

1 **Fellowship Council Meeting July 23, 2015 Newark, NJ**

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3 PRESENT: Bartley Swatasky (Exec Dir. 2013-16), Kevin Pinkerton (B-'19), Tim Hodges (B-'18), Clancy Cruise
4 (B-'15), Dan Thornton (C-'16), Mark Lingenfelter (B-'18), Joe Cosentino (B-'17), Greg Serifino (A-'18),
5 Richard Todd (A-'16), David Kennedy (C-'15), Michael Saldivar (B-'16), Phil Bryant (A-'15), Roy Halberg (A-
6 '19), Larry Orme ('19), Tom Avey (Fellowship Coordinator), and Greg Howell (Recording Secretary).
7 Absent: Randy Weekly (C-'17)--facing foot amputation in August, and Matt Householder (A-'17).

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9 MINUTES

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11 A MOTION PREVAILED to accept the minutes of January 2015 at Seal Beach, CA as published on the FC
12 website.

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14 RATIFY JANUARY ACTIONS

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16 A MOTION PREVAILED to Ratify the motion to recommend Clancy Cruise for Executive Director for 3 years
17 and Keith Minier as assistant for at least 1 year beginning after 2016 Conference.

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19 FINANCIAL

20 HOUSING ALLOWANCE

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22 A MOTION PREVAILED to set Tom's housing allowance at \$35,000 for the calendar year 2016

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24 Tom pointed out that the Budget doesn't include a Brotherhood Mutual rebate as in the past because the
25 company has stopped that practice. Some states have challenged the practice so they are coming up with
26 another system.

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28 The budget incorporates an added \$1 to base to provide more support for conference.

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30 2016 CONFERENCE

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32 Location: Toronto Canada. 2016 is the 20th anniversary of GB Canada. We were in Toronto in 1996 to
33 celebrate the beginning of church planting in Canada. The hotel rate of \$165/night sounds high but the
34 current Canadian exchange is \$.77 on the USD. We will again offer discounts for teens and younger adults.
35 This seems to have contributed to the presence of increasingly more families in recent years. Tom reported
36 that GBIF gave \$6,000 and more have committed to help financially.

37

38 Bartley commented that we may need to change our thinking about the Fellowship office, combining
39 communication, church-planting, etc. This could be more economical and centralized.

40

41 A memo about the membership fee is part of the statistical form so local church leaders can understand
42 why the fee and what it is used for.

43

44 If the cost of Conference is going up, we need to face facts and change accordingly and sell that there is
45 value to it. It is not really a delegates' conference, but a pastor's conference since
46 80% of attenders are paid for by their church.

47

48 Bartley noted that young leaders like a big city, but it adds logistical problems with children.

49 We need to realize that Conference is like Christmas, so we need to help the family get to
50 Conference/Christmas. What connects us most is relationships.

51
52 We have been missing relational connections with the decline of Grace Seminary. So we need to recreate
53 ways like Momentum to foster relationships.

54
55 What if we give lead pastor discounts (like Israel tour leader) or 3 leaders and the 4th one is free?

56
57 Who's going to argue about how we are stewarding the money and valuing new leaders? We should aim at
58 guys we want there not just discount those who are already coming. Some of the older guys "don't get it."
59 If we don't invest in young leaders, we're done!

60 We need to clarify about who young leaders are for Conference (families or leaders)--staff rather than
61 families. May have to do both since our real goal is to build relationships.

62

63 A MOTION PREVAILED to recommend the printed budget to delegates.

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65 A MOTION PREVAILED to keep the \$1 increase but incentivize who needs it (subsidized help) based on who
66 normally wouldn't come. Tom Avey and the Executive Director will determine how to apply these funds
67 towards this goal.

68

69 We should identify the purpose of Conference. Relationship doesn't sell conference, but it is the reason
70 which draws participants.

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72 NEW ADDITIONS

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74 A MOTION PREVAILED to recommend New Calvary GBC—(Haitian) to the delegates for admission as a
75 member church of the FGBC.

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77 A MOTION PREVAILED to recommend to the delegates that SEED-NET--Nathan Wells, Pastor, be admitted
78 to the membership of the FGBC.

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80 It is in a lower income housing area (accomplished by different funding streams than Vision Ohio). Mid-
81 level leadership development occurs in the starting of these groups.

82

83 A MOTION PREVAILED to recommend Kalahari to the delegates for approval as a Cooperating Ministry of
84 the FGBC.

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86 Discussion included that it has operated for several years being organized and led by Zack Pinkerton , of the
87 Fremont GBC and includes youth from several districts. It was started to be cheaper and shorter than
88 Momentum, but definitely an FGBC thing. The Membership Committee has communicated with Ed Lewis
89 who says it is cooperative not competitive.

90

91 A MOTION PREVAILED to recommend GROW NEW ENGLAND, (Jack Brown, director) to the delegates for
92 approval as a Cooperating Ministry of the FGBC.

93

94 New England is hard soil. This motion sparked discussion about the need for a central church planting
95 office/director (GO2 really doesn't/can't do this). Does our recommendation/approval of multiple church-

96 planting ministries support cooperative activity or help people/organizations not work together? What
97 kind of cooperation do we need? (Nathan should attend FOCUS)

98
99 MEMBERSHIP TEAM--list concerns, qualifications, come back after break

100
101 Ordaining women chaplains—Chaplains Endorsing Agent, John Schumacher--

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103 Discussion: Military chaplains are under authority (different than Sr/Solo pastor). --might affect staff
104 members in local churches also. It may be worth having a study committee. Could that include women
105 chaplains? (yes under military authority and under Endorsing Agent) Nurture 2nd tier leadership. It would
106 be better for policy to come thru FC rather than AGBM. Why not just make a statement for chaplains?

107
108 A MOTION PREVAILED to form a study committee made up by Structures Committee to study Scripture and
109 the needs of the Fellowship to come up with a recommendation regarding 1)whether to pursue some
110 official authorization for professional ministry workers who serve "under authority", 2) whether that could
111 include women and specifically women chaplains, and if so, 3) how to proceed (recommended next steps).

112
113 A MOTION PREVAILED to charge the Structures Committee with initiating the formation of the "Under
114 Authority" study committee including representatives from the Encompass task force, AGBM, and Grace
115 Seminary.

116
117 CHARIS--task force, global expression of our identity will meet in Thailand, November 2015 to harmonize
118 the items in the 1st & 2nd baskets/clusters.

119
120 Dave Guiles reported that he now has the input from all of regions. He is most concerned about North
121 America. Keith Shearer estimates that we could lose 5% on either end. Dave reiterated that the primary
122 goal isn't to keep everybody, but to leave something the next generation can embrace.

123
124 Some of the major concerns that have been expressed:

125
126 -bread & cup in the context of a meal (some 3rd world congregations have held off even having
127 communion because they haven't had food and some haven't had water).

128
129 -how dispensational it looks (should it be clearly pre-trib?) Is doctrine prescriptive or descriptive?
130 Who we are or who we should be? Some want a statement on the country of Israel. Nobody's
131 going to get everything they want. But what is it that really makes us a family? That's what the
132 Charis convention will determine.

133
134 19 countries have registered involving 35 delegates. The group will study the draft in the 3 principle
135 languages (English, French, Spanish) and will vote in November. This will be the global expression of what
136 being Grace Brethren is and then each delegation will take back to their countries to ratify. This will be like
137 when the Commitment to Common Mission was ratified. This should all transpire within a year and then
138 be reviewed every 5 years. Dave Guiles said he would be shocked if it is not approved at Charis, probably
139 unanimously.

140
141 There is some complexity: 1) the Haitians will not be represented, because they have never met together.
142 Therefore they did not convene to select delegates. 2) We have a presence in 34 countries but not
143 necessarily churches in all those countries, so not all "Grace Brethren" will actually be represented. 3) We

may have a period of time where both the Statement of Faith and the Identity Document will operate in parallel. Eventually the Statement of Faith will likely be a great historical document, much like the Message of the Brethren Ministry. The 5 year review provision will correct the static and include those not able to be involved this first time. Spiritual descendants of our movement are equal ambassadors at the round table. Theology will get more and more accurate as we look through different cultural eyes. It won't be a perfect document, but will be reviewed in 5 yrs. We need to trust ourselves and trust the Holy Spirit.

The steering committee will propose to Charis that this will be on the agenda every 5 years even if every country has no changes. It may be imperfect, but it is in process. It reflects a massive cultural change. We should have our Charis delegates at our January meeting.

VISION CONFERENCE 2016 in TORONTO: 2016 is the 20th anniversary of the beginning of GB Canada. We will meet in the Sheraton Centre right downtown. It is a good place for families. Theme: Margins (ministry in a post-Christian world) Christians are not in the majority in North America. Speakers that can speak to the theme. Rooms are \$165/Canadian = about what it is this year (exchange rate is about .77). US citizens will need passports which take about 6 weeks to process. Dates are July 22 evening to 25th, Monday whole day—travel can be Tuesday.

Fellowship Council will meet Friday July 22

FOCUS—Clancy

Favorite movie “Band of Brothers” you will be better together. Face to face, breathe the same air, get together. Long-lasting relationships. Retreats will be more learning from each other and spending time together. Not as heavy as last couple years when we were working on the Identity document.

Enduring Visionary Leadership Community did not meet face-to-face in 2014. They did a conference call to keep connected. They will meet this year (2015). They will re-assess church planting, leadership training and integrated ministry and look for ways to see all three tracks move forward together. Need to champion these areas in our local churches more.

TASKS

1. Structures—Ordination (Under Authority) committee & response to Charis doc
2. Membership—evaluate national ministries, not just doing what they are doing
3. TA & Bartley—will determine who gets subsidized help to conference.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory M. Howell, recording secretary