

FELLOWSHIP COUNCIL MINUTES

July 26, 2013 (Buckhead Marriott Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia)

PRESENT: Bob Fetterhoff (11/13 Executive Director), Bartley Sawatsky (13/16 Executive Director), Dan Jackson (14-E), David Kennedy (15-E), Dan Thornton (16-E), Randy Weekley (17-E), Nathan Bryant (13-C), Bruce Barlow (14-C), Clancy Cruise (15-C), Jason Carmean (16-C), Greg Serafino (17-C), Roy Halberg (14-W), Michael Saldivar (15-W), Richard Todd (16-W), Matt Householder (17-W), Tom Avey (Fellowship Coordinator), and Greg Howell (Recording Secretary). GUEST: Dave Guiles (Executive Director, Encompass World Partners).

The meeting began with devotions by Executive Director, Bob Fetterhoff. .

WINTER 2013 MINUTES

A MOTION PREVAILED to approve the WINTER Fellowship Council (January 2013) minutes with the following grammatical correction: page 4, Identity section, 2) Historic: change "Dave assumes this will generation..." to "Dave assumes this will generate..."

COMMISSION REPORTS

After conferring as Commissions for about forty-five minutes the Commission chairmen reported the following:

1. Report from Structures Commission—Bruce Barlow, Chair
 1. Regarding the constitutional amendment suggested by Jeff Martin at conference 2012, Structures Committee recommends that the Council not bring this motion to the conference floor at this time. We believe that this could be considered later, after the two-year planned development of a Statement of Common Identity, which should provide a better context to evaluate this or similar recommendations. [Jeff's amendment was to "Change description of 12 articles of statement of faith from 'basic truths taught in the Bible which are common to our Christian faith and practice' to 'basic truths taught in the Bible which we will teach and practice.'"]
 2. New Changes to Constitution and Manual of Procedure
 1. Amend the Constitution, Article IV, Section two, item 3: by removing the phrase "(Exception: delegates from churches which receive members without triune immersion may not vote on any matter involving the subject of water baptism in relation to church membership. This limitation does not apply to medical exceptions.)"
 - This requires a prior reading.
 2. Change requirements for National and Cooperating Ministries to match member churches "agree to live harmoniously under"
 - Manual of Procedure, Article VI, Section One, Item 1a AND Article VI, Section Two, Item 1a: Change "The ministry and its governing body must subscribe to the Statement of Faith set forth in Section Two of Article III of this Constitution." to "The ministry and its governing body shall agree to live harmoniously under the Covenant and Statement of Faith set forth in Section Two of Article III of this Constitution."
 - This does not require a prior reading.
 3. Re-aligning districts in regions and re-naming regions
 - Move Heartland and Iowa/Midlands to Region A (formerly West)
 - Move West Penn and Allegheny to Region B (formerly Central)

A MOTION PREVAILED to recommend that the delegates ratify the revision of the Manual of Procedure Article V, Section Two: Nominating Committee, item 3 to read:

The geographical regions which nominees are to represent on the Fellowship Council shall include the following recognized Districts:

1. Region A: Arctic, Hawaii, Heartland, Iowa-Midlands, Mountain-Plains, Nor-Cal, Pacific Northwest, and Southern California-Arizona
2. Region B: Allegheny, Northcentral Ohio, Northeastern Ohio, Northwest Ohio, Tri-States, and Western Pennsylvania
3. Region C: Blue Ridge, Chesapeake, Florida, Mid-Atlantic, Northern Atlantic, and Southern.

--This does not require a prior reading

2. Report from Membership Commission –Michael Saldivar, Chair
 1. New Church Applications
 - Movement Church, Hilliard, Ohio; Mark Atrip, pastor.
Rittman Grace is Mark's home church

A MOTION PREVAILED to recommend to the delegates that MOVEMENT CHURCH of Hilliard, Ohio; Mark Atrip, pastor, be received into the Membership of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches.

- LifeSpring, Twinsburg, Ohio; Ron Boehm, pastor

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They sent a new application based on the definition of a church approved at January 2013 Fellowship Council meetings. This is a little tricky because they were already in pipeline. They are kind of between being a Bible Study and a church. They would be at the “G” stage of GSE (Gatherer, Shepherd, Elder) model.

Discussion included: Q: Should we have some threshold requirements? (organization, bank account, attendance, etc) A: Membership committee still in process of threshold definitions. There is a note at bottom of their application about starting in homes and getting all the groups together periodically.

--The EVLC is trying to set goals for FGBC but will need details when they say they want to add x number of churches (ie: what is a church and when does it become a church?) See definitions in past minutes—but what makes it a “church” not just a start? George Bullard keeps reminding us that we need to adjust our terminology to account for multisite churches. We should be looking for general benchmarks: 25 members, connected with other GBC, intent to be long term, bank account, organized leadership. These areas are currently reflected in the application, but we may need to be tighten up the questions on application. We also need to be sure that there is clear communication to the Nat/Orgs which are involved in church planting. Q: Should/could there be a rubric for the Membership Committee or Fellowship Council to check off these criteria/basic standards? A: But emphasis will need to also be on relationship.

The application is now in Spanish & French (on line). Tom Avey noted that the total church count seems to decrease because of multisite enfoldng.

A MOTION PREVAILED to recommend to the delegates that LIFESPRINGS of Twinsburg, Ohio; Ron Boehm, pastor, be received into the Membership of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches.

- Point of Grace Church, Leonardtown, Maryland; Arthur Shepherd, pastor. This church is connected to Mechanicsville, MD, Pastor Dr. Carl Snyder. This is a model of what we are looking for, great church planter, very mission oriented.

A MOTION PREVAILED to recommend to the delegates that THE POINT OF GRACE CHURCH of Leonardtown, Maryland; Arthur Shepherd, pastor, be received into the Membership of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches.

- Fraternity Family Worship Center, Sunrise, Florida; Odclair Joseph, pastor. Randy Weekley was very encouraged by his interview. We are honored to have them.

A MOTION PREVAILED to recommend to the delegates that FRATERNITY FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER of Sunrise, Florida; Odclair Joseph, pastor, be received into the Membership of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches.

2. New Cooperating Ministry

- Three Strands, Medical missions work in Africa—Directed by Mike Taylor
It is not under Encompass because it is experimenting with broader cooperation of medical personal and grants that might be put off by denominational control. Though they are working with Encompass as well. This is great that teams like this desire recognition by FGBC. They view it as sort of a “brand” that they can buy into. It is not accurate, however, to be identified as “the” medical ministry arm of Encompass. Encompass is able to nominate one of their board members.

Some Discussion was generated: Q: What will we do if Cooperating Ministry is no longer cooperating? A: There is a new 5 year re-evaluation system that will question if the purpose and practices have changed.

A MOTION PREVAILED to recommend to the delegates that THREE STRANDS be recognized as a Cooperating Ministry.

- An application from 415 VENTURES was received, however it was not approved because it doesn’t meet the criteria. It seems to be a holding company looking for venture capital to lend to entrepreneurial mission enterprises.

3. New Changes to the Constitution and Manual of Procedure related to requirements for cooperating ministries.

- Change Manual of Procedure, Article VI, Section Two, 1.b. from

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"The ministry must be sponsored and controlled by members of FGBC churches. This requirement is satisfied if a majority of the board of directors are members of churches which are members of the FGBC."

to

"The ministry must be sponsored or controlled by members of FGBC churches."

A MOTION WAS MADE to change the Manual of Procedure, Article VI, Section Two: Cooperating Ministries, 1., 2. From:
"The ministry must be sponsored and controlled by members of FGBC churches. This requirement is satisfied if a majority of the board of directors are members of churches which are members of the FGBC."
to "The ministry must be sponsored or controlled by members of FGBC churches."

Discussion: This is not the only way to guarantee FGBC direction, but how do you prove it? A: It will be up to them to prove by questions on the application. And then they need to be asked again at 5 year review by the Membership Commission.

A MOTION PREVAILED to TABLE the change of wording for Cooperating Ministries in the Manual of Procedure in order to determine the legal and/or financial exposure.

- Change Manual of Procedure, Article VI, Section Two, 1.d. from
"The ministry must meet a recognized need related to the fulfilling of the Great Commission."
to
"The ministry must meet a recognized need related to the strategic goals of the FGBC."

It was AGREED BY CONSENSUS to have the Membership Commission work on a Manual of Procedure change concerning the Cooperating Ministry requirement of meeting Great Commission needs/Strategic goals of the FGBC.

4. New discussion (for Winter Meeting) - Dual Denominational Membership
 - "Is it OK for a church to be a member of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches and of another denomination?"

2. Report from Finance Commission—Richard Todd, Chair

1. Budget for 2014

- For Fellowship Council—More detailed

Note: that up to \$25,000 of the Brotherhood Mutual contribution would be used for Executive Director expenses.

- For Delegates—printed copies already in delegate packets and on line

A MOTION PREVAILED to recommend that the delegates adopt this printed budget for 2014.

3. Brotherhood Mutual contribution allocation

- The Commission recommends that the Fellowship Council authorize the use of the 2013 \$50,000 Brotherhood Mutual contribution as follows: \$28,000 to eliminate the 2012 deficit, hold \$5,000 towards a projected 2013 Conference deficit, allocate \$5,000 toward a projected Focus Retreat deficit, allocate \$3,000 toward a projected Fellowship Council deficit, and allocate the remaining amount (approx. \$9,000) to the benefits package of our Fellowship Coordinator.
- If not needed to cover deficits, extra will just stay in general operation. Deficit last year was because Conference registrations were about 50 under the 300 needed to break even. This year there are just over 300 (307).

A MOTION PREVAILED to authorize the use of the 2013 \$50,000 Brotherhood Mutual contribution as follows: \$28,000 to eliminate the 2012 deficit, hold \$5,000 towards a projected 2013 Conference deficit, allocate \$5,000 toward a projected Focus Retreat deficit, allocate \$3,000 toward a projected Fellowship Council deficit, and allocate the remaining amount (approx. \$9,000) to the benefits package of our Fellowship Coordinator.

4. Tom Avey's housing allowance

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The Finance Commission recommends that Tom's housing allowance be set at \$35,000 for the next fiscal year (2014) that begins November 1, 2013.

A MOTION PREVAILED to adopt a housing allowance for Tom Avey for 2014 in the amount of \$35,000.

COLUMBUS OFFICE UPDATE - Tom Avey

Worthington has some office space available probably beginning in 2014. Tom has been talking with Dave Guiles and Encompass can use some of this space also. Tom is waiting on the Columbus church. Tom intends to propose a 2 year temporary office. He would travel there about two times a month to begin to connect with folks in Ohio. This would give an FGBC presence there. Office rental is reflected in the proposed budget.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT – Bob Fetterhoff

Bob expressed that he is very thankful for the things God has done during his term in office. He felt that the three (3) year tenure is a very good change for the FGBC. He commended the members of the commissions for doing a very good job of getting us all up. He is glad that Bartley seems to have been able to ramp up well. There were several great accomplishments:

- The Constitutional changes went very well.
- The Commitment to Common Ministry has helped our focus immensely. It is especially good that it came out of Charis so it is really global and we (North America) have just hitched on.
- The EVLC has really become active. It is functioning well so that Bartley has been able to utilize them already. --Video reports have been a great way to communicate.
- Tom Avey has done a lot to help get us connected across the FGBC.
- Jeff Bogue—GONet, where pastors of larger churches are able to interact. Something he talked of as a need when he was being considered for Moderator.
- Thankful for Dan Allen as the FOCUS retreat coordinator. The decreases at Conference may be explained because there are such good connections at FOCUS retreats.
- Prayer and triplets at past Conferences have helped people connect while they are talking to God together. Bartley will use Tom Julien in future for prayer initiatives.
- John Hannah's suggestion has led to Brotherhood Mutual premium contributions back to the FGBC. It started with a golf game with Bob. Still need to watch conference attendances/income because we can't count on Brotherhood Mutual's premium return. It is variable based on member churches' good insurance record. It could be \$50,000 one year (as it has been) and nothing the next. It may be best to just bank the check for a rainy day.
- Great how things have come together for Conference this year. Especially Dave Guiles and Encompass Learning labs. They are going to be a great venue.
- Great thanks to Tom and Sandy (Barrett) for all the planning and behind the scenes.
- Also thanks to the staff at Wooster who have worked on Conference for the last 3 years.
- Thanks to you and the Fellowship for the opportunity to serve.

Several Council members expressed that Bob was the right person to bridge during this leadership model transition. All thanked him for his service and ministry.

ASSISTANT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT--Bartley Sawatsky

Bartley expressed appreciation for the ramp up time. He stated that Bob Fetterhoff had already been a role model, but his leadership in the transition to Executive Director and 3 year terms has caused even greater appreciation. Bartley also expressed that he greatly appreciates Tom Avey for all that he does. He said that he is glad to be surrounded by such good people.

1. Bartley's FGBC Goals for 2014

A. Regroup

1. Communicate the new vision over and over.
 - begin a steady stream of fun, inspirational communication.
 - begin telling stories through video (work with Grace Connect).
 - * Create enthusiasm for who we are.
 - * we are kind of disconnected
2. Get identity initiative moving forward (Dave Guiles has agreed to spear head this).
3. Maintain momentum of focus retreats.
4. Sponsor FGBC leaders to go to "Fellowship Forums" together.
5. Begin an ongoing prayer initiative, led by Tom Julien.

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6. Encourage more relational interdependency within the FGBC.

- Healthy churches helping less healthy churches.
- Retired pastors/leaders mentoring younger leaders.

B. Rejuvenate

1. Host a buzz-generating national conference.

- goal: 350 registrations
- create a planning team
- see conference as more of a ministry expo to engage young leaders
- see conference as more of a fun retreat for leaders who work hard all year
- add some buzz-creating elements to conference that will cause young leaders to take notice
- make music very youth-centered – high energy; set tone for coming change
- give special financial incentive for leaders under 30, under 20 (FREE?)

2. Continue to engage and envision young leaders.

- young leaders' meeting in Phoenix

3. Develop a new youthful "branding" of the FGBC

- * working with a design/advertising/marketing specialist.
- * not until identity finalized don't want name change too early
- * bridge with youngers (Momentum)

4. Figure out how to get more young leaders and adults to National Conference.

5. Figure out how to connect declining FGBC churches with thriving, younger leaders and churches.

- * Connect older churches with younger leaders (more J Bogue-like hostile takeovers ☺)
- Hire someone to give attention to this?
- * Need to get cranking out church plants
(we're like a bunch of car parts laying around—need to assemble the parts).

C. Roll

1. Develop measurable goals in relation to church planting and get all national organizations working at them together.

- specific number goals
- meet with each nat/org leader and see what they can contribute to the goal
- develop a basic visual for communicating this cooperative effort

2. Continue to run on the tracks of *church planting*, *leadership development* and *integrated ministry*.

3. Clarify all FGBC "vehicles" and create visual that can be used to show young people the resources available to them.

4. Have the FGBC begin to recognize excellence in ministry.

- not duplicating work of CE National and AGBM

5. Acquire a recruitment officer for the FGBC (full-time or part-time).

6. Make the best use of the EVLC...

- use them to develop our visionary goals and then have the FC approve it, make goals measurable
- keep E-Net running (Tom Julien)
- follow through with prayer initiative (Tom Julien)

- be forthright with EVLC that our meeting costs \$15K

Or determine if it would be better using \$15,000 for things other than EVLC meetings?

- * decide the future of ELVC time with Nat/Orgs

2. Vision2020DC

--Great for younger families

--Buzz comments

--Affordable for youngers 20's free? 30's discount

3. Focus Retreats in 2013/14—Dave Guiles will come to help promote who we are

Dave stated that we want to get pastors to Focus because we want them to shape the future of the FGBC in tandem with Charis & three truth clusters 1) doctrine in world and history 2) what is valuable to our tribe as Brethren (just the discussion of how we "play in the sandbox" from now on may be the most valuable part of the process—maybe more valuable than the outcome). The target date for approval will be 2015 at a global gathering probably in Asia (easiest to secure visas for most other regions) and third truth cluster 3) gathering continuing resolutions. Each region of the world will contribute/shape according to culture. This would be like our Continuing Resolutions

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in North America. The up-coming FOCUS Retreats will be about: How do we prepare us (North America) leaders to dialog about what is important? The second year of Focus will be about the Doctrinal details. This will take some time

4. Identity Project

Fostering more fellowship

--creating Fellowship Forums around other existing gatherings

--scholarships to reward/promote fellowship and mentoring connections

--may need a regular recruitment person (ie Kurt Miller when he was with GBNAM) to help connect people together

COMMENTS:

--are there ways to promote Brotherhood Mutual? Reps should contact pastors/churches and encourage them to insure through them. Currently between 35-50 now insure as part of the FGBC group. (North Atlantic premium goes to their camp/youth)

--How do we get more young guys to a week in July? Who decides what to change—Executive Director or whole FC? What if he sees new wineskins? A: Nothing restricts Executive Director from extra gatherings. The only thing that requires annual meeting is corporate decisions. History: The Fellowship Council decided to do 3 Equip/Bible Conference rotations. We did three. The Equip format is not necessarily over, but changes for last couple conference were very needed. Bartley stated that he is not planning to run too far ahead of the Fellowship Council. He sees it as a kind of Elder Board. He is committed to cooperating. He wants to get young guys to both (small gatherings like Focus and to Conference).

--How willing might current Conference attendees accept reinvention? “Younger always wins—eventually” (D Guiles) Bob Fetterhoff gave the one word answer-- “Music” Music dictates a lot of the flavor of the general sessions. As we see younger leaders coming, older will embrace the changes because they see the younger leaders getting involved.

We need to change our modeling—bring/send younger staff instead of leaving them at home to run things so Senior pastor can attend. The question is not why are they not coming now, but what do we want them to come to? Bartley—wants them to come and experience the Fellowship (not just an Association).

Next year in Washington, DC we will be at Omni Shoreham Hotel (the Presidential inaugural hotel). Rooms will be \$109 and it is at the same Metro stop as the Zoo, and 3 stops to Monument Mall. The dates are, July 17-21, 2014 (before Momentum). Bartley stated that the sessions will be a little different, highlight church planting and joking with guys on stage.

The Winter meeting will be January 29-31, 2014-- Wednesday evening to Friday afternoon in S Cal, place TBA

Meeting was adjourned by the Chair at 12:23 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory M. Howell

Recording Secretary