

Fellowship Council Minutes
July 27 and August 3, 2000
Winona Lake, Indiana

❖ **Overview and Thursday Morning, July 27, 2000**

➤ Overview

- The Fellowship Council met in the morning for discussion and to conduct business. Selected emerging leaders in the Fellowship were invited to join the Council in the afternoon for continued discussion about the direction of the fellowship. In the evening, Fellowship Council members and their wives enjoyed a dinner together.

➤ Present: Tom Avey, Ron Boehm, Ron Carnevale, Bob Combs, Jeff Gill, Jim Custer, Ron Guiles, Tad Hobert, Tom Hocking, Ron Manahan, John McIntosh, Dave Mitchell, Keith Shearer, Dan Thornton, Galen Wiley, Rich Placeway. Absent: Tom Stallter,

➤ Chairman: Jim Custer

➤ Preliminary Discussion:

- Jim asked the Council members to share books that they have ready lately
 - Ron Manahan – "The Power of Servant Leadership, The Ascent of a Leader" by R. Greenleaf
 - Ron Carnevali. – "Dispensationalism" edited by Herb Bateman, "How Now Shall We Live"
 - Ron Boehm – "Passion for Souls" (about DL Moody); "The Issachar Factor".
 - Dan Thornton – "How Now Shall We Live" – Charles Colson
 - Tom Avey – "History of Winona"
 - Galen Wiley – "Extreme Righteousness" by Tom Horestal
 - Jeff Gill – "The Empowered Leader" by Calvin Miller
 - Bob Combs – "Rediscovering Church" by Lynne and Bill Hybels
 - Keith Shearer – "Revive Us Again" by Walt Kaiser
 - Dave Mitchell – "Guidance Through Adversity" by Jim Green
 - Tad Hobert – "Purpose Driven Church" by Rick Warren; "Love That Lasts Forever" by Gary Smaly
 - Jim Custer – Howard Hendricks, articles in Bibliotheca Sacra on retirement
 - Tom Hocking – Lakers Web Site; "Rediscovering Church" by Lynne and Bill Hybels; "Raising Pure Kids in an Impure Generation"
 - John McIntosh – "Rich Dad, Poor Dad" by Robert T. Kiyosaki;
 - Ron Guiles – "Angela's Ashes"
 - Jim Custer – "A Passion for Prayer" by "Charismatic Chaos"

Comments- "Surprised by the Spirit" by Jack Deer, is a good book to read as it gives helpful perspective on the charismatic movement.

Other – "Payne Stewart" by Tracy Stewart and Ken Abraham

➤ Chairman Jim Custer reviewed some of the plans for conference that involve fellowship council members.

- Chairman Custer asked the Fellowship Council to take the Bible Test that will be given to the conference. It was recommended by consensus that the test be given during the men's

- 1 and women's rallies. (note: time was not available at the men's and women's rallies so the
2 test was taken during the Delegates luncheon.)
- 3 ■ Chairman Custer asked for prayer requests and the council had a time of prayer in small
4 groups.
 - 5 ■ Jim introduced the concept of the Vision (Delegates) Luncheon. Delegates will be
6 instructed to sit by regions. Fellowship Council members will be able to connect with the
7 regions that elect them. The goal is to help delegates think more broadly than the local
8 church. (note: space restrictions prohibited seating delegates by regions.)
 - 9 ■ We will introduce new churches on Sunday night.
- 10

11 **072700-01 MOTION to recommend new church applications**

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13 ➤ New church applications:

- 14 ■ MOTION to recommend Grace Community Church of Mt Vernon (Ohio) – Passed
 - 15 ■ MOTION to recommend Trinity Grace Brethren Church (Northwood, OH) – Passed
 - 16 ■ MOTION to recommend Grace Community Church (Orrville, OH) – Passed
 - 17 ■ MOTION to recommend Mid-Shore Community Church (Easton, MD) – Passed
 - 18 ■ MOTION to recommend Heartland Grace Brethren Church (Mt Gilead, OH) – Passed
 - 19 ■ MOTION to recommend Grace Chapel (Galloway, OH) – Passed
 - 20 ■ MOTION: "Because we cannot either categorically reject or accept Liberty's application
21 for membership due to the existence of a broken relationship between the Liberty and
22 Riverside churches, we (recommend that we) postpone action on this request pending a
23 good faith effort towards reconciliation as agreed upon by the pastors of the churches and
24 representatives of the fellowship council." Passed. (One "No" and one abstention.)
- 25

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27 ❖ **Thursday Afternoon** New guests: Dan Gregory, Jesus Munoz, Vic Young, Dave Marksbury,
28 Dan Alan, Jim Brown, Steve Taylor, Tim Boal, Nathan Bryant.

29 ➤ Chairman Custer welcomed the new guests.

- 30 ■ "We want to see the fellowship through your eyes and to say that we are glad that the
31 fellowship is in your hands."
 - 32 ■ One of the greatest problems in the FGBC is the inability of our people to look outside the
33 ministries of our local church.
 - 34 ■ Small Group discussion questions:
 - 35 • What are the changes that you have seen in the FGBC.
 - 36 • What changes would you like to see in the fellowship (in conference, in focus retreats,
37 in organization, in how our National Organizations network together)?
 - 38 ■ Chairman Custer began the discussion by reviewing
 - 39 • Positive changes:
 - 40 ♦ The leadership team. We are trying to demonstrate that a team leads conference.
 - 41 ♦ Two new tools that have been effective: use of the Internet (Email and Web Page),
42 focus retreats.
 - 43 ♦ Jim Custer told about benchmark, a meeting of the board of our national
44 organizations.
 - 45 • Needed changes:
 - 46 ♦ The rest of the Fellowship Council serves from the regions, which are somewhat
47 artificial groupings of districts.
- 48

072700-02 Discussion: Positive and Negative Changes in the FGBC

➤ Group feedback:

- Group 1: Positive changes are happening in the way pastors are being trained (distance learning and local church training). Focus rallies are "cookin" now. CE/Grace cooperation with the Youth Institute has been very positive. We need to provide more decentralized pastoral training processes and better licensure/ordination systems
- Group 2: There is great excitement with the incorporation of new churches. We have a unity among us. We need to find some ways to get the word out. We need to have safe discussion about the Statement of Faith.
- Group 3: The addition of a Fellowship Coordinator and growth in GO Teams are good. Districts conference and ministeriums are valued but not effective. Need to improve on highlighting accomplishments, and bringing heroes of the FGBC into the churches. Our fellowship is built on relationships and we need more national representation to the pew.
- Group 4: There is new freedom and less attitude of looking upon others of our brothers with suspicion. This has lead to greater opportunity of ministry. There is a desire to use more of our fellowship in active involvement. Many of our people in our churches are not up-to-date to what is happening in the FGBC. Our churches are now taking more responsibility for leadership development. A major danger is the need to better teach what "Brethrenism" is.
- Group 5: Concerns: Quite a few of our churches are dying and few men are in the "pipeline" to fill those churches. We do not have a good structure to help churches when they have trouble. Some pastors feel isolated (districts are spread out). Are the National Organizations there for the churches or are the churches there for the National Organizations? There is competition for resources.
- In open discussion:
 - Top three concerns –
 - ◆ Passing on of the DNA of the Grace Brethren church without choking it.
 - ◆ Pastoral Ministry needs to move from shepherding to include leadership development.
 - ◆ We are one generation away from extinction because we have not trained people to do what we do.
 - Ideas
 - ◆ Add to the front end of Focus retreats time for strategic discussion about the Fellowship.
 - ◆ If you give gifted men a reason to come together, they don't need an agenda.

072700-03 MOTION to Recommend the 2001 Budget

- ### ➤ MOTION to recommend the 2001 budget to the conference delegates on Wednesday at the luncheon. Passed.
- Discussion, this budget includes some cost of the conference cost being born by the general fund.

Receipts

Membership Fees	135,000
Contributions	23,000

Conference Registrations	25,000
Other Income	3,500
Total Receipts	186,500

Expenses	
Fellowship Council	20,000
National Office	94,500
Honoraria	1,700
Ministry Handbook	3,500
Promise of Honor	30,000
National Conference	35,000
Legal fees and Insurance	1,000
Total Expenses	185,700

072700-04 MOTION to recommend changes in church membership fee basis.

- MOTION – That FGBC church membership fee be based on average worship attendance as reported on the statistical report and reduce the delegate fee from \$5.00 to \$3.70, which includes a promise of honor contribution of \$0.75. That Tom Avey and Ron Carnevali draft a properly written amendment to the Manual of Procedure to affect this change. That this proposal be given to this year's conference for consideration at the 2001 conference. Passed. (note: during the meeting following conference Jerry Young was appointed to replace Ron Carnevali in this task)

072700-05 MOTION to recommend dismissal from membership.

- MOTION - That if the following churches: Gainesville (FL), Williamsport (PA), Anderson (CS), do not respond to written notice of their 3 year delinquency that the FC will recommend removal of those churches at the 2001 conference. Passed.
- Announce that Moorpark, Ewa Beach and Salem churches are no longer in existence.
- Coming conferences:
 - 2001 – "Taking the Lead, Raising a Generation of Leaders" Alex Montoya has been asked to be a principle speaker. Moving toward multiple tracks during the conference where there will be a block of hours to train. Wednesday evening we will join BNYC at Biola College. The goal is to be there to feel, sense, and appreciate a new generation of leaders. Giving opportunity to tour ministries in the Greater LA area. Near Disneyland, Knots Berry Farm and BNYC. July 24-29, 2001.
 - 2002 – "Discerning the Times" Philadelphia, July 26-31, 2002. Leith Anderson will be a principle speaker.
 - 2000 - Conference present. Jim reviewed the conference schedule.

072700-06 MOTION to create a committee to explore further reconciliation with the Brethren Church (Ashland).

- 1
- 2 ➤ Ashland Brethren Group – Chairman Custer reviewed contacts that have happened between
- 3 he and Ashland Brethren leaders. The Executive Director of the Ashland Brethren Church
- 4 will be at our conference on Tuesday. The director of their mission will be present at our
- 5 conference on Saturday.
- 6 ■ MOTION: That we authorize Jim Custer to form a committee to explore ways to further
- 7 reconciliation with the Ashland Brethren Group culminating with a reunion at conference
- 8 in 2003 without compromising our theological position. Passed (unanimous).
- 9 ■ Idea: Sometime in this next year that we arrange a communion service between leaders of
- 10 the Ashland group and Grace Group, present to them a statement of our concerns and
- 11 thoughts on these issues and have them correct it.
- 12

13 ❖ **Thursday, August 3, 2000**

- 14 ➤ PRESENT: Ron Manahan, Keith Shear, Ron Carnevali, Dick Placeway, Galen Wiley, Tad
- 15 Hobert, Tom Stallter, Jeff Gill, Bob Combs, Ron Boehm, Ron Giles, Jim Custer, Tom Avey,
- 16 and Greg Howell.
- 17 ➤ Chairman: Ron Manahan
- 18 ➤ Opening Remarks
- 19 ■ Dr. Manahan wanted to introduce the new men, but all had to leave early. He personally
- 20 thanked Jim and Tom and Charles for the conference and Jim's work as moderator.
- 21 Others expressed thanks to Jim and Tom as well. Jim thanked Galen and previous leaders
- 22 for bringing us to this point. He passed on the "flowers" that he had received from so
- 23 many complementary folks and warned us to be alert for attacks and disappointments.
- 24 How do we thank the Winona community? Gill mentioned TA's new word "under-react."
- 25 ■ Several led in prayer including resolve to persevere with Galen closing.
- 26

27 **083000-01 Feedback on Conference**

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- 29 ➤ Feedback on conference: Ron asked the group to interact for 15 min in groups of 3 or 4
- 30 concerning 3 areas: 1) Note highlights of the conference items of real importance to us.
- 31 2)Issues to consider for future conferences (things to take into account, ways of re-doing).
- 32 3)Give feedback on vision luncheon, how business was handled, is that a keeper?
- 33 ■ Some positive things were one-time events (ie: GBIM International Festival).
- 34 ■ It was good to be able to see where National Organizations are headed.
- 35 ■ The combined commissioning service was very good.
- 36 ■ It was good to have the Hispanic contingent visible.
- 37 ■ Pastors & Men rally were good.
- 38 ■ Evangelistic event (Wednesday night Sawdust Trail) was not "in your face."
- 39 ■ It was good to be able to attend local churches.
- 40 ■ Men felt part of things when they were combined with pastors
- 41 ■ John Haller (Grace Brethren Men) was very well organized.
- 42 ■ Should have ballots presented at balloting time rather than expect people to bring them
- 43 (after not needing them for so many days)
- 44 ■ It was good to have a Great Commission thrust early in the week (like this year's 100th
- 45 anniversary celebration)
- 46 ■ Need to highlight focus retreats, and promote reconciliation movements (like what began
- 47 with Johnstown this week)
- 48 ■ We should come to Winona every 4-5 years.

- 1 ▪ Idea: Have a BLITZ like at youth conference (pre=planned like at conf.)
- 2 ▪ Idea: Have an evangelistic thrust early on so we can know results.
- 3 ▪ Idea: Hold election ahead of conference (e-mail?). Announce results early. Churches
- 4 could have their full complement of votes even if not present.
- 5 ▪ Use of our own men is going well.
- 6 ▪ Unity is strong.
- 7 ▪ The two plays were powerful.
- 8 ▪ Music was a better blend, and seemed to flow.
- 9 ▪ Small group interactions (during the delegates luncheon) were very good including
- 10 sharing what could we do better.
- 11 ▪ Saturday night was too long. Some things were repetitive, some was overkill.
- 12 ▪ Not a strong prayer conference. We eliminated the day of prayer. No one came to the
- 13 announced prayer time.
- 14 ▪ We should have something for pastors and wife's during the week.
- 15 ▪ The vision luncheon very good.
- 16 ▪ Tent was wonderfully nostalgic.
- 17 ▪ 2/3 of what happens are conference is unseen.
- 18 ▪ Kids Conference rally every night with Dave Bogue.
- 19 ▪ The two choirs where good.
- 20 ▪ McClain day was good.
- 21 ▪ Need to work on: Co-opting, bringing in the “young lions” to confer with FC, mid-conf.
- 22 FC session (sometime each morning—6:am?) Have all nominees stay for this after
- 23 meeting—ask what would they have done if elected. Produce a video of nominees with
- 24 information about who and what they are.
- 25 ▪ Vision luncheon was very good, like a love feast. The attitude conveyed was of
- 26 helpfulness and service. Bible quiz was taken seriously and helped break the ice across
- 27 the tables. Need a way to balance parliamentary with relational approach.
- 28 ▪ Jim would change if he could go back: Would have made more exposure of the hidden
- 29 conference. Very good move to have the wives introduce speakers.
- 30 ▪ Tom mentioned that Winona costs us more than when we are at a hotel because we have
- 31 to rent space here that we don’t when at a resort/hotel.

080300-02 MOTION to put Jerry Young on the drafting committee for membership fee changes.

- Membership fees- MOTION: To appoint Jerry Young to assist Tom in crafting the membership fee policy. Passed
- Suggested procedure for accepting new members see minute 012900-06. Suggested use of Fellowship Council members to interview new church leadership including relationships with district and how they came into being. Reports would be given to the Fellowship Council before conference.

080300-03 MOTIONS for Committee Appointments: Pastoral Connections

- COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS:
 - Pastoral Connections:
 - MOTION to appoint Greg Howell to continue as Pastoral Connections Coordinator.

Passed

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2 **080300-04 MOTIONS for Committee Appointments: Membership Committee**
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4

- 5 ▪ Membership Committee (3 year terms):
6 • The following were nominated: Greg Stamm, Glen Shirk, Doug Courter, Will
7 Marling,
8 • MOTION that Tom ask these men in order and appoint the first two that respond
9 positively. Passed.
10 • MOTION that Terry Daniels be appointed chairman of the Membership Committee
11 for conference 2001. Passed
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13 **080300-05 MOTIONS for Committee Appointments: Parliamentary Committee**
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- 15 ▪ Parliamentary Committee:
16 • MOTION: in light of the efforts to restore our churches in Johnstown and it's effect on
17 present members of the committee that we appoint 3 new people to the Parliamentary
18 Committee. Passed
19 • MOTION: That Galen be appointed chairman of the Parliamentary Committee and
20 serve 1 year (2001). Passed
21 • MOTION: That Tom ask Larry Edwards, Robert MacMillian, Nathan Zakahi, Ed
22 Waken in order to serve on the Parliamentary Committee and that the first to respond
23 positively be appointed for 2 years, the next one to respond be appointed for 3 years.
24 (2 names needed). Passed
25

26 **080300-06 MOTION to fulfill an un-expired vacancy: Fellowship Council**
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- 28 ▪ Fellowship Council:
29 • Ron Guiles reported that he is retiring from his ministry in Maitland, Fl. and will be
30 moving to Indiana to begin ministry with Grace Brethren International Missions. He
31 will not be able to fill the remainder of his term (ending 2002).
32 • MOTION: That Jesus Munos be appointed to fulfill Ron's term . Passed
33

34 **080300-07 Future Conferences**
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- 36 ➤ Future Conferences
37 ▪ 2002- Jeff Gill shared about conf. 2002 in Philadelphia, \$100/night, many perks, great
38 meeting rooms, people can walk to eat. Leith Anderson will be the presenter during
39 McClain Day and the keynote speaker at one plenary session. We are looking for slogan
40 for the theme. We will be getting the NAD ministerium together to have plan conference.
41 Jeff intends to have 90% of the plan on paper by conference 2001. We are working on
42 earlier deadlines so meeting places and logistics can be locked in sooner. We would like
43 to have a concurrent tracks (like the counseling this week), maybe church planting, or
44 something to encourage young pastors.
45 ▪ 2004- Bob Combs expressed gratefulness for the opportunity and reflected on reading
46 "Seize the Moment" since he personally knew most of the folks. The Fellowship has been
47 his life, started coming when he was 10, most of his ministry decisions were made on

1 these grounds. Has not been able to give much thought to what and where, but the theme
2 will be along the lines of "Healing your broken world." Tom Avey suggests this may be
3 the time to go to Florida or Toronto.

- 4 ■ 2001 - Ron Manahan –focusing on nurturing leaders. We are already encouraging folks to
5 register early. There will be a joint celebration with BNYC where we will be able to
6 affirm the bulk of our future leaders. Alex Montoya has agreed to be speak. Alex has a
7 going and growing leadership among Hispanics and was most highly recommended by S.
8 Cal. pastors. Alex came to Christ through the FGBC. We are hoping to make use of
9 regional ministries in the LA area (tours, visits?). We plan to provide leadership training
10 tracks on Saturday with local church folks (church workers training day—not aimed at
11 pastors). There will be a "Day in LA" for family recreation. One challenge is how to plan
12 Sunday morning. It will be last day of conference and do we want to end with everyone
13 going his or her own way? We are working on using FOCUS retreats to strengthen
14 leaders. We have begun to bring young leaders already, but how can we encourage more
15 "young lions" to attend? They will come if given an assignment. Shifting away from
16 "talking heads" and use more small groups (with predetermined group leaders). Keith
17 mentioned the 30-somethings who are considering ministry—maybe a track on "how to I
18 get there from here." Tom suggested maybe it is time to go to the next step. Give some
19 consideration to subjective side of hearing the voice of God (listening, receiving end).
20

21 **080300-08 Statement of Faith**

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23 ➤ Comments about this years work relating to the Statement of Faith: There is a restlessness
24 concerning the Statement of Faith. Jim will review marked Statements of Faith and provide
25 written assessment.
26

27 **080300-09 MOTION to approve medical expense for Charles Ashman**

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29 ➤ MOTION: That we fully fund the purchase of Charlie's hearing aids as an honorarium
30 because of our deep appreciation for his extended service to the FGBC. Passed
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32 **080300-10 MOTION to prioritize "Paraclete"**

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34 ➤ MOTION: That the Paraclete ministry become a more active item on Tom and Charles'
35 priority list. Passed
36

37 **080300-11 MOTION - Liberty Grace Brethren Church and Riverside Grace Brethren Church**

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39 ➤ Johnstown—Jim will write a letter to encourage resolution. Jim and Tricene will meet with
40 the pastors and wives and care for the post conference actions, clarifying with them as to what
41 is expected. Keith will be on site to monitor. We will need to clarify what is needed to
42 conclude the situation. Since we have the Paraclete ministry in the wings, maybe we should
43 use it in this situation with Keith being the point man in this case. His plan will be for the
44 men to meet every other week beginning in September. Keith will courtesy copy his
45 correspondence with the Fellowship Council. Some issues with key leaders in each church
46 also need to be cared for with Keith as mediator.

- 1 ➤ MOTION: That Keith Shearer be the point person at the localized level and that Jim C. be the
2 person to work at the district level with regard to the Johnstown situation, coordinating
3 efforts. Passed
4 ➤ Galen wants us to be sure we understand the intent of Riverside's willingness to withdraw
5 their membership in light of the Liberty church's withdrawal of their membership request.
6 Keith will request their official response in writing in his correspondence with them.
7
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10 **080300-12 MOTION – Social Concerns Committee**

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12 ➤ MOTION to reappoint the current Social Concerns Committee for one year. Passed
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14 **080300-13 MOTIONS – Retirement Planning Committee**

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16 ➤ Retirement Planning Committee
17 ▪ MOTION to reappoint the current Retirement Planning Committee for on year. Passed
18 ▪ It is appropriate to ask the Retirement Planning Committee to reassess the current need
19 about every 3 years. It is time again. At some point soon we should be able to reduce the
20 contribution from the membership fee.
21 ▪ MOTION to ask the Retirement Planning Committee to reassess the needed contribution
22 to the Promise of Honor. Passed

23 **080300-14 Future Focus Retreats**

- 24
25 ➤ FOCUS RETREATS
26 ▪ Oct 2-3 Central
27 ▪ Oct. 16-18 Eastern
28 ▪ Southwest 29-31 Jan
29 ▪ Southeast (Florida) Feb 26-28
30 ▪ NW May 14-16
31 ▪ Alaska May 21-23
32 ▪ Possible new sites:
33 • SE Ohio (alternative)
34 • Iowa
35 ▪ FOCUS retreat assignments will be cared for by leadership team.
36

37 **080300-15 Future Fellowship Council Meeting**

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39 ➤ FELLOWSHIP COUNCIL Mid-Year meeting
40 ▪ Simi Valley Wed-Sat noon after FOCUS (Jan 31-Feb 3, 2001)
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42 **080300-16 FGBC Ministry Handbook and Fellowship Council Highlights**

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44 ➤ Tom will print Fellowship Council Highlights in the Handbook
45

- 46 ❖ Dr. Manahan concluded the meeting closing in prayer.