

**FELLOWSHIP OF GRACE BRETHREN CHURCHES**

**Fellowship Council Minutes July 22, 2011**

**Wooster GBC: Wooster, Ohio 1:30 - 5:00pm**

PRESENT: Bob Fetterhoff(Moderator 11-13), Michael Saldivar(W-15), Dave Kennedy(E-15), Jonathan Carey(C-12), Doug Courter(E-13), Tom Hocking(Moderator 09-11), Doug Black(E-11), Dan Jackson(E-14), Nathan Bryant(C-13), Clancy Cruise(C-15), , Roy Halberg(W-14), Tom Avey(Fellowship Coordinator), & Greg Howell(Recording Secretary) Bruce Barlow(C-14)by Skype  
[Missing Phil Helfer(W-11), Bruce Barlow(C-14) Bob Wagner(E-12), Chris Ball(W-12), W-13 and C-11]

Bob welcomed us and gave a brief history of Wooster GBC

Prayer in groups

110722-01 Approve Minutes

**A MOTION PREVAILED to approve January 2011 minutes as published on the FC website.**

110722-02 Conference Report 2011 (VISION 2020 Leadership Conference)

1. Registrations 273 full registrations better than last year Antioch & Women seminars have good registrations , John Trent about 75 (wanted 200) lowest # of kids this year – 15 maybe a reflection of less young families OR that Wooster location is close to extended families (grandparents) who are providing child-care (and maybe housing). Seems to have been a steady decline in recent years. It is a different day and so we need to view things thru a different lens.

Q/A

Q: How does this year's attendance compare with an Equip conference? Equip numbers are hard to count. Attendance numbers are not the same because Equip is a series of chunks, rather than a concentrated sustained group as this year is more likely to be.

Q: What do you, Bob want them to walk away with after this National Conference? A: A new vision, crystalized around the CCM (Commitment to Common Ministry). What action steps that come will come from individual time with God. Each emphasis will have its own day—leadership, church planting, integrated ministry

110722-03 2012 plans Indian Wells, CA July 27-Aug 2 \$89 room rate

Nathan B repeated what Bob F said at GBIM board. Promote Conference for getting together. Accommodations are very nice. Good gathering areas to connect with others. Used to be people came to National Conference "Just because", now we need to provide relational and other reasons, such as: "What are they going to get?" "What are they going to do?", at or around conference location.  
Maybe we need to encourage all the boards to have board meetings at National Conference?  
Could we get "Driven" to have their meeting during conference during summer?  
So Calif suggest speakers, muscians, Frances Chan—maybe he would speak on topic of his new book

110722-04 2013 options—in Ohio a lot in past years. Time to get back into 6 yr rotation, West Coast every 6 yrs. Florida? Or DC? Will California appeal to people?— will people go and include vacation?

Guys want to see ministries—locate National Conference near several and have Sr pastor & staff share. ie Willow Creek—youth leaders could meet with youth staff, music w/music, Sr with Sr staff. House church guys with a house church situation near.

1 We should ask guys who are going to other conferences, "Why?" probably because of  
2 resources—what they get (information and tangible stuff) and because their financial resources  
3 are limited and they have to choose to attend where they think they will get the most for their time  
4 and money. The big, publicized conferences appeal because they are across denominational  
5 lines

6  
7 110722-05 Focus Retreat Report for 2012

8 1. Theme - "Finding Your Way Forward"

9 Key verse: Eph. 2:10

10 Subtitle: "Vision thru the dangers, toils and snares". (comes from a phrase from  
11 *Amazing Grace*)

12 Dan Allen has agreed to lead again. (Florida Feb-Mar not good time—Dave  
13 Kennedy wants to get FOCUS Retreats in Florida district going again. (he reps  
14 Florida and would attend) Tom A will work with Dave about scheduling

15 2. Dates –are all up on the website [www.fgbc.org/focus](http://www.fgbc.org/focus)

16  
17 110722-06 EVLC Reports Enduring Vision Leadership Community

18 Chairmen: Leadership Development—Mike Yoder

19 Church Planting—Tim Boal

20 Integrate Ministry—Clancy Cruise

21  
22 1. Leadership Development - new web site and brochure - [www.fgbc.org/e-net](http://www.fgbc.org/e-net)

23 Mike Yoder, Tom Julien

24 6 pioneer churches this year working toward 60

25  
26 2. Integrated Ministries Clancy Cruise

27 Summarizing traction so far

28 The strategic CCM international document, is now a decade old.

29 Integrated Ministries team Stephen Joyce, Jim Hocking, Dan O'Deens "what healthy  
30 church wouldn't want to be doing all three of these things?" We are the story-tellers, not  
31 initiators of IM. Integrated Ministry is not social justice, but bridges of salt & light

32  
33 1) Help "them" connect with those doing gospel work in many communities. How are  
34 they integrating—helping churches connect with other churches/ministries that are  
35 ministering as bridges or salt & light in their or similar communities. "Here's an idea we  
36 have, is there any one doing that? How do we connect with them?"

37  
38 2) Committee needs to help them tell their stories, stand behind those who are doing  
39 Integrated Ministries, show how strategies can work for other churches to revitalize  
40 and/or build bridges to be salt & light in their communities.

41  
42 Gave out brochure of the Scripture demonstrating Salt & Light (not to argue about Social  
43 Justice, etc.) just show how Bible shows Christians need to be nice to others

44  
45 Two main thrusts of Integrated Ministries committee:

46 Help others 1) "see" Integrated Ministries and 2) support those who are doing Integrated  
47 Ministries

48  
49 3. Church Planting –Tim Boal

50 Committee: Tim Boal (Go2), Dave Guiles(GBIM), Nathan Bryant (GB Canada), Tony  
51 Webb (Vision Ohio) & Neil Cole (CMA)

52 They discovered that they were tracking similarly how to measure church planting

53 One major accomplishment is that they made a pact not to speak ill of the others—they  
54 want to present a common front and be working together

1 young leaders meeting—about the future of the “family” not structured, came up with 5?  
2 “learnings”  
3 There is a Cloud over our “family” many think they have to hold exactly to be part of the  
4 FGBC family—so they hide and do not get involved. The committee has worked at  
5 determining how to remove that perceived barrier.  
6  
7

8 110722-07 2012 Budget  
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10 **MOTION to recommend 2012 budget to Delegates for adoption. 2/p**

11  
12 We have shifted to a per attendee fee from the large categories. NAT/ORGS were asked to  
13 increase gifts to FGBC, and some cooperating ministries also have given some gifts  
14 Comments mentioned that the budget does not include any income from churches using  
15 Brotherhood Mutual, yet. It will be interesting to find out how much that income will be. There  
16 was a report that at least one church realized a 50% decrease in premium by changing to  
17 Brotherhood Mutual.  
18

19 110722-08 Tom's Housing Allowance - \$35k – Tom reported that his housing cost for 2012 would be  
20 approximately \$35,000.  
21

22 **MOTION to designate Tom's Housing Allowance for 2012 as \$35,000.00 2/p**

23  
24 110722-09 Blue Ridge District correspondence

- 25 1. Invitation for dialog – Letter attached from Blue Ridge Ministerium about women in ministry  
26 and “spiritual foundation” concerns.

27 A committee needs to meet with the ministerium, but they need to provide specific details. It  
28 needs to be explained that the Fellowship Council does not control the National Organizations.  
29 Discussion turned up several ministries or situations that may have been the catalyst for the  
30 letter. Tom A stated that he knows that they can and would pay for expenses for a delegation to  
31 visit. Did all of the ministerium really agree & sign? Need to know specifics. The letter is too  
32 general, but it seems to be a NAT/ORG situation that Fellowship Council is powerless to change..  
33

34 A committee of Tom Hocking, Dan Jackson, and Doug Courter will meet with Blue Ridge  
35 ministerium members that are at Conference this year. And a committee should go to their  
36 ministerium after they provide specific examples of their concerns at the ministerium's expense.  
37

38 **MOTION to send a delegation led by Dan Jackson to chat with the Blue Ridge ministerium**  
39 **requesting that they provide specifics prior to the meeting and that they cover the costs. 2/p**

40  
41 2. About member churches

42 Chris Becker's related letter requests the Fellowship Council interaction with their question; “Will  
43 our Fellowship permit churches to remain members of a local district or fellowship if they are no  
44 longer members of the national fellowship?” Tom A responded “Technically churches cannot be  
45 a district unless all churches are member churches.” Matter referred to the Membership  
46 committee for recommendation back to Fellowship Council at January meeting.  
47

48 110722-10 Declaration of Common Identity - First Draft  
49

50 Crafted by Keith Shearer, Jim Custer, Tom Julien, and Keith Minier. It was just completed in  
51 past 30 days. They know that the Fellowship Council will be reviewing and providing input. The  
52 concept grew out of discussion from the Charis Movement. There has been a call by some  
53 younger leaders for a document like this. This is still an early draft. The committee is still  
54 formulating it.

Discussion: Tom Hocking state that he wants it to provide a tiered approach to affirmation (rather than declaration) and wanted it to say 1<sup>st</sup> (non-negotiable) is more important than 2<sup>nd</sup> (practices), which is more important than 3<sup>rd</sup> (preferences).

Fellowship Council expressed a VERY BIG THANK YOU to Keith and team who knows it is early draft. He may have just wanted to know if he was on the right track. They expect to continue fine-tuning until 2012. Fellowship Council needs to let National Conference know that it is coming, without letting them know it is coming. Could present it next year and vote on it in 2013. Maybe use 2012 Focus Retreats to unveil and get feedback. Declaration/Affirmation of Common Identity is not a bad term. Might be good to roll some of the continuing Resolutions into the new Constitution. GBIM is working on a tiered approach. Would be best if smaller, simpler. What is the hope that this will accomplish? Open the door to wider membership? Fellowship Council minutes provide direction—

MOTION from Jan 2011

Being compelled by our commitment to make disciples in North America across generational lines and among all ethnic groups, we commission the executive committee to appoint a team to develop guiding documents for our fellowship that are in alignment with this Biblical commitment.

Constitutionally is it allowed to make changes? Can delegates adopt a document that declares our "Statement of Identity"? Yes, might need to re-write constitution if identity is drastically different by what current constitution allows.

110722-11 New church applications - already approved by Fellowship Council

1. Elkhart, IN
2. Mt Stirling, OH
3. Virginia Beach

110722-12 New Church Applications since January

4. Greensboro, NC

**MOTION: TO recommend that we receive Greensboro, NC as a member church of the FGBC 2/p**

5. Tipp City, Ohio

Split off Dayton 1<sup>st</sup>—Mark wanted closer partnership than Ron & group wanted. Lost some members from Dayton 1<sup>st</sup>. Has Ron made an effort to reconcile with Mark? Mark was hurt that group asked Ron to be pastor without totally communicating with Mark. Mark is no longer pastor of Dayton 1<sup>st</sup>. Clancy is rep for that district—could talk to Moderator of district and see if they can reconcile. Clancy left message w/Ron to connect. Clancy will be glad to follow up on urging Ron's finding a church-planting mentor or organization that will help.

**MOTION: to recommend that we receive Tipp City, OH as a member church in the FGBC, pending Fellowship Council's liaison's (Clancy Cruise) knowledge of Ron's Sherenko' willingness to make sure things are right with Mark Saunders. 2/p**

6. Harlem, NY

Golden opportunity for FGBC—inner city church in New York

**MOTION: TO recommend that we receive Harlem as a member church in the FGBC. 2/p**

110722-13 New Cooperating Ministry Application - Caribbean Vision

Are other Cooperating Ministries aware, are any concerned about Caribbean Vision's approval?  
CPR3, GO2, GBIM all working in different areas (or already cooperating—GBIM).

**MOTION: TO recommend Caribbean Vision as a Cooperating Ministry of the FGBC 2/p**

110722-14 Recommendation for revision to new church application (Michael Saldivar)—not available yet

110722-15 Vice-Moderator

--We don't have a vice-Moderator yet—Jeff Bogue until end of this National Conference. Jeff might be willing to serve until we find a replacement. Bob asked Tom to run the business portion.

110722-16 January 2012 meeting

--Mid-year meeting in January in California, January 25-28. We will travel on 25<sup>th</sup>, meet Jan 26—27 (Thurs-Friday), travel 28 maybe at hotel in downtown or airport area LA to cut down on transportation. Tom & Bob will decide based on where FOCUS is (maybe John Wayne—Orange)

110722-17 Future agenda items

1. Cooperating Ministry designation and process. plus new church app—review by Membership Committee—will meet preliminary Sun 2pm at Wooster Clancy will skype in to be a part of discussion
2. Statistical Report—refer structures committee
3. Constitution revision—refer to Structures committee

Adjourned 5:12 for 5:30 - dinner at Wooster Inn.  
Respectfully submitted,

Gregory M. Howell,  
Recording Secretary