

FELLOWSHIP COUNCIL Monday, July 23, 2018 FREMONT, OHIO

PRESENT: Roy Halberg A-19, Roger Holl A-22, Ron Boehm B-20, Mark Lingenfelter B-18, Doug Black B-21, Adam Johnson C-19, Scott Avey C-20, Greg Serafino A-18, Tim Clothier C-22, Clancy Cruise—Executive Dir. 17-19, Tom Avey--Fellowship Coordinator, Dave Pacheco B-22, Tim Hodge C-18, Jeremy Wike A-20, K Pinkerton B-19, and Greg Howell Recording Sec.

ABSENT: Adam Copenhaver A-21 and Doug Courter C-21

Executive Director Clancy Cruise asked Fellowship Council members to share what is good in their lives or ministry and/or recent celebrations and then led in prayer to open the meeting.

Tom Avey reminded that Sharmion Howell will be taking over as his assistant since Sandy Barrett retires after this Conference.

1. Consensus Vote - one action for the following items...

By consensus we approved each of the following:

1. The Minutes of January meeting
2. Fellowship Coordinator, Tom Avey's housing allowance for 2019 as \$35,000
3. Fellowship Chaplain Endorsing Agent, Mark Penfold's housing allowance for 2019 as 50% of his salary.

2. Ratify - Nomination of Phil Sparling as Executive Director 2020-2022

A MOTION PREVAILED TO ratify the nomination of Phil Sparling to a 3-year term as Executive Director of the Charis Fellowship beginning after Access2019 and present him to the delegates for approval at this year's business meeting.

Tim Hodge introduced the Rebranding video. Scott Avey reminded that a video was the original task that prompted rebranding in the first place. Liz Gates, Scott Feather, Bartley Sawatsky and Tom Avey were also involved in the process. The video is available in different lengths for different uses. All are downloadable from the Charis website and will be available after the Tuesday announcement. It includes lots of ethnic diversity and our own people and churches.

3. Reports - no action needed...

1. Access2019 – will be at Auburn California and will be announced at the Conference sessions this week. It is 2 hours from Tahoe, nice drive from Reno, and 1 1/2 hours from Yosemite. The hotel situation will be a little better than Fremont. But we will have to do meals in a nearby venue. A lot of history in the area and the Sierra Nevada Mountains. It will be the same Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday time frame as this year (July 23-25, 2019). Clancy is running conference next year and has a big surprise.

2. Clancy asked, “what if in 2020 we rented from a group not quite like us?”
Like Assemblies of God? That could give us some flexibility and
affordability. It was way more affordable at Fremont due to the generosity
of the church. It is cool to go to a destination location. Attendances have
been really good here due to prices and Tom’s ability to financially help
with Haitians.

4. Team Recommendations - action may be required...

1. Positions Team

1. Statements Tim asked for a straw poll of Fellowship Council with a
written ballot, so he could assess buy-in thus far. Discussion and
results later.

2. Membership Team

1. What is a National Ministry?

This discussion was prompted by Assist’s request to be received recognition as a
National Ministry. The membership team spent time interviewing all 8 of the other
ministries time. Answers to interview questions were returned in advance. None
thought any of the cooperating ministries needed to be elevated. They took pride in the
historical legacy of the National Ministries (which was a big deal to them). National
Ministry executives did not think they raised any more money because they are a
recognized National Ministry. Some felt a little left out of National discussions (ie:
rebranding). Some expressed concern about where next generation leaders are.
Where are they going to come from? We don’t have a Fellowship Theologian (ie: Dave
Plaster). We don’t have enduring vision leadership community anymore, may need to
revisit this. Who is holding all the church planting stuff or leadership development
together? Ambiguity, who gets to decide who gets to do what in our fellowship— “well it
depends” About time you feel comfortable on Fellowship Council it is time to rotate off
even with 5 year cycles. This is kind of a Structures’ deal. Tom often says, “don’t start
something that you can’t finish, because need to be around long enough to do.” Viki
Rife wants the “parameters’ of what women can do in churches, not just what they can’t
do”. Also wants to know how the Women of Grace’s credentialing process fits in the
Fellowship, don’t want it to be part of ordination, but what?

3. Structures

1. Changes to the Manual of Procedure will be on the ballot. Mostly
housekeeping to change language about Charis rather than FGBC,
but also to insert Identity Statement for Statement of Faith.

4. Finance Team

1. Budget for 2019

Propose a 30¢ increase per member

Tom Avey mentioned budgeting \$10,000 for transition. We need to
have a search team to transition and replace Tom. He would like a
sabbatical... perhaps this year?

1 Question about Charis Alliance line item. ANSWER: Dave Guiles
2 would like the Fellowship Council to kick in a one-time financial
3 help. D Pacheco suggested “maybe we need to increase
4 membership fee so that we have finances available every 5 years
5 to provide major help.

6 T Clothier: “will rebranding be spending more in this new budget?

7 Tom: Probably done. \$8-9000 per video. T Hodge--We have a lot
8 of pieces, so we could stitch together for less.

9
10 A MOTION PREVAILED to approve the 2019 budget as presented.

11
12 Clancy returned to discussion of Position Statements—lots of feedback and most feel
13 we should present as currently written. He requested that Fellowship Council members
14 please take time to read the front part—good briefing for all of us.—Tim H did a good
15 job.

16
17 Tim referred to straw poll gauge of Fellowship Council reaction. At our February
18 meeting it showed that we can wordsmith to death. Want to get the ball rolling. Most
19 feedback provided some healthy tweaks but had to evaluate if they can be incorporated
20 now. Several cans of worms presented also. But it is built into system to evaluate
21 every 5 years. Mostly all Fellowship Council members accept all statements as written.
22 Tim reminded that the reality is that not everyone will like all the wording.

23
24 Discussion included the following:

25 Clancy—hopefully all Statements will get 2/3 affirmative approval, but we need to get at
26 least some approved for the record. At the delegates’ business meeting, Dave Guiles
27 will give some background information and how the other groups have added to their 4th
28 cluster. He repeated that each statement needs a full 2/3 and we won’t lobby if it 1 vote
29 under. We must live with the vote. Conversely If a Statement gets one vote over the
30 2/3 — he will report that it barely passed. We also need to remember they all have a
31 sunset clause. Each must be voted on again (to reaffirm or tweaked) in five (5) years,
32 or it/they die.

33
34 Topic of Elder needs to be changed to Eldership of Men or Eldership and Gender? Is
35 there a way to title it better? Clancy asked if there is a strong suggestion to change it.
36 It is worthwhile to remember that it is not the whole topic of Eldership or women in
37 ministry or gender. We are just recording what we have historically practiced. Is it too
38 late to change? Tom suggested that we can amend the motion and print the ballots if
39 necessary. A Johnson—why can’t we just communicate to delegates that English
40 doesn’t fully convey, and this is best as we have come up with as positive and general
41 about who we are? Clancy challenged us to have positive conversations in hallways,
42 etc. We are not providing delegates opportunity to wordsmith, just up or down vote.

43 5. Discussion starters (to continue in the Winter meeting)

44 1. Charis Alliance

45 1. Who are our Delegates?

- 1 2. Budget - how can we financially support the global Charis Alliance
- 2 ongoing?
- 3 2. What is a national ministry?
- 4 1. Accountability?
- 5 1. How are National Ministries accountable to the council?
- 6 2. How is the council accountable to National Ministries?
- 7 2. Reporting?
- 8 1. Is there a better way for the National Ministries to report to
- 9 the council in the winter meeting?
- 10 2. Ideas:
- 11 1. The council interviews 1-3 ministries each year.
- 12 2. Assign 2-3 council members to each ministry for an
- 13 in-depth interview during the meetings.
- 14 3. Ask specific questions of each National Ministry Exec
- 15 for a written response before the meeting (like the
- 16 Membership team did for these interviews) (question:
- 17 who will write the questions?
- 18 4. Combination of #2 and #3
- 19 1. for example:
- 20 1. In advance - written reports
- 21 2. hour #1 - Interviews
- 22 3. hour #2 - Big group reports

23 Any of these provides more opportunities for dialog, allows feedback—Jeremy said he
24 wished whole Fellowship Council could have been on the phone calls. Dr. Katip would
25 probably prefer just sharing struggles, etc. Or we could have written reports available
26 without their presence. Maybe a 3 minute video celebration presentation. Most
27 National Ministries use California to touch base with churches and donors in the west,
28 so they like the reason to come.

- 29 3. Communication?
- 30 1. How can we communicate better with National Ministries?

31 The Ohio gathering recently opened up to cooperating ministries. May need to revert
32 back to just National Ministries at a different time.

33 Maybe have the same 2-3 Fellowship Council members with each National Ministries
34 on-going for continuity.

35 Adam J --benefit by cooperating, symbiotic relationship might be best way to describe
36 our connection. Then we could separate communication from accountability. Provide
37 more time to sit and have conversations with these groups, with preset lists of
38 questions. There is a Sunset clause of organizations with Fellowship Council. Tom
39 sends out 5 year renewal if they want to continue being a National Ministries.
40 Fellowship Council should be the leadership team that helps all organizations to be
41 more effective (or they go away). They are not ineffective because they do not have

1 enough clout from/with the Fellowship Council. The sunset clause will help keep them
2 connected. May need to ask, "What can your group offer to declining churches?"

3 National Ministries option if can't come--phone/skype. Personal, interview, might be
4 more relational than current oral report of written handout. Tom pointed out that you
5 can experiment once. So we need to be careful how we change this the first time.

6 By consensus we agreed to basically do #4

7 Tom will ask the Structures Committee to establish a 5-year sunset clause for national
8 ministries. The initial start of a ministry will come from the delegates' approval at
9 Conference, but their ongoing renewal will be from the Fellowship Council. This will
10 help with relationships and accountability. Structures will need to establish the rotation.
11 And then direct the Fellowship Council to divvy up who communicates with whom.
12 What we are talking about requires a lot of time outside out of regular meetings.
13 Fellowship Council will need to own up to the extra time. Phone meetings have been
14 growing. Do we need another meeting? We will be able to answer that by starting with
15 how we function in our January meeting. Might this trim our time with National
16 Ministries from 4 hours to 2-3? Ask Structures to come up with procedures, tell National
17 Ministries new system. Sit down with small group, then 5-minute presentation to whole
18 group. Have each share "3 big wins from last 6 months". All have same grid of
19 questions. We all interact with some of these leaders in other venues and give
20 feedback to rest of Fellowship Council, informally.

21 Changes to Manual of Procedure to make it consistent (change Statement of Faith to
22 Charis Identity Statement) and FGBC to Charis in some places.

23 3. The current lack of theological "fathers"

- 24 1. Since Dave Plaster we have not had a Charis Fellowship
25 theologian.
26 2. Grace Seminary professors are not viewed as Charis Fellowship
27 theologians.

28
29 4. Removing the single-term limit for Fellowship Council members.

- 30 1. Ideas:
31 1. Allow up to two (or three) consecutive terms if re-elected.

32 Tom asked, "On a gut level, how would you feel to encourage extended terms?" Or
33 non-voting consultants can be asked to continue by the Fellowship Council or
34 Fellowship Coordinator or Executive Director.

35 2. Create an executive team that meets more often.

36
37 5. Establishing coordinators for our stated priorities: Church Planting,
38 Training Leaders, Doing Good

Tom asked is it time to rethink about EVLC (Enduring Visional Leadership Vision Community)? Is Church planting coordinator. Someone in each area to pull together all the groups that concentrate on one of the main priorities. Something/someone to bring cohesiveness—but they will need resources. That should help with accountability. This would mean three different “coordinators”—because they will be working with “directors” of these National ministries. They will not be voting members of the ministries. Who do they report to? Are they Charis employees?

6. Dying churches!

7. Transition Plan for the Charis Fellowship Coordinator—the Fellowship Council needs to come up with a plan and make a transition plan for successor(s). Tom A would love to have someone in place by 2020. Needs to start some chats to put something on the table for January. Clancy volunteered and appointed Tim H to chair. Adam J, Dave B also volunteered. Clancy gave kudos to Tom for the job he has done and things he has handled personally and for the Fellowship. Tom then shared about his concern for his daughter Brooke. Ron & Kevin prayed for Tom as father and Fellowship Coordinator and the transition.

8. Position Statements and Social Concerns

There is some discussion beginning with Don Shoemaker about pipeline for future Position Statements coming from the Social Concerns Committee.

Tim H shared the progress on the Charis Beliefs module outlines.

Clancy declared the meeting adjourned at 4:07pm

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory M. Howell,
Recording Secretary

Revised February 14, 2019