

**Fellowship Council Meeting July 27, 2012**  
**Renaissance Esmeralda Resort**  
**Indian Wells, CA**

PRESENT: Bob Fetterhoff (Exec Dir 2010-2013), Bart Sawatzky (Exec Dir 2013-2016), Bruce Barlow (Central), Dan Jackson (East), Nathan Bryant (Central), Dan Thornton (East), Clancy Cruise (Central), Jonathan Carey (Central), Richard Todd (West), Roy Halberg (West), David Kennedy (East), Michael Saldivar (West), Chris Ball (West), Tom Avey (Fellowship Coordinator), and Greg Howell (Recording Secretary)

Devotions: by Moderator Fetterhoff followed by a time of prayer in smaller groups

9:30 - Approve Minutes

MOTION PASSED to accept minutes of January 2012 as published
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9:41 - Old Business (reports followed by discussion)

1. Report from Structures Commission (DThornton, JCarmean, DKennedy, NBryant)  
Changes to Constitution and Manual of Procedure

Tom explained the plan for presenting proposed changes during the first business meeting on Saturday afternoon, with two scheduled forums during conference and the final vote on Wednesday at the second business meeting. Dan Thornton reported that there were many conversations online and lots of hits on the video of his presentation to the Northern Atlantic Ministerium. Dan thinks most of it will pass. Categorizing the changes and grouping them will help the delegates understand the reasoning and will facilitate the voting. He pointed out a few minor adjustments in each category:

- A. These changes emphasize that we are biblical not creedal: taking out “current” taking out “only” Bob wants the full parliamentary committee to rule on the ability of closed membership churches being the only delegates to be able to vote on the “only” clause. Preliminarily Galen Wiley, Parliamentary Committee Chairman believes that it does not fit the Constitutional provision about triune immersion and membership so would not apply to limit who can vote on this change.
- B. These changes emphasize that we are a “Fellowship” and not an “association.” The difference is that we want these documents to be the gate not a lock-step sign-on-dotted-line and you’re in. As a Fellowship we are held together by relationship not documents and we work together. The question still is: “what does agree to live harmoniously under” mean? However better alternative wording has not been offered.
- C. These changes have to do with the Moderator title. Essentially these change Moderator to Executive Director (but 3 places where it should not change--because he is moderating business).
- D. These changes deal with national ministries and #1—replaces “2/3” with “majority” for votes to remove FGBC recognition from an organization.
- E. These changes deal with organizational and miscellaneous other changes but missed the need to change Florida Caribbean to Florida E-3 deals with lots of change syntax and will not be itemized on the ballot, but referred to the the delegate packet where they are all spelled out.

MOTION: that all these changes be included on the ballot. 2/p
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2. Report from Membership Commission (BBarlow, MSaldivar, JCarey)
  - 1) New Church Applications already approved for recommendation
    1. Grasslands Church of Medicine Hat, Alberta
    2. Village Community Church of Milton, Ontario
    3. White Stone of Johnstown, Ohio
    4. Grace Brethren Church of Jacksontown, Ohio
    5. Eastgate Mansfield of Mansfield, Ohio
    6. Eastgate Ashland of Ashland, Ohio
  3. New Church Applications since our January Meeting
    1. Bruce mentioned that they used the “Jonathan Carey list of questions” to emphasize the relational aspect of the FGBC (gleaned from Michael Saldivar’s interview with Calvary Chapel). It was suggested that this list be recorded in the minutes and continue its use for interviewing new churches. Each church will have it’s own motion at Conference with pastor/leader recognized and asked to stand. They will be welcomed and awarded \$7,500.00 check from GBIF at Tuesday afternoon session.

2. **Iglesia Cristiana La Cosecha of Durham, North Carolina**

MOTION PASSED to recommend to the Conference delegates that we receive **Iglesia Cristiana La Cosecha** of Durham, NC, Oscar Chavez, pastor into the membership of the FGBC.

3. **Neighborhood Church of Tracy, California**

MOTION PASSED: to recommend to the Conference delegates that we receive **The Neighborhood Church of Tracy, CA**, Matt Cripe, Pastor into the membership of the FGBC.

4. **El-Elyon Haitian Evangelical Ministry of Miramar**

MOTION PASSED to recommend to the Conference delegates that we receive **EL-ELYON HAITIAN EVANGELICAL MINISTRY, INC.**, in Tamarac, FL, **JOSEPH, HENOCK**, Pastor into the membership of the FGBC.

5. **Menominee Grace Brethren Church of Menominee, Michigan**

MOTION PASSED: to recommend to the Conference delegates that we receive **Menominee Grace Brethren Church**, James Burke, Pastor, Menominee, MI into the membership of the FGBC.

6. **Family Christian Community Center of Deerfield, Florida**

MOTION PASSED: to recommend to the Conference delegates that we receive **FAMILY CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CENTER, INC.**, in Deerfield, FL, **DUMONT CARDICHON**, pastor into the membership of the FGBC.

4. Report from Finance Team (DJackson,

1) **Budget for 2013**

MOTION PASSED to present the 2013 budget to the delegates for adoption.

Bob Fetterhoff mentioned that we need to encourage churches to be part of the Brotherhood Mutual FGBC group. Unused premium to claim money will be rebated back to the FGBC annually. Even if your church is with Brotherhood, you need to check and be sure it is connect with the FGBC group to benefit the rebate.

2) **Approve Housing Allowance for Tom Avey of \$32,000.**

MOTION PASSED to approve a 2013 housing allowance for Tom Avey of \$32,000.

2. **New Business**

1. **Associated Affiliate Designation - Membership Commission**

GBIF would like to use their funds to help other churches/denominations. Is there a way to create a category for non-FGBC churches? Referred back to Membership Commission. The next step would be a policy statement recommendation for January meeting from the Membership Commission compliant with GBIF desires.

2. **Revisions requested by Encompass – Structures**

Encompass would like a change in the bylaws to include cooperating ministries (Encompass' lawyers need them to be connected with an organization). Encompass is requesting an elimination of the barrier language. It looks like we need GBIF and Encompass in the same discussion before any major changes. The Fellowship Council authorizes Tom Avey to communicate with Encompass and have them (their lawyers) do the work and bring back their recommendations (in January?) without costing the Fellowship Council the legal fees.

3. **BMH Question – Finances**

What is the Fellowship Council's obligation to BMH when they run out of cash?

Liz and staff were not supportive of Tom's proposal of shutting them down and opening a communications office out of the Fellowship Coordinator's office. Also in thinking ten (10) years down the road he suggested moving both offices to Columbus, Ohio since Winona Lake is no longer the center of the FGBC. He posed the question: "What if we proposed joint move, admin offices of Encompass, invite GBIF?" The rationale is that more than likely the majority of new leaders will be coming from Ohio. Also the BMH mission statement—Conversation, Communication, Conservation overlaps with the FGBC office—(Tom picked up these areas 10-15 years ago because BMH wasn't doing them)

BMH's financial needs are real. They are currently operating on savings which will run out in 6 or so years.

Real question is: "What can the Fellowship Council do to help BMH?" We should pass on our desire to encourage them to pursue affiliation with the Fellowship Coordinator's office. We need to communicate with them what the Fellowship Council thinks is most valuable to the FGBC. We affirm Liz's mission statement. Let's start by asking BMH to give semi-annual reports about how to operate after the nest egg is gone? The Fellowship Council needs to communicate with BMH about what the FGBC needs in communication activities with the churches. Maybe they can combine staff with Fellowship Coordinator. But that really comes down to which administrative assistant stays and which goes.

We need a joint committee of the Fellowship Council and the BMH board to think out loud about the communication needs and BMH's role with a report to January 2013 Fellowship Council meeting.

MOTION PASSED to recommend to the BMH Board that an AdHoc committee be comprised of some Fellowship Council members and BMH board members in order to assess the communication needs of the FGBC with a status report to the Fellowship Council at the January 2013 meeting.

Fellowship Council Members of this committee will be: Dan Thornton, Richard Todd and Dan Jackson

4. Moderator Nomination (needs ratification for the minutes)
- 5.

MOTION PASSED to ratify the email ballot nominating Bartley Sawatzky as next Moderator (2013-2016)

It was noted that he would be "Executive Director" if Constitution and Manual of Procedure motions pass.

3. 12:00 - Lunch by commissions followed by commission mtgs
4. 2:00 - Gather for reports and action needed

Structures—looked at Identity Team draft which is still in process. Nothing to report or decide on at this point. Identity team is still working. Dan Thornton shared that they looked at it through the eyes of new and non-FGBC leaders.

Finance—no report

Membership—some wording to bring by January to satisfy what (Encompass) is asking for.

5. 3:30 - Reports from moderator
  1. Conference Report
    - 1) 2013 plans: Buckhead Marriott Resort in Atlanta is near the new location for Encompass offices. There is the potential for attracting a large crowd. 80% of FGBC is within driving distance. Theme: Vision 2020 South. Buckhead Marriott Atlanta, GA

The tentative plan to provide experiences and cultural opportunities in the morning around the location with help from Encompass (tour guides, etc.). Afternoons will be seminars similar to this year. There will be plenary evening sessions. And then Sunday everyone will be encouraged to find their own church. Andy Stanley's North Pointe is nearby. And of course our own FGBC at Marietta. And lots of ethnic churches.

Momentum was unable to locate near, though Ed Lewis tried.

The Atlanta church will be approached to help in some way or ways that conference can help their church. Tom hears a lot of positive buzz about the location. He is talking to Jars of Clay about a concert (benefit for ICDI?)

Question: Why we are not alternating Equip and Celebration conferences? Answer: (by Bob F) We are coordinating with the Enduring Vision Leadership Community (ELVC) to provide continuity—working hard at emphasizing the Commitment to Common Ministry and the three parts of that: Church Planting, Leadership Development and Integrated Ministries.

Question: Is there any way to link seminars with hand-on opportunities like iCare in Cincinnati? Answer: Yes, we will try to provide both/and since not all attendees will want to be participants.

Nice thing about Atlanta is the volume of Christian ministries and internationals that we will be exposed to and be able to partner with.

Our Conference has become a leaders' conference almost exclusively. We will play to that segment and strengthen it.

## 2. Focus Retreat Report

Six were held from Alaska to Florida (Alaska & Florida generally have their's every other year)  
Bob went to all of them. Dan Allan was the primary speaker in 5, Bob did Alaska and one session in all the others.  
Dates are set for Fall (Central 10/1-3) Maumee State Park

Question: How well attended as in other years? Answer: (by Tom) Not at peak any more. Leveling out. However adding everyone who is involved in Conference, Focus Retreats, or on boards probably accounts for 60-70% of pastors are involved.

Question: What are the advantages of laymen or pastors only Focus Retreats? Answer: they are designed for leaders, lay or pastors so all who attend will benefit.

Question: Who is the primary audience for Conference & communication? Answer: Conference is mostly leaning toward leaders (only 15% pay their own way—rest have way paid by church or employing organization). As far as communication, there are lots of avenues, so we hope it is everyone in every FGBC. We do however, need to increase story-telling by about 10 times.

### 3. EVLC Report -

Team captains continue to meet every other month.

The Church planting team are planning a Winter meeting of key young leaders in January in Arizona which will be especially focused on Church Planting.

The EVLC is looking to the Membership Committee of the Fellowship Council to provide the definition of a local church. They are looking for a practical definition that will be descriptive of its function (what does it look like?, what is it doing?, etc.)

Maybe they should look at the bullet points developed by GBNAM?

E-Net is about reproducing environment in local churches

Integrated Ministries are focusing on a working definition (one of reasons Teevan is 1<sup>st</sup> speaker at this year's Conference). Clancy stated that they are trying to bring some new people into the team

Will meet November 12-13 in Columbus, for their annual meeting

The EVLC is considering a new name. Maybe Charis Committee, because of the Charis connection from the origin of the Commitment to Common Ministry.

### **Tom Avey on the Relocation Question:**

Fellowship Coordinator's office needs to be closer to a Hub Airport, metro area, Cleveland is Ohio's major airport

Making the move with Tom will help his successor with a clean start

GBIF probably won't move—but we need to ask

CE National, also inclined to stay in Winona Lake because of their property and connection with Grace Schools.

The Fellowship Coordinator's office away from the Nat/Orgs will be outweighed by access to churches

Bob F explained that when he gives his moderator's report at this Conference, he will give a statistical analysis. He was surprised to discover that 1/2 of the average weekly attendance is in 21 churches. There is great value in bringing together those leaders for ideation and values and problem solving. Our fellowship has tended to Focus on Conference has tended to support leaders of smaller churches. Jeff Bogue has offered to bring together leaders of larger churches into a group called "GoNet". GoNet will be right before Movement day, Sept in New York City (GO2 has been apart of this).

George Bullard said in order to raise the water level of FGBC, we have to encourage leaders. Leaders of larger churches desire recognition inside the Fellowship like they get outside. (Jeff Bogue said as much two years ago).

Winter Fellowship Council will meet January 23-25, 2013 @ Hyatt Long Beach (start with dinner Wednesday—ends with lunch Friday) Plan on flying home on Sat (in time for church)

Be at the Constitution Change Forums 7:30am Sunday and 3:30pm Monday

Adjourned 3:20

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory M. Howell  
Recording Secretary

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## **SAMPLE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS FOR NEW CHURCH APPLICATIONS**

1.27.12 (Jonathan Carey questions)

First, look over application for any possible clarifications or questions you may want to ask. The following are questions for you to consider asking the applying church pastor/leader.

1. What is your vision for your ministry/ your community?
2. How did you get involved in ministry?
3. What do you consider to be your gifting in church ministry?
4. What has encouraged you the most in this current ministry? What do you celebrate?

5. What have been some of your biggest challenges?
6. Do you have a healthy support system whenever you have questions, concerns, or crisis personally, or in your ministry?

Depending on their answers to the above questions you may want to follow-up with...

- a. How then can we specifically pray for you personally and as a church?  
(Take time to pray with them at the end of your conversation and if possible, make a follow-up call.)
  - b. If they are not aware of them, suggest possible cooperating and national organizations, as well as district resources that may be helpful.
8. Explain the significance of your church name?
  9. What do you love about the Grace Brethren Fellowship?
  10. Do you have any reservations about your church joining into membership with the fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches?
  11. How would you describe your relationship with the church/district/ organization that is helping you connect with the FGBC? If it's helpful, use a 1-10 rating scale with 1 being "acquainted" and 10 being "like family – close, loving fellowship" and ask them to explain further.
  12. How are you planning on being involved / cooperating with the Fellowship (ie. attending FOCUS Retreats, being involved in District Conference, attending National Conference, etc.)
  13. Do you keep track of membership? If so, how do individuals and families become members of your church?

Approaching the **COMMITMENT TO COMMON MISSION**

14. Do you see yourself as a pastor "doing ministry," or "equipping others to do ministry"? (Developing Leaders)
15. Do you have a plan or a vision in place for planting churches?
16. Do you have a plan or a vision in place for engaging your community with integrated ministries?

**Give them your contact information and let them know that you are available.**