

M | MARGINS

MINISTRY IN A POST-CHRISTIAN WORLD

CHRISTIANS ARE BEING MARGINALIZED IN NORTH AMERICA. HOWEVER HISTORY SHOWS THAT WE CAN MINISTER BEST FROM THESE MARGINS. AT VISION CONFERENCE 2016 | MARGINS, LEARN HOW TO DO MINISTRY FROM THE MARGINS.

www.visionconference.us
JULY 22-25, 2016 TORONTO, ONTARIO

VISION
CONFERENCE 2016

Family Finances Budgeting for a strong, growing family.

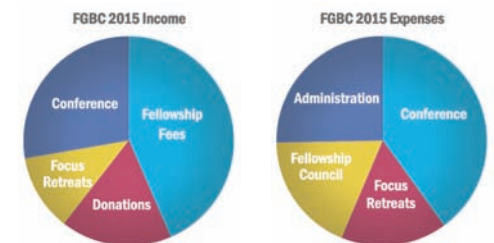
It takes funds to live as a family – to pay the bills, to travel, to communicate. With a family of churches, it is no different.

Much of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches functions with volunteer leadership. Our national office is made up on one full-time person and a part-time assistant. It is a vital link between the more than 300 ministries that make up the Grace Brethren family, including churches, districts, national ministries, and cooperating ministries. An annual budget to support the national office is approved by representatives of member churches each year at our Vision Conference. These funds also allow us to come together for encouragement, visioning, and training at our annual Vision Conference or at regional meetings, such as Focus Retreats.

The financial records of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches are reviewed annually by a certified

public accountant. This review is available from the national office by calling (574) 269-1269.

Delegates at the 2015 conference approved a \$1 per attendee increase in the annual fellowship fee that each member church pays. This amount will be used to help young leaders attend Vision Conference 2016 | Margins in Toronto, Canada (www.visionconference.us). You can see the complete delegates report including a budget at <http://fgbc.org/files/DelegatesReport2015.pdf>.



“ We declare that Jesus Christ, the incarnate Word of God, as revealed in the Bible, the written Word of God, is the only Savior and Lord. He is the center of our shared experience of true biblical unity. ”

— from the *Charis Commitment to Common Identity* (adopted by the Charis Alliance in 2015)

Introducing the Charis Alliance and the Charis Commitment to Common Identity

The Charis Alliance

The Charis Alliance was formed in November 2015 and is comprised of leaders and churches globally known as Grace Brethren. It traces its family roots back to Germany, where in 1708 a small group of sincere Christ-followers committed to form a church that would be faithful to the teachings of the New Testament. It recognizes that its spiritual foundations are built upon the broader work of godly men and women throughout history who have faithfully labored to interpret and apply God's truth. It affirms an unwavering loyalty to Jesus Christ, the Living Word, and to Holy Scripture, the Written Word, as the final authority in all matters of faith and practice.

By the grace of God, Grace Brethren are a diverse global family of churches that share a common commitment to understanding the Word of God (Biblical truth), to living as the People of God (Biblical relationships), and, to fulfilling the Purposes of God (Biblical mission).

The Charis Commitment to Common Identity

The Charis Commitment to Common Identity is a summary of biblical convictions, mutual commitments, and common practices of the Charis Alliance. It is not intended to be a complete expression of what the Charis Alliance believes and practices, nor is it intended to be the final expression of those beliefs and practices. Rather, it is a current expression of an ongoing quest to apply the unchanging truth of God's Word to the constantly changing realities and needs of our world. It is formatted around three “clusters” as follows:

1. The Center affirms an eternal loyalty to Jesus Christ, through whom we live and move and have our being;
2. The Evangelical Core outlines the convictions shared with those in the stream of historic orthodoxy and global evangelical communities that possess a high view of God and the Scriptures;
3. The Charis Identity summarizes the perspectives and practices shared among Grace Brethren churches and leaders around the world.

Will the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches (FGBC) join the Charis Alliance?

This question will be decided this summer at our annual conference.

The Fellowship Council is 15 FGBC pastors representing three regions of the FGBC. They met recently at Grace Community Church in Seal Beach, California.

It is the desire of the Fellowship Council that the Charis Commitment to Common Identity serve as the identity statement of the FGBC, and we encourage its

use by our member churches, by the Association of Grace Brethren Ministers and our national and cooperating organizations.

Toward that end...

The Fellowship Council recommends to the conference delegates in July 2016 that the FGBC become a charter member of the Charis Alliance and endorse the commitments to Common Identity and Mission. The Fellowship Council also recommends that the FGBC accept the benefits and responsibilities of membership and select three delegates to the alliance by August 2016.

The Fellowship Council recommends that the Charis Commitment to Common Identity be endorsed as the identity statement of the FGBC and be used by our member churches, the Association of Grace Brethren Ministers, our national and cooperating organizations, and districts to train leaders and to communicate and explain our movement.

Adapted from the Charis Commitment to Common Identity. For the full document go to charisalliance.org, select “English” then the “Documents” page.



FGBC Statistical Form and Fellowship Fee

Please complete and mail this form as soon as possible but by May 15, 2016 to:

Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches
P.O. Box 384
Winona Lake IN 46590

Please include a check for your fellowship fee
payable to Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches

Church Name	Email Address	
Mailing Address	City	State ZIP
1. Average weekly attendance for 2015		
2. Average weekly Sunday School or small group attendance in 2015		
3. Total conversions recorded in 2015		
4. Total baptisms in 2015		
5. Total membership as of December 31, 2015		



FGBC Statistical Form and Fellowship Fee

Please complete all blanks on the statistical form. Please note that the statistics for this report are from the year 2015. Please put 0 for None, NR for No Records kept, NA for Not Applicable. Do not leave any statistical blanks empty.

Please send the original report but be sure to keep a copy for your files. Don't forget to sign the form.

Please include a check for your fellowship fee payable to Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches. If your church is unable to pay the fellowship fee this year, complete the report and include a note of explanation.

Tear Here

Please mail the report as soon as possible but by May 15, 2016 to:

Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches
P.O. Box 384
Winona Lake IN 46590

The Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches is a family of diverse congregations who are committed to Jesus, His Word, His Church, and His Mission. As a family we maintain a national office, send representatives to serve on a national board (the Fellowship Council), provide points of communication and connection, and seek to find new ways to work together in God's kingdom. A fee is asked of each member church to help fund this joint activity. Use the worksheet above to calculate your amount of contribution based on your average weekly worship attendance (all ages).

Questions? Contact Tom Avey at: tomavey@fgbc.org or (574) 269-1269.

6. Is your church thinking about or actively starting a new church?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
7. If yes, who may we contact for more information about this new church?	

Calculation of Fellowship Fee for 2016:

10. Enter the average weekly attendance from line 1	
11. Per person fellowship fee: (\$6.00 before May 15. \$6.50 after May 15)	\$6.00 / \$6.50
12. Multiply line 10 by line 11	
13. Total fellowship fee - line 12 or \$7,500 (\$8,000 after May 15)	\$
Signature of Person Completing this Report:	
FOR FGBC USE ONLY:	
Date received: / /	Check #: Amount: \$



The Fellowship of
Grace Brethren Churches

2016

Statistical Form & Fellowship Fee Request

