

February 13, 2008

Dear Pastor,

Praise God for you and for your church! There is no greater force for change than the church and no greater privilege than to lead a church. You are greatly appreciated and I pray for our churches and pastors often. If you ever need a new prayer partner, please call me.

Enclosed is a Statistical report including a request for your membership fee based on 2007 statistics. This is our first year implementing a different basis for membership fees. Last year we sent you a detailed explanation of the new system and that system was approved by the representatives of member churches this past summer at national conference. For a full explanation please see the FGBC Membership Fee System Changes that is included in this mailing. If you have any questions, please call me at 574-269-1269 or email me at [tomavey@fgbc.org](mailto:tomavey@fgbc.org).

Please join me in praying for the FGBC. We have much to thank God for and I believe that the coming decade will mark a deeper commitment to the Bible and the mission it commands. God is good!

In Christ and in your service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Avey". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "T" and a cursive "Avey".

Tom Avey

**FELLOWSHIP OF GRACE BRETHREN CHURCHES STATISTICAL FORM  
FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2008**

**Note: Submission of this simple Statistical Report and the payment of the nominal F.G.B.C. Membership Fee are required for a church to maintain membership in the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches.**

**INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM:**

Please fill in all the blanks on the statistical form, including your Church Name, Email address, Street Address, City, State, and Zip.

Please note that the statistics for this report are to come from your 2007 records.

Please put **0** for None, **NR** for No Records kept, **NA** for Not Applicable.

Please do not leave any statistical blanks empty.

Please include a check for your membership fee.

Write check to: Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches.

Please sign the form before mailing.

Please send in the original report but be sure to make a copy for your files.

Please mail the report as soon as possible but by **May 15!** to:

**FGBC Coordinators' Office, P.O. Box 384, Winona Lake IN 46590**

**NOTE: FGBC Member Church Annual Fees** have been changed by the Conference to a new system beginning this year. Fees are now to be paid on the basis of the size of the church rather than on a per member basis. Church size is to be established on the basis of the average number of the attendance of all adults and children at the main regular gathering or service (ie: Sunday Worship services and children's programs). Please see the calculation chart in the report form on the reverse side of this form. Identify the numerical spread that most accurately describes the size of your church and write the fee in the far right column. Please send a check for your fee along with this report. National conference delegate credential forms will be mailed out later to those member churches that submit properly completed statistical reports and pay the membership fee.

If you have questions please contact Charles Ashman at:  
[charlesashman@fgbc.org](mailto:charlesashman@fgbc.org) or (574) 372-6338

# FELLOWSHIP OF GRACE BRETHREN CHURCHES – STATISTICAL REPORT FORM FOR 2008

<b>Church Name</b>		<b>Email Address</b>	
Mailing Address	City	State	Zip
1. AVERAGE ATTENDANCE AT LARGEST REGULAR SERVICE/GATHERING FOR 2007 →			
2. AVERAGE SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE FOR 2007 →			
3. TOTAL NUMBER OF CONVERSIONS RECORDED IN 2007 →			
4. TOTAL NUMBER OF BAPTISMS RECORDED IN 2007 →			
5. TOTAL NUMBER OF MEMBERS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2007 →			
6. TOTAL NUMBER OF TRIUNE IMMERSSED MEMBERS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2007 →			
Calculation of Membership Fee for 2008:			
<i>From the figure you placed on line #1 above, please place a check ✓ in the left column that identifies the size of your church.</i>		This is your regular membership fee for the current year.	If paid by May 15 <sup>th</sup> you may use this early discounted amount...
	Less than 25	\$ 50.00	\$ 47.00
	26 - 50	\$ 105.00	\$ 100.00
	51 - 100	\$ 265.00	\$ 250.00
	101 - 200	\$ 525.00	\$ 500.00
	201 - 400	\$ 1,050.00	\$ 1,000.00
	401 - 800	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 2,000.00
	801 - 1600	\$ 4,200.00	\$ 4,000.00
	1601 - plus	\$ 8,400.00	\$ 8,000.00
		Place the proper figure for your membership fee in the box to the right. Please include your payment of this amount with this completed statistical report form and mail both together as per the instructions on the reverse side of this form.	
			This is your membership fee owed in the year 2008. \$ _____
AMOUNT OF CHECK ENCLOSED FOR MEMBERSHIP FEE PAID FOR YEAR 2007 →			\$ _____
Pastor's name and email address:			
Signature of person filling out this report:			
FOR FGBC USE ONLY:			
Date received: ____ / ____ / ____ Check #: _____ Amount: \$ _____			

## **FGBC Membership Fee System Changes**

### *Background:*

The Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches annual membership fees are approved by delegates each year at national conference as a part of the budget approval process. Prior to 2007 the Manual of Procedure required that that membership fee be based on each local church's membership. At the 2007 annual conference, delegates approved a membership fee system based on ranges of average attendance.

### *Concerns with the previous system:*

There is a great diversity among our Fellowship of churches in how membership relates to the size of the church. For example: Church #1 with average main-service attendance of 1000 has 250 members; Church #2 with average main-service attendance of 1000 has 1500 members. Under the present system, Church #1 will pay approximately \$1,250 annually and Church #2 will pay \$7,500. Such an example demonstrates that the present system is not an equitable way to collect annual fees.

In addition, FGBC statistical reports show that local church membership in FGBC churches is declining over recent years while average attendance is increasing. This trend puts pressure on the per-member annual membership fee needed to meet the FGBC budget.

There is also a growing diversity in the form (worship and programming) which our FGBC churches are utilizing. Some do not have an official local church membership. Some do not have a weekly main worship service. As time goes on, it will be increasing difficult to find an objective measurement for church size.

### *Changes:*

In 2007, the delegates approved a change to the Manual of Procedure that removed the requirement that the membership fee in the FGBC be based on local church membership. Delegates also approved a budget for 2008 that included membership fees based on ranges of local church average attendance. Some church will pay less under the new system, some will pay more. The new membership fee amounts are designed to produce similar income for the FGBC budget as the previous system.

The new basis for membership fees was proposed at the annual business meeting of the FGBC in 2006, communicated to all member churches in the winter of 2007 and approved in the summer of 2007. The new basis for membership fees takes effect with the 2008 membership fee request based on 2007 statistics.

