Word to the constantly changing... Should we amend the constitution to use the Identity Statement? Now? Later? How...

What adherence language should it use?

Should the constitution include the full Identity Statement or just reference it?

What should the "4th Cluster" be and how should it be used?

How are we going to clarify the "encourage" word in the CCCI about ordinances?

Tabled to tomorrow

1 The Rebranding Initiative – report Tim Hodge

2 Tim explained that there were several meetings, ran through the timeline, and expressed that  
3 there were tremendous constraints—needed to contain “Grace”, many likeable names are  
4 already in use, ie Grace Community, Alliance, etc.

5 The name selected is “Grace Church Network” this uses “Grace” which 63% of our churches do  
6 and adds the operative “Network”, defining the whole with “church”. And the domain is not in  
7 use. It is owned but not being used, so we might be able to get it.

8 Around the table all agreed, most comments reflected things like “simple”, “universal”, “works  
9 with most current names”, network is a good connecting word, probably not going out of vogue  
10 soon, warm when coupled with grace & church. Tag line will define. (Better than Baptist.com  
11 ☺) Randy Weekley moved and Phil Bryant seconded.

12  
13 A MOTION PREVAILED to establish **Grace Church Network** as a DBA name for the Fellowship of  
14 Grace Brethren Churches.

15  
16 Discussion—does this mean it happens or delegates vote on? There are no Manual of  
17 Procedure restrictions. We said we were working on rebranding and need to report on  
18 progress. We are NOT changing the corporation name. Scott warned that you only roll out the  
19 name once, because it is much more emotional than intellectual. So we will need to present a  
20 visual explanation and not leak ahead of time. Dave Guiles warned NOT to reduce it to an  
21 acronym.

22  
23 We should take a clue from the Encompass skit about the change to Grace Trust.  
24 Some expressed concerns about the reaction of delegates not getting to choose. But  
25 rebranding work has already been announced, we are not changing cooperate name. We have  
26 not had an official DBA before. It has been unofficially “The Fellowship”, “Grace Brethren”  
27 “Brethren Churches”

28  
29 Broke for Dinner at Walt's Wharf provided by GBIF

30  
31 Friday, February 3, 2017

32  
33 PRESENT: Clancy Cruise, Tom Avey, Ron Boehm, Scott Avey, Greg Serafino, Doug Black, Jeremy  
34 Wike, Adam Copenhaver, Kevin Pinkerton, Phil Bryant, Roy Halberg, Joe Cosentino, Mark  
35 Lingenfelter, Larry Orme, Tim Hodge, Doug Courter, Randy Weekley, Greg Howell and Dave  
36 Guiles.

37  
38 Devotions: Larry Orme shared devotions from Gal 1 & 2. The Gospel is not just justification,  
39 but sanctification (Live for Him!) The Gospel tells us something about who we are. Another  
40 gospel which isn't a gospel at all can't alter one thread without changing the essence and it still  
41 be the gospel. Paul opposed Peter to the face because he was wrong. This is fascinating  
42 because these are Christians (cf Titus), but we still all live and grow in it. Paul was willing to  
43 jeopardize the reputation of the church by rebuking Peter because the truth of the gospel was  
44 at stake. “you are out of line bro” like standing up publically in church and calling out the most

influential member of your church. We are doing business for the fellowship—very important decisions this session, but need to recognize our greater need to preserve the integrity of our adherence to the Gospel. That alone should cause us to be courageous. We can't be more (or less) saved than we are at conversion—God loves us and we can't change that—BUT we need to live like it.

Clancy presented language to move things forward in three motions.

#1 Motion: The Fellowship Council recommends to the delegates that they replace ARTICLE III Section Two of the Constitution with:

*Section Two. Identity Statement. The Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches has a corporate commitment to a basic body of beliefs founded on God's revealed truth. Historical documents including The Message of the Brethren Ministry (1921) and the Statement of Faith (1969) helped to guide our growth and development for many years. The Charis Commitment to Common Identity (~~first adopted~~ ~~established~~ 2015) as approved by the national conference is the current expression of our ongoing quest to apply the unchanging truth of God's Word to the constantly changing realities and needs of our world.*

*Individual churches who are members of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches Inc. remain distinct, autonomous legal entities, yet we share a common passion for Jesus, His truth, His mission, and His Church.*

AND ARTICLE IV Section One with:

*Section One. Requirements. Any congregation of believers desiring membership in the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, Inc., shall meet the following conditions:*

- 1. It shall agree to cooperate harmoniously within the parameters outlined by the Charis Commitment to Common Identity ~~and the Position Statements~~.*
- 2. It shall actively pursue the purpose of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches as set forth in Article II.*
- 3. It shall have a basic organization consisting of elder(s) and deacon(s), or similar responsible officers.*
- 4. Requirements and responsibilities for local church membership ~~by the several local churches~~ shall be established by each church and shall not determine the church's membership in the Fellowship.*
- 5. No church shall be denied membership in the corporation because of failure to support any institutions, ministries, or boards, either district, national, or cooperating recognized by the Fellowship.*
- 6. Failure to comply with these corporation membership requirements may subject the church to dismissal.*



1 Approved by CONSENSUS to amend the wording in motion 1 as indicated in red above

2  
3 Discussion: “encourage” how do we implement when dealing with a prospective church or  
4 deciding to ordain a pastor?

5 D Guiles here is the mechanism to care for any current or future concerns (Executive Director is  
6 empowered to create a task force about any concern—get a chance to build a case about your  
7 concern to find if it is a concern of the majority).

8 “First adopted” (Identity Statement—CCCI) sets a benchmark that won’t revert back further  
9 than that date of adoption.

10 Clancy stated that the Fellowship Council is now forever different—will need to be leaders, with  
11 these motions.

12 Could just empower Executive Director to form task force and then when they have done their  
13 work, make a motion to have delegates make this (these) constitutional mandates

14 D Guiles This gives the mechanisms to move forward to work on “4<sup>th</sup> cluster” stuff architecture  
15 and accountability.

16 A Copenhaver what is local church’s obligation to Position Statements? ANSWER: We can  
17 borrow language from Resolutions—suggestions to adopt/implement by local churches

18 P Bryant if we decide to make these obligatory for local churches, but now they are unknown,  
19 we are asking the delegates to give us a blank check

20 C Cruise obligatory has not been our practice --what’s good/beneficial for our churches

21 There’s No teeth in the resolutions or the Position Statements

22 D Guiles suggested that we add back in to #1 “and the Position Statements”

23 How do we define “encourage” as a position statement?

24  
25 Discussion: add “first” to CCCI established 2015, do we need Motions 2 &3?—we can do these  
26 internally and may need to. Change “established” to “adopted”

27  
28 A MOTION PREVAILED to recommend to the delegates that they replace ARTICLE III Section  
29 Two of the Constitution with:

30  
31 *Section Two. Identity Statement. The Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches has a corporate*  
32 *commitment to a basic body of beliefs founded on God's revealed truth. Historical documents*  
33 *including The Message of the Brethren Ministry (1921) and the Statement of Faith (1969) helped*  
34 *to guide our growth and development for many years. The Charis Commitment to Common*  
35 *Identity (first adopted 2015) as approved by the national conference is the current expression of*  
36 *our ongoing quest to apply the unchanging truth of God’s Word to the constantly changing*  
37 *realities and needs of our world. Individual churches who are members of the Fellowship of*  
38 *Grace Brethren Churches, Inc. remain distinct, autonomous legal entities, yet we share a*  
39 *common passion for Jesus, His truth, His mission, and His Church.*  
40

1 AND ARTICLE IV Section One with: *Section One. Requirements. Any congregation of believers*  
2 *desiring membership in the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, Inc., shall meet the following*  
3 *conditions:*

- 4 1. *It shall agree to cooperate harmoniously within the parameters outlined by the*  
5 *Charis Commitment to Common Identity and the Position Statements.*
- 6 2. *It shall actively pursue the purpose of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches as*  
7 *set forth in Article II.*
- 8 3. *It shall have a basic organization consisting of elder(s) and deacon(s), or similar*  
9 *responsible officers.*
- 10 4. *Requirements and responsibilities for local church membership shall be established*  
11 *by each church and shall not determine the church's membership in the Fellowship.*
- 12 5. *No church shall be denied membership in the corporation because of failure to*  
13 *support any institutions, ministries, or boards, either district, national, or cooperating*  
14 *recognized by the Fellowship.*
- 15 6. *Failure to comply with these corporate membership requirements may subject the*  
16 *church to dismissal.*

17  
18 A MOTION PREVAILED to recommend to the delegates that they add Article VI Section Five to  
19 the Constitution:

20  
21 *Position Statements. The Fellowship Council shall develop Position Statements deemed*  
22 *necessary and helpful for the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches to address or clarify specific*  
23 *issues of culture, theology, or practice within the ministry context of North America. Position*  
24 *Statements will require a 2/3rd vote of affirmation from delegates at the annual business*  
25 *meeting of the corporation. In addition, each Position Statement will require re-affirmation by*  
26 *the delegates every five years.*

27  
28 A MOTION PREVAILED to authorize the Executive Director to create a Task Force to develop the  
29 framework, path forward, and action steps necessary to implement Article VI Section Five.

30  
31 Commission Reports and Recommendations

32 -Structure Commissions—Tim Hodge, Chair

33 Most of the constitutional amendments are Structures' work

34 Dave Guiles urged that we make a commitment to not use CCCI and stop using acronyms for  
35 other groups. Instead of CCCI, use "Identity Statement" This works well because it is parallel  
36 with Position Statements

37  
38 --Finance Commission Recommendations—Joe Cosentino, Chair

39 Financial Review of 2016 Joe commented that Tom Avey ran a great ship

40 He noted the added income \$25,000 from Brotherhood Mutual and a \$179,000 gift from an  
41 estate.

42 The Committee recommends that the estate gift be used in the following three ways:

- 1) \$30,000 remain on hand for cash flow (so Tom doesn't have to borrow from GBIF line of credit waiting for Conference registration income)
- 2) \$35,000 be specified for rebranding.
- 3) \$114,000 be used for transition (for Tom's future replacement). It helps to have the incoming leader on the payroll and getting up to speed as outgoing is winding down. Cf baton hand off

Joe also stated that since Tom hasn't had an increase in salary in several years, the committee recommends a 5% increase to \$69,500 for 2017 (Tom noted that insurance premium ate up everything in past of about 3% increases)

A MOTION PREVAILED to implement these Finance Commission recommendations.

#### -Membership Commission

New Churches Membership Apps - The Membership Team is intentionally waiting to make recommendations on these.

Chelsea Michigan—Josh Cook—probably vote them in in Summer

Layland Ohio—seednet church wait a little longer til they are a bit more viable

Lexington Ohio—also seednet plant

The committee wants to restructure the path from startup to member church

Tom reported that there are a lot of new churches in the pipeline and enumerated several, some rebirths, and new plantings. Tom thinks it would be good to have the process include visiting Conference and participating, getting to know us and making sure they want to be a part before we admit them. This will facilitate accepting healthy, viable churches and strengthen the relational ties right from the beginning.

Clancy suggested that when we hear of pastors in transition that we make the effort to reach out to them. Relationship is what we are about.

Larry Orme gave a report on Tim Boal—it was mutual that he leave Penn Valley. He is now employed with an African pastor development organization out of Colorado Springs, Co. We stopped for prayer for Tim, Penn Valley Church and GO2.

Mark Lingenfelter asked, What do we do with GO2 / Nathan Bryant?

Tom answered that the new organization needs history to qualify as Nat Org, and a Board with representation from all three regions. It could be a cooperating organization now, but Nathan wants the blessing of the Fellowship nationally.

Tom was asked if he had information on how many churches were started/became members since the beginning of GO2 and as a result of GO2. Tom provided a chart of statistics showing that 70 churches have been added since 2005. However about that many also closed or were absorbed by campus churches so the net gain is closer to zero. And few if any were actually established as a result of GO2.

1 Clancy asked what the mind of Fellowship Council is about granting Cooperating or National  
2 Organization status to the new church planting organization that comes out of the demise of  
3 GO2. We are definitely in favor of Nathan working organically to champion and assess church  
4 planting. But it seems like all of our organization are planting churches. Maybe Nathan should  
5 be the orchestra director of the cacophony of all the groups. Nathan wants the clout to be  
6 attracting support and leaders. This is appropriate.

7 Ron Boehm said his observation is that GBCs don't have the heart and soul to plant churches. It  
8 would be best for Nathan to start with a clean slate. The question is; "do we want a national  
9 church planting organization?"

10 Dave Guiles suggested that we tell Nathan that we encourage him to pursue the process (there  
11 will be at least one Cooperating Organization that will cry foul, if we grant National status, since  
12 they have been held back). What he most needs is the Fellowship Council to have this  
13 conversation.

14  
15 By CONSENSUS the Fellowship Council looks with favor on Nathan Bryant pursuing the five  
16 point path he laid out in his report.

17  
18 Executive Director Reports

19 Access2017 (Keith Minier via Skype)

20 Conference can go one of 2 ways—speakers or family. The strength of our tribe is family. He  
21 has been thinking about environments that have impacted him. The Equip classes every other  
22 conference for a decade were a positive. As well as peer learning, leadership, GOnet. So he  
23 thought "How about if we combine formats." And he took into consideration his staff  
24 observations—they really liked meeting family, but didn't feel conference was really for them.  
25 They felt like it was an insider club of senior pastors and Nat/Org leaders. Keith observed that  
26 all across the fellowship we have lots of smart people doing support ministries like worship and  
27 tech. So he proposed "What if they were to get together in several cohorts with a leader that  
28 directs?" He has 18 suggested peer cohorts. Conference in Fremont is not about a destination,  
29 it will be about people. The facilities at Fremont are tremendous. We don't want people off on  
30 excursions, we want them participating. He suggested that the greatest review will be when  
31 staff contact other staff member weeks and month later. Keith said he is trying to keep the cost  
32 low so lots of staff can come. Hotel and food will be the main expense because most will be  
33 able drive. Randy Weekley asked what advantage for a church under 100 with solo & maybe  
34 youth pastor? ANSWER: Volunteers will gain contacts as well as content. And there will be a  
35 cohort for solo pastors. Ron Boehm asked what about for church planters & wives? And can  
36 you share your cohort list? ANSWER—multiplication cohort will help church planters of all  
37 stripes. List coming out soon with promotion.

38  
39 Scott Avey warned about branding, **don't give away the name**. Encompass did a bang up job  
40 of rolling out their name. **Fellowship Council Members are sworn to secrecy about the new**  
41 **name. Not to be revealed until the rebranding team unveils it at conference 2017**

42  
43 Focus Retreats in 2017/2018 (Cruise/Avey)

1 Clancy stated that he really enjoyed being at all the retreats. Interesting how the comroderly  
2 coalesces they as share the first meal. Family is the theme of this go around.  
3 Next round will be “how can we practically implement these tools (Identity Statement, etc.)”  
4 round tables and discussion groups  
5 Clancy’s Executive Director Report Clancy described being on Fellowship Council is like a 400  
6 meter relay. The Fellowship Council has changed into a leadership group. We don’t have  
7 power except influence by relationships. He was excited by Bartley’s leadership and thus  
8 inspired to “sign up” again to be part of the family. Then again when asked to be on ballot to  
9 be leader. He put Bartley’s illustration from last year on screen –all of the spokes surrounding  
10 convergence. Clancy said he took picture of Bartley’s screen to keep motivated. These are the  
11 things that got him fired up. He cited Bartley’s observations of the FGBC that he learned about  
12 during his term. Several are helpful:

- 13 1) Should not waste time about creating vision but create culture for movement.  
14 Showed Bartley’s graphic and pointed out that the Center circle is “convergence”
- 15 2) Church Planting regional Training Centers—not scattered, loose, unaccountable. But  
16 taking the best that we have and sharing it.
- 17 3) Analogy of starfish—when separated from a leg, both parts grow back to complete  
18 whole beings. We need to spread and not stack.
- 19 4) Convergence in center. Healthy conversations will cause a convergence for  
20 movement. Keep having conversations. We are better together; we will have  
21 convergence and movement.

#### 22 23 FGBC Office

24 Tom commented that he has been the Fellowship Coordinator for 20 years. He wants to be  
25 planning over a period of time to be replaced. He would like to use the FOCUS retreats to bring  
26 some interns along so he can begin to transfer some of his relational capital. He plans to create  
27 a cloud of opportunities and begin to share some responsibilities. He would like to go 5 years  
28 more full time and 5 more after that part-time. He doesn’t want to get caught unprepared for  
29 the handoff and would like to help make a good transition.  
30

31 CONSENSUS that we look with favor on Tom’s 5 year full time/ 5 year part-time transition 32 using bequest money to help with his transition.
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33  
34 Let Tom begin to use interns and begin to divest his duties to others.  
35

36 Access2018 – Tom said he is looking at Colorado maybe. He liked the Equip every other year  
37 cadence which agrees with Keith’s desire for the near future.  
38

39 We were adjourned by the call of the Chair and had Lunch with Mike & Mindy Jentes and some  
40 SoCal young leaders and Hispanic church planters interested in the FGBC that he invited.  
41 Jeremy Wike led us in an old fashioned Sword drill and sharing in small groups. It is worth  
42 noting that the young guys with electronic Bibles won most often as well as Bible Quiz Master  
43 Doug Courter.  
44

## February 2017 Fellowship Council Minutes

- 1 Respectfully submitted,
- 2
- 3 Gregory M. Howell
- 4 Recording Secretary