

Fellowship Council Minutes

January 22-24, 2009
Seal Beach, California

Thursday, January 22

PRESENT: John McIntosh (M-'09), Jim Brown (M-'08), Tom Avey (Fellowship Coordinator), Ron Smals (C-'10), Tom Hocking (M-'10, W-'09), Jonathan Carey (C-'12), Dan Thornton (W-'13), Skip White (C-'11), Phil Helfer (W-'11), Oscar Chavez (Hispanic Consultant), Nathan Bryant (C-'13), Chris Ball (W-'12), Doug Courter (E-'13), Larry Humberd (E-'10), Phil Sparling (W-'10), Doug Black (E-'11), Greg Howell (Recording Secretary), Jason Carmean (C-'09)

ABSENT: Bob Wagner (E-'12) and Stephen Joyce (E-'09)

DEVOTIONS: Moderator John McIntosh presented thoughts from Ephesians 3. There are mountains and valleys in ministry. He and Carolyn are in a valley right now in ministry and family. "Height & depth" cannot be comprehended until viewed from inside the love of God. The book, THE SHACK really emphasizes the magnitude of the love of God. Notice that the requests are based on God's love first according to verse 16. Paul was not concerned about externals (like the government of churches or health) but internals like spiritual strength, love and joy. He prayed for the inner man (of children, people in church) the part of them that will not be put in the grave. God is strengthening it (inner man) for eternity and our position in Christ. Let's not be as concerned about the externals, but the inner part of man. John instructed us to pray sentence prayers and closed.

CHARIS:

Tom Hocking gave history of himself and gems learned from his Doctoral study about personal strengths/weaknesses, congregational surveys resulting in identifying the need to be ministering and serving as individuals in the congregation. He asked the Fellowship Council; "What is necessary for sweeping change to take place in the church?" There were many answers, culminating with references to the Holy Spirit (Acts 2). Otherwise it seems that FGBC's greatest hindrance is our own sense of superiority. It is time in the FGBC to submit to one another and allow the Spirit of God to work in the people of God to accomplish the work of God. Time is short and changing. We are still acting like the FGBC is the most loved of God, but starting to question that assumption.

Last August the Conference approved a new leadership model and extended terms for leaders (moderators and Fellowship Council representatives) and the international gathering of CHARIS after the 300th Anniversary celebration in Germany drafted the CHARIS document.

Tom Hocking then presented a short history of CHARIS from Tom Julien and Tom Avey. The idea was to create an international fellowship of believers. In 1993 that happened as a result of field superintendents providing a gathering of international leaders outside of the USA. Then in 1996 they (CHARIS leaders) met with the National (North American) FGBC in Toronto. The object was to be a multinational fellowship. The main Mission was to plant churches. CHARIS existed as Continental conferences until 2008 at 300th birthday of Brethrenism in Germany.

Tom Hocking distributed and gave an overview of the bullet points of the CHARIS document that came out of the August CHARIS meeting in Germany. He then asked Nathan Bryant to report on the CHARIS meeting since he was a delegate representing Canada.

Nathan reported that there were about 1000 brethren in attendance at the 300th anniversary. And that the FGBC is not the largest, but we have churches in the most nations. CHARIS gets the missionaries out of the way and allows the nationals to be considered equals. During the CHARIS gathering translators with headphones translated all public speakers into all three languages (English,

French, and Spanish). Attendees chose earphones of the language of their choice. The translators were daughters of mission or national leaders who each speak more than two languages. There were reports on several subjects: Church planting across the planet; leadership systems/training; and integrated ministries/projects. The attendees spent the majority of time in these groups asking questions about “how can we work together, share ideas and resources with each other?” The CHARIS Conference came up with three areas of Common Mission.

We need to answer “where does the driving force, the unifying factors come from?” The CHARIS Commitment (CCM) begins to outline and connect and unify all Grace Brethren.

Tom Hocking shared that the Fellowship Council leadership met with national ministry leaders and all pledged to commit to bringing their ministry onboard so that 2010-2020 will be a decade of multiplication. He gave credit to Jim Brown for setting the stage for the FGBC to be moving in this direction.

John McIntosh then gave each Fellowship Council member opportunity to answer the question, “What do you think God is up to and how might the CHARIS document play into this?”

Nathan Bryant: We are better when we are together, so this helps in drawing us together, It helps us do what we want to do in a more collective way. We are able to unify and multiply by working together through the world.

Chris Ball: This is good for our district. It places all on same page with each other and other regions. Thrilled, it's a blessing, it's time.

Doug Courter: The independent spirit that makes us great Americans, makes us lousy Christians. He is glad to see National Ministries united on this

Larry Humberd: The CCM is fantastic for vision and drawing us together. However hammering out details might muck it down. There is a sense of the church at large and the FGBC watering down the message and the life-style. A stronger statement of discipling, sanctifying doctrine may be needed other than that we totally agree—something bigger than just me.

Phil Sparling: We've been talking about this for a long time and the impossibility of getting all National Ministries and the Leadership Team on board. Now they are and this is the rallying point to move the whole FGBC. This clears the fog for everybody when we agree this is the new leading.

Doug Black: This is what I talk about at home. The church building is a place to launch. This allows us to think globally. It is nice to have more connection. Sometimes Information is hard to come by.

Jonathan Carey: Local church and districts should focus on church planting. There are ways to pool and share. The Charis document does not become a global document until it becomes part of my local church. How do we interact with people and churches that are ahead of us in similar areas. Part of the need is for efficient conduits. Finances always seem to be the problem, but communicating so that resources can be pooled is also important. How to gather information and resources so that we can use it, if we choose, locally?

John McIntosh: Seminary seemed to be heavy focused on who we are not and who we are against rather than who we are. The current generation does not care about past arguments. Now they want to know who we are. While we are in the process of discovering who we are we need something in the process that communicates (determines) that. Charis comes from grassroots.

Jim Brown: This is what we are doing in Goshen. It is time to change our focus as a Fellowship from defense to offense.

Tom Avey: It is timely to listen to and submit to what our brothers around world have asked us to do and be. We have been missing this strong mission/vision that can direct us for the future. There are

lots of holes we need to plug and every fellowship around world will need to tailor this to fit their own situation as we will. Seems these discussions over the years always come back to church planting. I have never seen National Ministries work as closely together as they are now. All are committed to using their networks to furthering this process.

Ron Smals: I have observed that we are good at putting documents together but lousy at implementing them. Where are local churches? Do they even have mission statements? I am really excited, but frustrated at how we are going to make this happen at the grass roots level?

Jonathan Carey: I'm excited because we often see the Fellowship as our's (USA). This helps focus on something global - bigger than we are. This kind of provides the help for the local church to start or dovetail their mission statement with something global. Church leaders can take this to leadership to help their local church to start implementing mission.

Dan Thornton: It is not surprising that this document came out of a group of church planters. If you concentrate on mature believers there is no time for evangelism. If you concentrate on evangelism, you have lots of new converts crying for teaching. It may be naïve to expect all churches to plant a church. We go through seasons. Should we want every grandmother to have another child?

Skip White: Leadership is the greatest need about any of these. This is a great first step.

Phil Helfer: These are great goals, but I want to pick on it for a bit. Larry Richards said, "The only way to unite is around Christ." We can celebrate what the Lord is doing around the world and rejoice even if we cannot do or agree with it all. Some of the way this is put together might hinder unity. The focus is on churches, but until you multiply leaders, you can't multiply churches. Evangelism/discipleship has to come first. God uses believers in mission and churches are a group of those people, but leadership needs to empower individuals not legislate the churches to function. This can really become fruitful.

Oscar Chavez: I liked this when I saw it because it is what we are doing in our church. Training leaders is how to plant churches. A document like this says that we are all going to the same place. I do not understand the FGBC. All these independent churches running their own way does not make sense to me. But when a document like this helps us all run in the same direction, it excites me.

Tom Hocking: Here's a teaser for after break. Behind this document has got to be a heart that is connected to Jesus. So what is practical? What could we actually do? We need a baby to start with. It is easy to shoot things up. But if we start with a "baby" we can work from there.

<p><u>MOTION PREVAILED:</u> To affirm the CHARIS Commitment to Common Mission— and encourage the participation of the local churches of the FGBC.</p>
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Discussion

Larry Humberd: It is good to know how committed the National Ministries are to the Charis Document

Phil Helfer: What resistance is being expressed?

Nathan Bryant: There is some hesitancy because there is not a solid comprehensive doctrinal study/document. The CHARIS document is on the CHARIS website. There is also a leadership system document. Tom Avey will get the CHARIS password so Fellowship Council members can access their site.

Tom Avey: I was really encouraged by the December National Ministry embracement.

Larry Humberd: A Commitment to doctrinal study is in the document

Tom Hocking: Our desire is to help every man, woman and child to develop the ability to live in truth. Ideally every Grace Brethren could couple with another believer to partner with another believer as partners in grace. Pray and do together —on the job training. We should fish with a partner. The focus is on evangelism/leadership/church planting all integrated together. What National Ministries

are willing to prepare is a book on how to practice the initiatives at each stage of life/maturity: CE on children & youth, Grace on the workplace, Women of Grace on home school, etc.?

Leaders are expected to produce a beta version in time for Conference.

The controls that the Fellowship Council has are: Moderator choice, Conference details, and FOCUS retreats.

What's next? Ans: Prayer and evaluation during the next day (guide and counsel). This is what the leadership team feels God is doing. We need your help in shaping it. We will be part of the beta testing.

Nathan Bryant: How will we implement and communicate?

Tom Hocking: This is what Dave Guiles is drafting and is expecting to share with us tomorrow. How do we produce change in our Fellowship?

Jonathan Carey: Is this book/resource worldwide, translated and communicated to the international fellowship?

Tom Avey: Tim Boal said discussion is the Noise of Autonomy. Let's pick something and get off the dime and do it.

Tom Hocking: We really are connected. We just act autonomous.

Nathan Bryant: What is the planning that will move us forward?

Tom Hocking: That's what Dave Guiles is drafting, a blueprint of how we can get started.

John McIntosh: We are talking about restructuring Fellowship Council around these principles. Committees could be set up to handle one of the initiatives.

Tom Hocking: Specific requests are adopted by affirming the whole, but thinking incrementally, we probably can concentrate on first two over the next 5 years and not deviate trying to squeeze anything/everything into it. The next thing for the Fellowship Council is changing how we choose Moderators (Fellowship Council needs to choose future moderators and not the nominating committee in order to move this forward). Tom is willing to step aside if someone better is available. He sees himself as catalyst (listener) to have gotten us to this place.

Jonathan Carey: But God is not surprised and may have chosen Tom for such as time as this.

Ron Smals: Vision Ohio has set in motion prayer and planning for steps to where God is leading in series of 120 day segments.

Tom Hocking: God called us to prayer so that we can focus on God instead of preserving Grace Brethrenism. He reminded us that except a seed die it cannot grow to God's glory.

TIME OF PRAYER

MODERATOR SELECTION:

John McIntosh announced that we need to choose a Moderator for 2011 to lead us in the CHARIS Commitment - one who can lead for 2-3 years. He suggested that we each list five names and prioritize 1-5. The Moderator would pick his own vice moderator.

Tom Hocking: We have talked about having an Enduring Visionary Leadership Team (EVLTL). Maybe CHARIS has accomplished this and we can use the Fellowship Council as consultants now and may not need the EVLTL. Now we might need to include some non-Fellowship Council people in the consulting loop and seek future leaders (Moderators) who are visionaries and some who will be enduring. Of these names some will be immediate moderators and some will be future, but all will help implement and all will be able help it endure. This doesn't preclude moderators to be able to pick counselors. But the vision part of the EVLTL's purpose has been accomplished by CHARIS. We need to find some funds to support this team. We need to recommend a moderator this summer. Then we need funds for communication, meetings. The only resource we have in our current system is increased membership fees. We need to find new sourced of funds.

Discussion of variable terms: The new system does not require that the vice moderator automatically becomes moderator. We could put the same two up for another term or flip-flop the team. Perhaps we could change to a three year conference cycle following the CHARIS Commitment and add a missional conference.

Tom Avey introduced Jeff Patton, pastor at Norwalk, CA

John McIntosh introduced Jeff Carroll, Director of Grace Village and host at Walt's Wharf for lunch.

After lunch John McIntosh asked us to suggest 3 names of visionary potential Moderators.

The names given were: Dave Guiles, John Smith, Jim Brown, Tom Hocking, Nathan Bryant, Dan Thornton, John Teevan, Tony Webb, Jeff Bogue, Bruce Barlow, Bob Combs, Mike Lee, Ed Trenner, Dave Plaster, Ed Waken, Bob Fetterhoff, Tom Julien, Kerry Oberbruner, Jason Haymaker, Tim Boal. Then Tom Hocking asked that we choose our top five from these and prioritize them in writing.

Tom Hocking had us divide into the three commissions and share what is already happening in your region/districts/churches: (groups led by moderators)

- Leadership—John McIntosh
- Church planting—Jim Brown
- Integrated ministry—Tom Hocking

Group Reports

CHURCH PLANTING: We live in a complex ministry time with no pat answers on ways to reach people or meet needs. We are looking for ways to reach people. Ideas: Streaming video to Pakistan; Hispanic ministries are exciting; Relationships , just find ways to just love people. We are having people enter our GBCs that 15-25 yrs ago we would not have welcomed—but by the Grace of God we are learning what grace is. Grace can be messy.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING: Discussion question - Why leadership development is important to you? Can't have church planting without leadership.

Phil Sparling: A pastor near him has a 3 year leader training course, asking grads to choose where God wants them to serve. 8 years later he is graduating 12 annually. 30-35 are in his 100 (Bible Doctrine) level because anybody can start. Recruiting happens through the process (unfit don't finish)

How do you define leadership? The CHARIS definition is good.

John McIntosh: Leaders are people who influence other people. What does a pastor have to do to make leadership training happen? He has to draw men to desire leadership. Intentionally draw men to himself. He has to be willing to be unpopular for a while. Elder board needs to free him up to do leadership training. Needs to be willing to let some ministries die. Needs to be willing to call current leaders into account.

Knute Larson says; "after 5 yrs of ministry you should be surrounded by leaders you trained."

SO-CAL is training leaders for the harvest—give lessons just before they are ready. Theological program—Truth Quest 6-10 people with area of doctrine each ready to teach a different aspect from different book. Goal is not to know everything, but process. Easy and it works. All stuff is packaged.

INTEGRATED MINISTRIES: Integrated ministry is a variety of things in their local churches: Small groups, Community clearing house ministries, Business as mission, "They will know we are Christians by our love."

Host pastor Dr. Don Shoemaker distributed GBC of Seal Beach's Position Statement & Policies on Same-Sex Marriage which was passed by their board recently in preparation for California's Supreme Court retaining same-sex marriage proposition. Discussion ensued that continuity of practice is important in any potential issue. Having a policy in advance can help with continuity if you are consistent. This was written more for the lay person to use in their job situation, than churches or professional clergy. It is set in the context of 1st Amendment language.

REPORT ON MODERATOR NAMES:

Top names that Fellowship Council listed: Dave Guiles, Tom Hocking, Dan Thornton, Mike Lee, Nathan Bryant, Jim Brown

Top names that National Ministries listed (when they did this exercise a few weeks ago): Jim Brown, Jeff Bogue, Dave Plaster, Rick Nuzum, Mike Lee

Tom Hocking suggested that the combined lists be used to settle on three names to query their interest/ability to serve:

Discussion involved how to and how much to finance. John McIntosh suggested that we check with other denominations about how they finance. Phil Sparling reminded us that the task today is to prioritize the next leaders. Tom Hocking asked the Fellowship Council to vote for 3 out of these 9 names.

Tom Avey announced that commissions meet tomorrow afternoon and gave the outline of their agendas.

After counting the ballots, Tom Hocking announced the priority of Moderator candidates: Dave Guiles, Tom Hocking, Jim Brown, Mike Lee and Jeff Bogue. He recommended that we follow the same system as last year and approach one at a time in order.

<p>A MOTION WAS MADE: That we approach each man in order (Dave Guiles, Tom Hocking, Jim Brown, Mike Lee, and Jeff Bogue) and ask them to agree to be Moderator beginning after Conference 2010 for a term of 2 years.</p>
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Discussion included considering some financial or other support to compensate him (his wife) for the added sacrifice. When the system gets working it will pay for itself. Will it be perceived that the CHARIS Commitment came from GBIM and is being pushed by Dave? At BMH board he over-emphasized that that would be his worst nightmare. Fellowship Council will approve financial and other support needs for the person/office. Tom Hocking asked Nathan Bryant to work on a job description with expenses, etc.

A volunteer committee met at dinner to draft ways to pay for this transitional moderator and the added expenses of getting the FGBC headed in the right direction.

<p><u>A MOTION PREVAILED</u> to table previous the motion until later in these meetings (Saturday).</p>
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<p><u>A MOTION PREVAILED</u> to adjourn.</p>

Friday, January 23, 2009

PRESENT: John McIntosh (M-'09), Dan Thornton (W-'13), Tom Hocking (M-'10), Bob Wagner (E-'12), Phil Helfer (W-'11), Jason Carmean (C-'09), Larry Humberd (E-'10), Skip White (C-'11), Ron Smals (C-'10), Tom Avey (Fellowship Coordinator), Oscar Chavez (Hispanic Consultant), Nathan Bryant (C-'13), Doug Courter (E-'13), Jonathan Carey (C-'12), Chris Ball (W-'12), Phil Sparling (W-'10), Doug Black (East-'11), Greg Howell (Recording Secretary), and Jim Brown (M-'08).

National Ministry Leaders: Dr. Ron Manahan—Grace Schools, Janet Minnix—Women of Grace, Liz Cutler Gates--BMH, Ken Seyfert--GBIF, Dr. Larry Chamberlain—GBIF/Eagle Commission, Dr. Tim Boal—GO2 Church Planting and Ed Lewis—CE National.

DEVOTIONS—Jim Brown read from Acts 4:13-14 and encouraged that we don't settle –love your family best and first. Would your family and your wife be willing to follow you anywhere –if they had a choice?

Preliminary reaction to CHARIS

Tom Hocking asked for input because he felt awkward leading the discussion about moderator selection. Retrospectively he felt a little bit of conflict of interest.

Tom Avey brought our guests up to date with the moderator selection process that the Fellowship Council had previously dealt with

Dan Thornton reported that the ad hoc funding meeting yesterday determined \$200,000 could be raised over next 3 years to fund the new moderator needs.

NATIONAL MINISTRY LEADERS

John McIntosh introduced the National Ministry leaders present and apologized for limiting them to only 10 minute presentations, but thanked them for their attendance and willingness to share ministry updates with the Fellowship Council.

Ed Lewis: CE National—reported the year's concentration is emphasis on the Bible. They have a strong contact in Pittsburg for Momentum location and ministry opportunities. The theme is 1 Thess. 2:8 Nations with emphasis on Truth & Ministry. Operation Barnabas International (OBI) will be going to South Africa this year. OB applications are increased this year. We are blessed with wonderful youth workers in FGBC. There will be a March youth leaders confab at the Russell Center. Ed expressed that CE has tried to network together and encourage a network with groups outside the FGBC with the result that over 200 non-FGBCers attended Momentum this past summer. CE is promoting the Antioch school.

Q&A: There will be no Momentum West. Western districts can conduct a weekend and call it Momentum West. Networking outside the FGBC is not giving anything up, but expanding our influence. The CE Board has agreed with the CCM document with one suggestion which would be to that church planting ought to be broadened to world evangelism.

Ken Seyfert: GBIF--Ken cares for the portfolio management in house to save the fees and be able to give the savings to worthy FGBC ministries. There was a 16% gain in assets in 2008. He said that they expect to come through the financial downturn well because they do not invest in stocks only

AAA investments. However, it is going to get real tough in America and other denominations are experiencing difficulties with churches asking for financial help. We may be called upon to help people in churches (on fixed incomes) to not lose money. God has protected us well—GBIF has money to lend. Pray that we will not be hampered by fear. Ken also administers the retirement program. He gave great credit to Linda Leonard who cares for the details. One America, the company that underwrites the retirement fund is one of only 2 in 200 that had their rating improve in 2008.

Q&A: GBIF board affirmed CCM document whole heartedly after a short discussion.

Larry Chamberlain: GBIF & Eagle Commission. Investments increased 11% in spite of financial woes. GBIF is literally unscathed and thus is able to maintain 3.6% interest rate for depositors. Eagle Commission gifts increased and we are very pleased because expenses went up. There are 23 men interested or preparing for chaplaincy with whom Col. John Shumacher, FGBC chaplain endorsing agent, is working. GBIF could not be in a stronger position.

Q&A: We can help with CCM finances based on written request—very interested in leadership development and historically concerned with North America, but want to help with world wide church planting. Can GBIF help local church with financial principles for parishioners? God has blessed because (in Ken's opinion) GBIF has consistently given away their earnings even to the sacrifice of in-house needs. GBIF consistently concentrates on helping in ministry not bottom lines. Crown Ministries has a very good program. GBIF doesn't have personnel to go out and do seminars. Intending not to put at risk God's money. GBIF doesn't invest in bonds or equities.

Ron Manahan: Grace College and Seminary- The impact of the economy at Grace is severe. We are trying to help students with additional student aid. The average unemployment among states where the majority of our students come from is 16%. However there have been more donors and gifts than last year, but the average gift is down 30%. Grace continues to have a number of outreach opportunities. We are working on a partnership with a school in North Korea for cross-cultural experience. Grace campus survived an EPA audit. Average cost to correct EPA findings is \$100,000. Grace's will be considerably less. The Seminary leadership is meeting with ministry leaders with the goal to plan for how to approach distance learning and other offerings for seminary students. The question is "How can the Seminary deliver what we are able to and link with other institutions (churches) to supplement?" So far the greatest concern is the dearth of basic Bible knowledge and graduates are so wet behind the ears in ministry experience. Grace is working to provide online experiences and apprenticeships. The Seminary online program is underway as well as 2 masters programs.

Q&A: We are Learning how to sift online applicants such as High School students applying for grad programs. With regard to the CCM, the Grace board has approved endorsing the document and initiatives. In particular the document is very helpful to our campus especially in the third section---getting people out in professions and careers. It finally elevates them from "second class" ministers. Grace's involvement, now more than ever, is more focused on encouraging grads to earn money to give to their local church.

Tim Boal: GO2 Church Planting—This has been a stressful and straining transitional year. They received much better responses after August and National Conference when the transition was explained. As of January lots of churches have put GO2 in their budget. Our Line of credit finally begins January 30, which will allow better cash flow and salaries to be paid. The goal is to start churches in North America and reach every people group we can. We have several things in place; recruiting strategy, training of church planters, and they are in fairly lengthy negotiations with partners that will allow us to reach every people group. By 2050 25% of USA will be Hispanic. Hispanic

pastors are more willing to be tent-makers, and thus cost less to fund. GO2 is working to find church planters in the business world not just seminaries. We are identifying springboard churches that can launch church plants. We have had to scale way back on staff. Field staff is raising their own support. People give better to faces than utilities and overhead. We are encouraged by the offerings and new funding soon coming. We still have needs from last year, but all systems are in place. Tim gave some prayer requests: Business as mission—2 very exciting opportunities. He has a key meeting in April with partners in ministry. Maybe Fellowship Council can wrestle with how to help outsiders come into FGBC intentionally. Currently that happens “accidentally.” Tim said he embraces the CCM because that is what he has been trying to do for 25 yrs. The GO2 Board will enthusiastically endorse it when they deal with it.

Q&A: We need some “meet the family” events so outsiders can be informed in a regular official way. Our hit or miss current strategy is like a local church assimilation strategy that has not been thought through. Tom Avey mentioned that there are some things happening. Membership committee working on and Liz (BMH) will report on some. Maybe a good introduction would be to invite outsiders to participate at FOCUS retreats.

Janet Minnix: Women of Grace – Janet distributed copies of the current “Spectrum” annual magazine. The WGUSA board has seen CCM and discussed it at their October meeting and will embrace it at the Spring meeting. Very enthusiastic! She highlighted her report that is on the Fellowship Council website. SMM & GGB leadership are working on promotional items to support gender specific children’s ministries. They are having a strategic planning meeting with Ed Trenner. Ted Rondou will be helping with financial planning. Thank you to GBIF’s for their financial contribution. Pray for Women of Grace as they continue to help local churches assist their women to become Fully Formed Followers of Christ.

Q &A: What resources are available for new churches and young women without older women mentors. They can receive the magazine for \$7 or \$6 in bulk. We can help with Tools, resources for helping women (wives) to work together when husbands are in ministry together.

Liz Cutler Gates: BMH-- Liz reminded the council that Terry White’s report is on the Fellowship Council website. Terry had other commitments, so Liz came to represent BMH. She distributed a readership survey and asked that it be completed and handed or mailed to her. She stated that they are considering going back to a magazine format. She is always looking for story ideas. It was mentioned to her that Jonathan Carey has a great “hole in the fence” story. She reported record sales in the books division, mostly due to reprints of classics like McClain and Davis. The BMH is wondering who will step in to replace these authors with new theologically strong materials. They are seeing an increased emphasis on using current books in small groups –most are 15 chapters and would fit nicely into a quarterly style ABF or small group study. The Dream team (creative group in Winona) is working on a brochure attached to a web explaining the FGBC and maybe some membership class resources. The BMH board has enthusiastically adopted CHARIS CCM and committed resources. Liz expressed their gratefulness for Fellowship Council support.

Q&A: Ways to communicate CCM to FGBC?—Yes that is Terry’s specific task. The BMH board is really excited about what’s going to happen because of CCM. Someone wondered if web brochures could have a pdf format so print copies could be made to hand out to interested persons away from web access.

NATIONAL MINISTRIES WRITING ASSIGNMENTS

John McIntosh asked each National Ministry Leader to report on what topic they are writing for the informational document that will be used to share CCM with the FGBC. What is your contribution,

things you can perceive as leader in your organization that will be helpful in perpetuating the heart of the document with your constituents?.

Ed Lewis is writing about young people and those in schools: “how to be on mission as a young person.” All ready doing most of what is on the CCM.

Larry Chamberlain is writing in the context of education, not formal schooling—but on ways we can encourage people to engage the unsaved, also in the home, such as when kids grow up, until they start raising kids and when they get involved in kids extracurricular activities.

Ron Manahan is writing about professionals on mission in work and in the business world. Emphasis on excellence.

Tim Boals is writing the Concluding chapter which will consist of 5 assessments of what you have read, what are next action steps?

Janet Minnix is writing about mothers looking for opportunities for outreach (soccer moms) and ways to encourage other mothers ie Mothers in Touch. Viki Rife is doing the actual writing. It will concern the influence a mother has on her children while she is modeling connecting with other mothers.

Terry White is writing about retirement and blue collar workers being on mission in their everyday lives.

Jay Bell will deal with questions about dealing with internationals while living and encountering them in our everyday lives and how to avoid stupid mistakes.

Tom Hocking is writing the introduction with emphasis on reflecting the glory of God. People won't listen to my message if I am not showing God's grace.

Joel Richards for the AGBM will be writing about Communities and neighborhoods.

Tom Avey's assignment was to set up the Website. He completed his done first.

Comments

Ron Smals: It is great to see our organizations cooperate.

Nathan Bryant: The Fellowship Council is going to have a clear idea of someone to take this idea for implementing for the decade so that we are all moving one direction. The key will be continued cooperation.

After lunch the Council listened to reports by commissions:

Finance Commission

Present: Doug Black, Jason Carmean, Chris Ball, Dan Thornton, Larry Humberd

Action: The finance committee recommends that Doug Black be named the new Treasurer.

Action: The finance committee has received the financial statements for year ending October 1, 2008, and we note that there are some allocation errors and expect to receive revised statements which will be acted upon by the finance committee.

Action: The finance committee asks that the full council allow and empower the committee to review the detailed 2009 budget for approval to submit to the delegates at Equip 09.

We recommend that the Decade of Multiplication Initiative be:

- Included in the 2010 budget and not the 2009 budget.
- We recommend to the executive committee that they formulate the letter to GBIF asking for financial assistance. This letter will include projections for money to be requested over the coming years.
- Salary: Would be paid to the ministry or organization from which he serves and the amount would be negotiated with that ministry for up to \$30,000 annually. All expenses related to accomplishing the objectives this position will be paid through the budget determined at his disposal.
- The following recommendations were given from the ad hoc meeting. . . .
 - Find 20 churches who would be motivated to see the FGBC make this significant move forward and who would be willing and able to give \$5000 per year for 3 years
 - Ask each National Ministry for funding
 - Each Fellowship Council member ask his church to provide at least \$500 per year for 3 years for this initiative
 - Each National Ministry and board cover the cost of Moderator to come to its board meeting
 - Ask each National Ministry and Cooperating Organization to send a fund request to its mailing list
 - Secure funding from some non-FGBC churches
 - Investigate Lilly Foundation Grants to fund already proven leadership development programs like FOCUS retreats or Equip
 - Find individuals / churches to fund specific travel costs of internationals coming to the United States
- Other suggestions that we have as a committee:
 - Invite all churches across the FGBC to participate in the vision of this.
 - Offering at conference for churches to join the vision of this.

A MOTION PREVAILED to recommend to the conference that Doug Black be named the new Treasurer.

A MOTION PREVAILED to allow the Finance Committee to review 2009 detailed budget within 30 days.

A MOTION PREVAILED to authorize the finance committee to receive the revised financial statements for year ending October 1, 2008, because they noted that there are some allocation errors and want to act upon the revised reports.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

New Churches

A MOTION PREVAILED to recommend Soma Community Church of Springfield Ohio for membership

A MOTION PREVAILED to recommend Clearview Church of New Albany, OH for membership pending district membership.

Cooperating Ministries Applications

GBCanada needs to be connected with the FGBC since their connection changed with the changes of GBNAM.

A MOTION PREVAILED to recommend GBCanada be recognized as a Cooperating Ministry of the FGBC to the Conference delegates.

Integrated Community Development International –Jim Hocking the ministry is 4 years old and employee Dan Thornton stated that ICDI is doing integrated ministry in a way that other mission groups are not.

A MOTION PREVAILED to recommend that ICDI be recognized as a Cooperating Ministry of the FGBC to the Conference delegates.

Grace in Action, Gladys Deloe. Last year we asked her to finish curriculum, etc and approach again for recognition. This ministry is an outreach to needy children in inner city to help break the cycle of poverty. There are already three pilot programs in her area. They have received state sales taxes exception and two grants from the county so it is already seen as a viable entity in her county.

A MOTION PREVAILED To recommend Grace In Action as a Cooperating Ministry

DELINQUENT CHURCHES

Delinquent churches are being contacted. The committee recommends that no action be taken at this time. Tom Avey mentioned that Charles Ashman was tracing these down and that this summer would be approaching 4 years for both churches. Delinquent churches tend to be international churches that may not understand the process. Also it is hard to know when a church no longer exists. Tom Avey suggests that we remove them since we have not heard from.

WHY ASSOCIATE? BROCHURE

Liz explained that BMH is working on a brochure about national ministries with a website link explaining the Why Associate? Info that Membership Committee will review annually. Question: Could a PDF version be available so that non-internet use could be made?

STRUCTURES COMMITTEE

It is not prudent at this point to make new structures. We are wondering if EVLT is still being considered. If a team is formed they will certainly need communications. There is a need for some structure between new Leadership team and Fellowship Council and moderators. As soon as EVLT is formed need a Skype meeting with the Structures committee and EVLT could take place. Nathan Bryant added that the committee was waiting on new Moderator and his desires to be selected and then counsel with Structures Committee.

A MOTION PREVAILED to adopt Structures Committee report.

Moderator McIntosh noted that we were ahead of schedule and could move to Saturday's agenda.

2010 CONFERENCE

Tom Hocking reported that 2010 conference would be a celebration conference but many details depend on who the following moderator is and how he begins the Decade of Multiplication. Tom will present where and when details at the Saturday meeting.

FELLOWSHIP COUNCIL MODERATOR JOB DESCRIPTION

Nathan Bryant & Dan Thornton presented their suggested job description as printed: Nathan Bryant started at the bottom with Pathway and Plans.

Draft: January 23, 2008

- 1) Title: Moderator and Ministry Initiative Coordinator (title needs to be developed).
- 2) Purpose of the position: Design a master plan and begin the implementation of the decade of multiplication.
- 3) Accountable to the Fellowship Council, but it would be preferred that he reports reports to and gets to buy into a larger group includes the Fellowship Council and the National Ministries Leaders.
- 4) Who is he responsible for: He oversees the Fellowship Coordinator; he will form and lead an advisory team to assist in the development and implementation of the larger Decade of Multiplication master plan and budget. He will have an administrative assistant.
- 5) Develop communication links through key contacts in each district and key churches.
- 6) Continuing responsibilities:
 - a) Plan and lead fellowship council meetings.
 - b) Plan and lead national conference.
 - c) Plan and lead focus retreats.
 - d) Serve as spokesperson for the FGBC.
 - e) Train and orientate the incoming moderator.
- 7) Top 3 measurable goals for the first year.
 - a) Recruit advisory team.
 - b) Develop comprehensive Master plan and Budget to be approved.
 - c) To begin communication and envisioning component of the Master plan.
- 8) Budget available: FC will attempt to raise \$200,000 over 3 years to assist
- 9) Salary: Would be paid to the ministry or organization from which he serves and the amount would be negotiated with that ministry for up to \$30,000 annually. All expenses related to accomplishing the objectives this position will be paid through the budget determined at his disposal.
- 10) Time required for the position: This position will require a focused commitment towards the ongoing administration and communication of the initiative and coordination of all parties involved. Estimated 20 hours a week.
- 11) Why the position is needed? We need a highly competent and respected communicator to give the full focus and attention to the development and implementation of this initiative. This is a divine opportunity that the Holy Spirit has evidently given us to unify and grow the fellowship and requires our greatest response and effort.
- 12) The Pathway...**
 - a) He will recruit a team
 - b) Develop a plan
 - c) Develop a budget
 - d) Bring to a FC Executive committee for review before large review.
 - e) Bring back to larger group for review and approval.
 - f) Bring to districts and National Conference.
- 13) The Plan...**
 - a) How do we get everyone in the fellowship on board? (envisioning and ramp up)
 - b) How will we raise funds?
 - c) How will we build teams? (Formation and networking among all national ministries, districts, cooperating ministries and key churches across the fellowship as well international networks.)
 - d) How will each National Ministry participate (specific use of each national ministry to assist in the coordinated effort of the master plan).

- e) What are specific strategies to communicate and network the ongoing movement?
- f) Develop timelines and benchmarks
- g) Identify other (new) organizations or teams that would need to be formed.

Q & A Realistically, is there anyone in our fellowship that could commit this kind of time and energy? We are not a denomination with a position already. It seems unreasonable that a ministry and man would be able to make the sacrifice. Money does not replace the man. Could it be spread out among 3-5 individuals instead of one man? Maybe provide a stipend to the individual team members with a good visionary/communicator over them. Maybe better to pay directly to the person, not the ministry but open and communicated with them in advance. Next moderator would not probably have the same level of commitment as the founding one. Unless he has to replace the people who didn't function. Should we ask the person to step down from their current ministry so that they can concentrate on implementation 100%. How much is already delegated to Tom's office and already cared for? Depends if some things his is currently doing discontinue (FOCUS retreats). The idea of common mission has caught our hearts and if God is in this He will raise up a man with the passion and time situation. This culminates what we discussed last year about all moving in the same direction and all the National Ministries getting on board. Now with the CHARIS Commitment, we are all going in the right direction. It maybe that the job of Moderator is not much more difficult, because the FGBC is interested in moving in the same direction. In comparison to some denominations even larger, we appear to them as being very leadership heavy.

Saturday, January 24, 2009

PRESENT: John McIntosh (Mod-'09), Jim Brown (Mod-'08), Larry Humberd (E-'10), Bob Wagner (E-'12), Tom Hocking (Mod-'10, W-'09), Jonathan Carey (C-'12), Dan Thornton (W-'13), Phil Sparling (W-'10), Skip White (C-'11), Ron Smals (C-'10), Nathan Bryant (C-'13), Doug Courter (E-'13), Chris Ball (W-'12), Doug Black (E-'11), Greg Howell (Recording Secretary), and Jason Carmean (C-'09)

Tom Avey is absent because he is being treated for leg infection. Skip's daughter (Jenna White) is having her thyroid removed. Mark Guiles is having his lung reattached next week. George Swain's father died, they are coming home at an emergency cost of about \$2600.

DEVOTIONS: John McIntosh shared about the Absalom contingent that can and often does exist in any church. 2 Samuel 19:8 Leaders are not ready for Submission if they haven't learned from their father (or another situation). Often they are validated by people coming to them with their problems. Need to ask ourselves, "Am I a person willing to yield to authority?" The way you yield is an example to those watching. Howard Hendricks says; "you are not ready to hire until you are ready to fire." We need to search our own heart and watch the hearts of others. David had to go back to the city gates and reassert his own authority after Absalom gained the trust of the people. John said that he grills new hires about their relationship with their father and makes more phone calls about his response to authority and asks references for references. We need to be aware even when we elevate a lay person/volunteer. When you have to fire it is tough for them to still be around for 2 weeks. In best situations it is better for them to resign.

2010 CELEBRATION--Tom Hocking distributed a handout outline with preliminary details about 2010 Conference. It also contained input blanks for the Fellowship Council to assist with. He suggested that we have a unique opportunity to restructure Conference as a result of the financial crunch. His outline shortens Celebrate 2010 to 3 days. The main purpose will be to further the CCM mission through nurturing relational connections in the FGBC. A weekend may also make Conference more accessible to non-vacationing people.

DISCUSSION:

Jim Brown: It is very important to market CHARIS well because the term will not grab people. It is an old term with which Americans will not readily identify.

Suggested rewrite: Provide lots of space for networking and relationships & prayer AFTER providing connecting activities. There should be someone designated to be in charge of prayer places. Don't exclude vacationing while trying to meet non-vacationing attendees. It would be good if the Fellowship Coordinator's office would connect new people with Fellowship Council members to establish a relationship ahead of time (by phone or skype,). Providing a Cohort experience with several couples was also suggested.

THEME: We need to brainstorm some way to say CCM in a catchy way "2020 Together" Jim Brown will talk with Tom later.

TEXT: 2 Cor. 3:18 Tom Hocking wants to keep our focus back to God's glory

SPEAKERS: 2010-2013 Moderators, since they will want to cast vision for the continuing emphasis of the CCM.

Tom Hocking called attention to the revised schedule and stated that the heart of this conference is the 3 major tracks corresponding to the 3 initiatives of the CCM (Church Planting, Leadership Training, and Integrated Ministry) with options under each track making about 9 hours of tracks.

Further discussion:

Try to include children as much as possible in the tracks and/or bring the 3 initiatives down to the child care.

Some fun, play time together (relationship building) ie rodeo, family games,

80% have someone else pay their way to conf. ie professionals

Dan Thornton: Here's an out of the box thought: have every board meet ahead of time and combined with Fellowship Council. How many are part of all the boards? 50-100 4 hours Friday morning some boards are already meeting.

Chris Ball: Who is pulling our lay men together? They have nothing to do during ministerium. This schedule cares for this by eliminating daily ministerium time. Maybe AGBM Awards could be given during plenary sessions?

Monday combined meetings for application of "how do you take this initiative home?"

Dave Guiles has asked until April 1 to decide about accepting moderatorship. Tom Hocking is in contact with him and will begin to plan and coordinate direction.

Tom Avey reported on the location---Space at Grace College is available, but other places will likely be more agreeable in this tight economy and willing to deal.

Tom informed the Fellowship Council that because of low attendance we have a debt of \$46,000.00 at Innisbrook. But it might be cared for as credit for future use. We have not been billed yet. We have set up a credit line with GBIF in case they bill us before March when our cash is better. Their staff saw something positive in us and it could be that God is blessing us for that. We do not have to

pay until they ask, if they ever do, according to their instructions. So there is a line item in the budget to pay Innisbrook off in 3 years if they call. They left it as “we will call you.”

Tom Avey found a Cruise Conference to be difficult because we have to have a long cruise --6-7 days) so there is meeting time (with all the port stops) and we have to pay for rooms at the time of booking which means we would need about \$1M up front.

A MOTION PREVAILED to take the Tabled motion off the table from Thursday’s agenda concerning the future moderator.

THE MOTION READS: That we approach each man in order (Dave Guiles, Tom Hocking, Jim Brown, Mike Lee, and Jeff Bogue) to agree to be Moderator beginning after Conference 2010 for a term of 2 years.

Discussion:

Ask Dave to talk with the guys that he indicated he wants to in order to answer soon. Ask Tom to continue one more year.

How does the job description fit –man first or job first? 2yr or 3yr position?

A MOTION PREVAILED: to Amend the motion to read 2 or 3 years (in consultation with executive committee and candidate).

Dan Thornton would re-rank his choices based on potential conflict of interest with Dave Guiles being GBIM director, 1st down to 3rd or 4th

Nathan Bryant the conflict would be more on GBIM’s part rather than the Fellowship Council.

THE AMMENDED MOTION PREVAILED: That we approach each man in order (Dave Guiles, Tom Hocking, Jim Brown, Mike Lee, and Jeff Bogue) to agree to be Moderator beginning after Conference 2010 for a term of 2 or 3 years (in consultation with executive committee and candidate).

A MOTION WAS MADE to commission Nathan Bryant, Dan Thornton, Phil Sparling and Phil Helfer to rework the moderator job description and draft a funding request to GBIF to present to the Executive committee in 1 week.

Discussion

Ron Smals spoke against the job description because it needs to be tailored to the man. He also spoke against the financing plan in that it will be seen as creating a popish system.

Phil Sparling: spoke for the job description because it is giving direction for the next 10 years rather than each moderator trying to present his passion without follow up. The funding is just for this first moderator so that he has resources to establish how to move us forward along lines of the CCM. He is very leery of a name change (from moderator), but need to communicate well how this will affect grass roots.

Tom Avey: It is good to separate the money from a person. The cost then is attached to the initiative not the man or position.

Nathan Bryant: This is the start up administration, lots of time and energy will be needed to meet, coordinate and establish the coordinating team.

Ron Smals: It seems like we have lost the EVLT (Enduring Vision Leadership Team) and are placing the burden on picking the right man, thus losing the enduring part. The job description seems very restrictive. It requires us to have just the right person.

Skip White: Precisely, this is plan driven—and we have identified these 5 guys as fitting best

Larry Humberd: The Moderator Job description points out that he is the Visionary part of the plan. I really like separating the funding from the man. That way we are funding the initiative.

Dan Thornton: Communicating this is so critical to success. Why would someone get excited? The context is that the international fellowships (CHARIS) have come up with this idea and asked for our help in getting it off the ground.

Phil Sparling: This just asks the moderators to go in a direction and stay within the box, but we are also asking for a long-term plan. The larger job is for the moderator to coordinate with the National Ministries who are already on board. We are asking the moderator(s) not to change direction, but move us forward in this pre-set direction.

Larry Humberd: Ask moderators present to respond to what he could not do without in the area of coordination during their recent terms as moderators.

Jim Brown: Would have loved this cooperative coordination. My goal during my year was for 5 churches to get excited. The hard work of anything is getting the buy in. Here we have it already. This will provide some greater simplicity (for future moderators) because everyone is on board.

John McIntosh: My life goal is to train faithful men who are able to teach others also. It is absolutely critical before we go back to churches to start with the CHARIS document. It is bigger than all of us. Then we need to determine who is the personality to make it the passion of the Fellowship for the next decade. We should keep names hush hush until we have a response. We should not be selling the names of moderators but the program. The inertia for what I want to do in the FGBC is bigger than any of us.

Ron Smals: I agree because then it elevates the vision and mission above the man.

<p><u>THE MOTION PREVAILED</u> to commission Nathan Bryant, Dan Thornton, Phil Sparling and Phil Helfer to rework the moderator job description and draft a funding request to GBIF to present to the Executive committee in 1 week (January 31, 2009).</p>
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Nathan Bryant emphasized that any comments would be welcome. The committee will meet at the Southern California FOCUS Retreat.

Greg Howell: I think that we need to have a news release concerning the work done at this meeting of the Fellowship Council so representatives can share at local churches tomorrow and with Districts as soon as possible.

Dan Thornton: I should state that the Fellowship Council approved involvement with CHARIS document

Tom Avey: The 2009 handbook will have the CHARIS document in it.

John McIntosh: It should be widely proclaimed that We (the Fellowship Council) have enthusiastically endorsed the CHARIS document and are in the process of implementing the initiatives and procedures to move the FGBC in cooperation with the international fellowships..

A MOTION PREVAILED that Tom Hocking structure the 2010 Conference and FOCUS retreats around the launching of the CHARIS document (CCM).

Tom Avey suggested that the Fellowship Council commission a small committee to draft a news release.

Discussion suggested that Tom provide the news release. He agreed to have it by morning.

Ron Smals: Do we have district liaison assignments?

Tom Avey: I'll have to rework the assignments and get them out to you.

Nathan Bryant: We need to communicate in a way that de-emphasizes the pope feeling and emphasizes the cooperative nature.

John McIntosh: We might have all rewritten it differently, but the fact is that the internationals did the work and we need to just embrace it.

Tom Avey: Tom Hocking's seat is empty. Oscar Chavez has been sitting as consultant. The Fellowship Council could appoint him to fill Tom's remaining term. The representative needs to be from Western region but not from Alaska (we can't have two from the same district and Dan Thornton is from Alaska).

A MOTION PREVAILED to appoint Oscar to fill Tom Hocking's unexpired term (to be ratified at conference).

Tom Hocking: :Let's divide into small groups to list all the ways to praise CHARIS.

Discussion suggested that we just brain-storm as a group. The goal is to come up with a better way to describe for USA, and contemporary audiences what the CCM is about.

Suggestions included: 2020 Vision, X-10, 2020 together TOM (together on mission)

Tom Avey will put it out to creative people to toy with.

Jim Brown will give ideas later.

A MOTION PREVAILED to adjourn

John McIntosh prayed concluding the meeting and including lunch.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory M. Howell
Recording Secretary