

Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches

Fellowship Council Minutes

January 27 - 28, 2011

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

GUESTS: Dave Guiles (Exec Director GBIM), Tony Webb (Exec Director Vision Ohio)

DEVOTIONS Tom Hocking directed the council to 2 Corinthians 3, stating that this was written because documentation was requested, so Paul proved his credentials. Tom told of a very devout family and how both parents were deported to Mexico after 3 flawed attempts to gain legal credentials. Documentation/credentials matter. If we want a redemptive, effective FGBC, we've got to get there collectively. I must decrease and (HE) body of Christ must increase. We are genetically programmed to think/act independently. But we must learn to work together (inside & outside the FGBC).

TOM H: How we got here from there? Tom gave an overview of our journey from Vision of 90's to Springs of Life, and presentation of Bob Fetterhoff as 1st long-term Moderator.

The council engaged in prayer in groups of two.

Tom A about the budget—He gave thanks to GBIF for some great help. Bob & Tom worked on some finances. Tom and Bob recommended that we give Tom Hocking a \$3,000 honorarium to help give him thanks for time away from church & family. What a patient, tenacious man. Wonderful way he has of articulating what he is thinking. We will publically honor Tom at National Conference.

Bob Fetterhoff...

John Roberts, Chief Justice of the US Supreme Court turns 56 today which is the highest aspiration for lawyer. Bob has not aspired to be moderator. This all began with a lunch with Tom Avey when he asked me to consider. Wooster Grace has had with only three pastors in 65 years. Bob has been there for over 30 yrs. God has entrusted him with tremendous gift in the Wooster church. Exemplifies what the FGBC has been over the years; rural setting, agricultural. Yet Wooster is progressive town where Ohio State University has aresearch center. Wooster is an interesting assimilation of ideas and forces. Agricultural blended with education and industry. God has given Wooster GBC an opportunity to impact the FGBC and the world and Bob has many times asked God not to let him mess it up. Bob grew up in the FGBC faith and family. Lord gave Bob a heart for the FGBC similar to heart he gave me for the Wooster church. There is a lot that I owe to FGBC similar to what I owe to those who went before me in the Wooster church. He has not received a vision from God (road to Damascus) but has had a sense this is what the Lord wanted me to do. Leaders ask "has God called you to do this?" "Yes, just a feeling. " "Real qualifications grow out of my background that you don't know about." Grew up Chicago as a Cubs fan—"means I'm dumb". Stayed in same place long time—"stubborn." My folks live in Georgia, "redneck." "Dumb, Stubborn, Redneck." Paul said, "who is sufficient for these things?" "That's where I'm at." Tom H outlined where we have come from. The Fellowship Council has embraced the Commitment to Common Mission (CCM) and has accepted Jeff Bogue's Path Forward. Each FGBC National Ministry has indicate commitment to the CCM. Jeff's Path Forward is heavy on leadership development. Bob agrees. Jeff's concepts and energy deserve our attention especially since our statistics are troublesome (as he shared at National Conference) but are also not unusual for US denominations. The path forward emphasizes church planting. But "how do we get this done?" Only one answer, leaders leading. No other fuel will take us down the path toward the Great Commission. National Ministries cannot in themselves cause us to grow. The answer lies in leaders in local churches leading toward growth. It comes back to the Great Commission. Churches can do a lot of things and yet miss what we have been commanded to do. The Path Forward is all about the Great Commisison. Where do we go from here? These documents (CCM and Path Forward) are good and Bob embraces them. We need to pick up Jeff's idea and identify key leaders to agree with and embrace ideals marshaling those leaders together. The work of ELVC really good to this point. Some parts more developed that other part. It (the EVLC) needs to become more of what it was designed to become, but it can't provide all of the energy & fuel to move us forward. George Bullard guided us thru very healthy discussions and

we need to continue with his counsel and guidance. Bob queried him about what he thinks. Asked “Would you do this job?” George responded “yes” because he thinks we are well positioned to move forward. Bob has a strong sense that we have to pray hard because if God doesn’t show up we are spinning our wheels. Bob has only been thinking about this for 4-5 wks and needs more time to consider. We are making changes for National Conference. Conference needs to be a call to humility to hear from God and new vision from God. Bob likes “Vision 2020” for the theme. We need time together as a family where we are motivated, challenged broken, encouraged, eyes are lifted because we’ve had a little air go out of the tires over the recent months. We have sensed new hope with EVLC energy. Leaders will be at National Conference who need to have new sense of hope. We left last National Conference with question of where we really are. Life change begins with Spirit directed teaching. We want people to walk out of National Conference “Okay new wind, new hope” Strategies coming out of ELVC will take us down the path forward collectively and will sweep us along down the path.

Q&A reactions:

<The section that follows is an attempt to capture a very open discussion of the fellowship council. Every attempt was made to maintain the words as they were recorded with minimal editing. Opinions expressed are not official from the council.>

CC—Where is Jeff in this, what is his role now-- “bouncer off” ? great for consultation—not available at this meeting

NB—How do you envision communication and engaging top leaders? Seems these leaders are finding connections outside our family.

PH—Are we limiting ourselves by catering mostly to those who are coming to National Conference only? Would it be wise to identify other leaders—or how do we disciple and motivate others?

BF - Leadership development is abig piece of ELVC—see report

TA—We need new relationships around affinities rather than geography. Gathering in April. Lot of commonality in several gatherings.

NB—Latent sense of expectation. Right call to attend “reason to be there” (be part of FGBC) will attract

BF—Tom Julien article “identity shock”—TA will send it digitally

BB—“What we do different to get people there this yr?” If there were 60 guys involved in Jeff’s meetings up to 2010 National Conference—half weren’t there. Felt it would be just rhetoric to hear it again, but not going any where—yet.

LOCATION—Wooster, some family attractions (Cedar Point, 3 airports 1hr, Pro-football hall of fame, cheap golf) facility can host, adequate 15min hotels. Host homes.

DB—Are there advantages or disadvantages for doing conference in Bobs home church? Wooster staff are already asking “what do you want me to do?”

TA - Cheaper meal events, but gas projected to go to \$5/gal. We still need speakers. Bob can think ahead several years.

DK—How realistic is it to expect families to attend? Stats?, other denominations? Are we striving for something that is not realistic? Or do we really want these movers and shakers as delegates? Are they mutally exclusive?

BF—The reason they come will not be for families but the program. Need to have compelling reason for them to come. Family attractions will be ancillary.

DK—Our job to contact on behalf of BF “we want you there”

MS—But comes back to the “Why?” With all the National Conference out there why should I come to this one?

TA—Never get more than 20% who pay for conference out of their own pocket. Families that do come are glad they did.

RH—Focus Retreat next week, but know 3 guys who are going to a difference National Conference instead. This is my family, so I’m in. How do we get others to?

TA—Ed Stetzer said after he spoke at Columbus, “you’re doing well for group your size”

CC—Money is cost for young pastor, but especially wives need to be able to get away. Affordable, some thing they want to attend at least to connect. Accessable, appealing

DG—Need to answer deeper question of what its going to be, not just how to get them there. What is there when they get there? It is the “be” question. Bullard’s bell-curve, down quite a bit.

BF—Steve Moore “loyalty issue” video. Past institutional, now relational—more to it but thumbnail. Argues value of relational.

DG—Want to be= we still go for relationships. Best FC can do is to be creating networks for the future. We need to bridge—is National Conference for us or for them? 20-30s not National Conferenceined to geog.

MS--Collaborating with “them”. Not committed to things that are not valuable tothem. Very committed to things that are. Connecting for connecting value—not to get them to National Conference. subtle change (getting people to be there or getting them).

NB—Old structures just attract old. If able to use old structures of National Conference to figure new future and then get young guys to difference direction. Figure out who we are to be and then invite them to the new.

DJ—Appreciate where conversation is going. Very much want my children to follow Lord, but their style will be different than me. Family works for me. Love children and will die giving them your heart to be rightly connected.

BF—distributed his annotated copy of the Path Forward. Note light and underlined. #2 & #5 esp.

DGuiles showed Steve Moore video about loyalty. www.TheMissionExchange.com three points: entitlement, exculsitivty,

Challenge to re-orient purpose around relational and missional. Questions-What is the dominate loyalty paradigm and how will you reorient

DISCUSSION about video

What are the answers to the questions?

Sounded like he was addressing FGBC

What are the hills we are willing to die on, which doctrines I agree on, maybe doesn’t matter as much as we make it. But as much as it matters to me, different circles of relationship.

JC—recycle generation, taken from material world to every other aspect of their world. I don’t have time for that because I am doing this. Theology—this is essential. Video 2 pts empowerment-how do we empower (vs control/manipulate) them, 2) add value in order to engage them What is the “win” here, what is the target? In such a way as they can say “yeah—I buy into”

DB—process because they can’t identify it yet either. So we are shooting at a moving target, because they don’t know what the “it” is either.

NB—why do we hold to the structures we have or do we need to dismantle them (or wait for them to)? What structures do we need to have?

BF—Dave, what have you gained from this video?

DG—democratization of information doesn’t need to come from us. Something shifted at the turn of century. Huge changes for GBIM exclusively—GBIM =1 of mission options (preferred?) entitlement –don’t all \$ need to go to GBIM? Not anymore. Not a problem being connected to several entities, no incongruity. Need to be able to identify who we are (“be”) in 15 seconds. We don’t know who we are enough to be able to articulate to new—

DK—are we saying we need to be less exclusive? Virginia Beach (new church) has dual association. Richmond hardly know they are FGBC. We’re already there. If they move they will not look for another FGBC.

DG—question is not if exclusive? But who are we, then how define.

TOM JULIEN—via skype--ELVC Report (committee BF, CC, Mike Yoder, K Shearer, T Julien) 60 training centers Are there churches doing it now? Some like Telford, Myerstown, need to do a survey for full list. Goal will be to start with 6 this year w/agreement to work together then expand.

TA—authorize and put money toward EVLC to

DG—Gave the big picture of meeting of FGBC mission planting entities. Good feel between these groups. Distributed 2pg 5 poiint rept. The to-dos are on page 2 course of action requesting Support from FC—

Release funds to facilitate cooperative work (\$5000)

Address need to reformulate the current Statement of Faith because it is more becoming a wall rather than a bridge. Many feel this is holding them back from church planting.

Encourage & facilitate access to members in churches whom Spirit is moving beyond walls of their local churches to engage in discipling the nations and starting new churches.

NB - added that meetings were great and emphasized that the diversity was the energy that caused the desire to be united.

TW—very exciting, feel that we are well positioned for move forward.

DG—this will help us move out to work together and reach 6 bil unsaved. We have 5 entities trying to make church planting happen.

PH—tons of opportunity especially for young people—here is added value

DG—seems place for anyone to minister

BF—this is the “be” the reality, but lots don’t know this. Question is how to get the word out and help

Brainstorm 10min “WHO WE ARE” statement

Family of churches

Biblical truth

Followers of Jesus...via the great commandments

Committed to one another...characterized by grace

However we are defined by our distinctives rather than our core beliefs.

BF - It is not the ELSV’s duty to define us, but need a committee (of respected) to do that work for us. Such as DG, TJulien, JBogue & _____ help us reformulate Church Fathers

TH Don’t need to redefine as much as “do” who we “be” are or are wanting to become.

NB But structures are in the way and need to make sure that they aren’t obstacle

TH Bullard said that is what SBapt did and lost momentum for 15yrs just energize those who are already poised and doing .

RH need to be acting who we are

TH will cheer on whoever, however SofF is changed but more committed to change how what local church acts

TA Q to DG about group put SoF at top of list ill as though we are being held to a standard that the local church is not really being held to. We have agreed to live with the incongruity SoF might be more symbolic (what we used to use to hold us together)

PH but TJ says it may draw too much energy

DG maybe secondary document that eventually supercedes.

TW in Ohio broad strokes until actually want to join

NB barrier in Canada, if going to expand base need to deal with barrier cf Neil Cole 1000 churches under the table cause they cant come into the family because the door is blocked. Longer we wait greater chance of eventually loosing our baby churches. Under trust of GBNM

DK but VOhio eventually have to go thru the door.

DG “the fourth self” --self-theologizing leaders must wrestle with for decades we started foreign churches and handed them a translation of the SoF and told them it was their governing document as standard of faith. Now correcting so churches have tools to self-theologize. Have not done in US even though our culture has changed since the 60’s so we don’t own as previous gen, and if we don’t own then what will our children do with it?

DC really two docs Constitution and SoF is it easier to change Const rather than SoF? And thus start the attraction

DG distracts from the main problem --who we are not bigger door

DC door is defined by Const not SoF

TH TJ's art biblical not creedal need to break free from creedal like parallel missional constitution (non creedal church planting organizational) two doors missional or old passion is not to weaken statement of faith but to strengthen purpose.

TA Message of Brethren Ministry seems to have never been accepted by National Conference. (was a Ministerial document)

DK seems like we are trying to be "sleek" by multiplying documents. Seems like younger gen will applaud streamlining older won't but youngers will see through the ploy to slip in something and we may loose.

DB youngers may not applaud if not part of process.

DG not sure they care anymore

TW VOHio only talks about SoF as if others don't exist

DK what is powerhouse document? Const contains SoF

DG SoF 3 tiers 1) historic/bullet for [bridge building part] 2) faithful hermeneutic/not bullet/but respect subscribe if want to be in tribe [flag of our tribe] 3) church speaking to the ethical issues of the moment [local geographical issues] changes door, who we partner with

TH cf Redlands we are going to have to wrestle with associations with other denoms/groups

NB asked BWagg what is his take

BW process mode but there are churches that are doing and wrestling with

DC to DG how does 3 tiers change door?

NB 4 cat Historical Biblical Beliefs

DG right now it is all on the same level subscr to all and your in, not you're out (but once in don't need to totally subscribe) last year "must respect these positions—not teach against" [can bapt by single?]

BF referred to new church app questions noticed no question about plan for how to reach community (but 3 about preserving distinctives) doesn't seem right to church planters

DK maybe we do need to lead the charge and make the document/membership change now He stated that he is ready

TH prayer in twos 3 options focus on what we be/no doc change, missional doc—new parallel door, face the music/revamp Const. now owe it to BF to help him with his vision

PRAYER Biblical Truth... we are united in that commitment, how do we do that best. Straw vote

DG 10% FGBC USA are non Anglo 11% of Americans non-Anglo if we don't radically change we are perpetuating barriers that also affect the next gen about the same.

TH entertain a motion then allow response to declare how to change 0-1 1-2

MOTION: untangle the motion from last year --Failed

BF not ask who wants to write the changed SoF/Const, But who wants to help examine our documents with a look to make them say how we can be more missional.

PH request (some in this room) to make the changes noting that documents may need to be revamped

NB some in this room

MOTION being compelled by our biblical commission to reach the nations and the changing climate and coming generations Authorize exec comm to appoint a team to bring the constitution into greater alignment with our missional flavor of our movement. <the wording for this motion was referred to a task force and brought back for a vote later>

PH abstains because of reservations, God didn't tell you? Feel that it nec to make change to not limit with barriers, but concerned about doing the work of God hoping there is a way thru w/o eating up time from mission to define who we are

TH every plan gets thrown out when the first bullet is fired. Need to be willing to loose the entire fellowship except those around this table.

DJ must be willing to amend because only one infallible doc, need to include those affected in the changes to be part of the process

TA may need to review SoF in 3 yrs after this change because it is to be a living doc intrigued by McClain's because it just says this is our message

missional mandate for the good of the diversity of nations and future generations

BF need to give committee cause (ethic needs, etc)

BB talking about same stuff struggled with in 1994 seen as a threat to SoF but only to some change documents to reflect who we are now new church app driven by const, but says what we value (3 questions about distinctives)

PH need to marginalize those that would pick a fight about this

BF need a couple of FC reps to be armor-bearers to handle the critics during the next couple of years (Bob's goon squad)

BB Biblical relationship doc (tabled) was being considered to be in the Const (key part to Jeff's PF)

DG Suggest that small group words this motion since it will be dissected

APPOINT DK & DG to wordsmith it

CC reminder that we have to be unified after the vote no matter how we vote

DJ 2 Cor 2 and be willing to forgive one another when we blow it

Call for question (vote on ready to vote) 2/p

MOTION: PASSED (no negative voice votes)

EVLC INTEGRATED MINISTRIES TEAM REPORT

Goals: The IM team has four key goals at this time. They are; create a definition, find and tell stories, make connections not assumptions and work for implementation of the best of ideas we discover.

1. Create a Definition
 - a. We need a biblical rationale. We also should develop a practical theology of "presence" AND "proclamation" (gospel in word and deed) that leads to constructive and redemptive engagement with our world.
 - b. How does this fit for our fellowship?
 - i. The IM team will do research to discover ministries here and around the world that have developed effective "presence" outreach efforts which bear fruit for the Kingdom in the form of souls led to Christ.
 - c. Key Question: How do we see IM helping churches in Kingdom work?
2. Find and Tell the Stories
 - a. Who is doing what?
 - b. What are the more common and accessible ideas?
3. Make Connections not Assumptions
 - a. What is already happening?
 - b. Encourage contact with success
 - c. Don't fear the truth
4. Work for Implementation; Encourage GBC's to put into practice missional strategies that apply IM techniques and ideas.

FRIDAY, January 28

Devotional by Bob Fetterhoff: Shared a personal story about a tooth that gets in the way—Lessons from James 3 and his tooth experience 1) the heavenly divine dentist wants to heal what's wrong, tongue gets in the way 2) tongue hurts me, keeps me from swallowing my pride, 3) not easy to fix, it keeps agitating my life and causing problems—reminder that people around are in pain—pain does really weird things to you, 4) I decided I need my tongue after all. What could be

worse than cutting out tongue—like to tape it to other side of mouth. But also have privilege of saying words like grace, mercy, and saying good things about God. The very thing that causes problems is also the same thing that brings great blessing. Ask forgiveness now for slowness in eating, but also misuse of tongue.

Prayer

NAT/ORGS ORAL REPORTS (Written reports attached here)

GO2 Ministry by Jim Snavely

Messiah College taking on as continuing project to handle Acti8 (social network) 1765 circles of grace. We want to focus on planting Grace Brethren Churches. Go2 is looking for 50 churches to commit to a circle or grace to use them to be part of a church planting process. There is no cost to church for 1st 50 churches (a donor has cared for lifetime expense for the first 50. Our Facebook listing is good for 20-somethings. The purpose of Activ8 is to bring resources together in a circle (community). It is a social publishing platform. In March it is being presented to national chambers of commerce. Printed info will be coming to churches soon (>2 mos)

Grace Brethren Investment Foundation by Ken Seyfert

A preliminary audit report gave GBIF a clean bill of health and Ken thanked the FGBC for being a part GBIF's no delinquency report. Ken urged us to pray for other churches and denominations because church foreclosures are on the rise. We need to partner with other groups. The reason we have been spared to date is because we maintained conservative funding rules (20% down). GBIF is more interested in quality than in just doing a deal.

Eagle Commission (Chaplaincy) by Larry Chaplain

John Schumacher, our endorsing agent is phenomenal guy. He is well respected at top military installations. The Chaplaincy scholarship fund has been renamed the "Jerry Young Chaplaincy Scholarship Fund" (he had initiated the idea back in the 80's). John Schumacher has given careful instruction to chaplains concerning changes of Don't ask, don't tell. Lt Mark Penfold's wrote a very positive response reminding that Chaplaincy is a cross-cultural ministry, para-church—much like international missions service. Pray for changes and safety. J Richards noted that D Shoemaker and Social Concerns committee were on top of situation with a continuing resolution back in 2002. Larry thanked the council for allowing the Chaplains meal each year at conference to honor chaplains publically.

Women of Grace, USA by Janet Minnix

Janet thanked for prayer for Alaska leadership summit. The Women's Leadership Studies certificate is an opportunity to partner with GTS in providing a certificate or credit towards a Bachelor's or Master's degree. Intended to start with Spiritual Formation at Equip 11. D Jackson prayed for Janet and WOG.

CE National by Ed Lewis

Ed gave several anecdotal stories of biblical illiteracy he has run into at Urban Hope training center in Philadelphia (where he spends half of his time). CE has made changes in Momentum conference because of lack of Bible knowledge. Urban Hope saw 31 new believers in December alone. They are in the Inner City because Jesus would be where the poor, needy, over-looked who are. The theme of CE National for 2011 is "ONE" because we need to bolster discipleship efforts by each focusing on ONE person. A contact with Knute Larson has led him to develop Super Mondays at CE for seminary students. Praising the Lord for paid off facilities.

Steve Munday prayed for Grace Schools

AGBM by Joel Richards

AGBM is still seeking region representatives to replace Jerry Young. The AGBM webpage is trying to be dynamic and is now on facebook and provides an RSS feed. The breakfast at National Conference w/wives went well. AGBM is trying to be more prominent in a positive way. Jerry did a tremendous amount of groundwork in communication and aring. AGBM is not financially able to sustain a fulltime director but wants to fund expenses for several regional directors They need to celebrate positives in pastors' local area. The want to have 5 representatives be the ministry come-along-siders with a coordinator that will tie them together administratively

Grace Brethren International Missions by Dave Guiles

Did not submit a written this year, but emphasized the 2011 prayer guide and promoted the Global prayer wall

challenging small groups to pray daily. Note that the “Pray Now” updates the printed book. It lets families (children) know missionaries and missionary options, raising up next generations of missionaries. Just skipping Sunday dinner out would overfund GBIM missions. Day of Generosity offering for indigenous missionaries. He then showed slides of Disciple Making Teams TREE with branches and fruit—shifts in thinking is that fruit that was celebrated was only when a new church was planted. Now we can celebrate and measure in the future all kinds of fruit. This engages new generation and global ethnic disciples. The ways Disciple Making Teams are expressed will not be same as used to, but as they enter the GBIM Garden we will be able to shape how they make disciples. GBIM is working toward how to be the most fertile garden to grow the most productive Disciple Making Teams. GBIM is praying for 10 initiatives daily for guidance to accomplish so that they can celebrate spiritual fruit on all levels. How do you explain things simply so they are understandable across generational and ethnic lines? How do you identify and form teams? GBIM is seeking a new name/brand for 5 reasons 1) The current name has 37 LETTERS (save ink) 2) 90% of the people can’t spell Brethren 80% don’t know what it means 3) “international” doesn’t communicate to our global partners—they are international also, 4) “mission” is not helpful in hostile regions 5) making GBIM culturally understandable –contextualizing so we ought to make the name and way to do it relate to next gen NOW not just a “museum” to honor parents and grandparents. Name has to be not something that we like, but that when you hear it, you say “of course—that’s who we are, what we do.” GBIM is going to launch some webinars, 3rd Tues 3 & 7 eastern time so that church staffs can watch together next five months---starting Feb. GBIM was amazed at the largest offering in history on the heels of largest, on the heels of largest, but never enough for the vision. Largely because of God’s blessing and people paring back and generously/sacrificially giving. Webinars will be on website Monday. Charis meeting about once every 5 yrs. Every country has adopted the CCM. God pours out His gifts on His church in unequal ways, up to recipients to make resources to go as far as possible. GBIM gathered leaders of USA ethnic groups that they could identify (30). 20 were able to make it. The spirit was amazing. The goal is try to figure ways to facilitate growth however healing among the group also happened. They patterned how to relate to each other through the Charis model. 5 coalitions are dreaming together about how to encourage one another.

Brethren Archives project—Liz requested official support since it represents all of our ministries and churches not just GBIF project.

MOTION: to approve the following resolution - passed

The Fellowship Council, the governing board of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, recognizes that much of the history of the Grace Brethren movement is contained in publications that are deteriorating with age, rendering them unusable. It also realizes the importance of the information contained in these publications, which are valuable resources for theologians, historians, and genealogists and this information should be preserved for future generations. The Fellowship Council commends the Brethren Digital Archives for their cooperative effort to preserve the printed history of the Brethren movement, which dates to Alexander Mack and the baptism of eight believers in Schwarzenau, Germany, in 1708. The Council further encourages Grace Brethren people, congregations, and organizations to support the effort of the Brethren Digital Archives through prayer, volunteer service, or financial donations. Such action will ensure that while our heritage has formed our present, we do not ignore it in projecting our future.

MOTION: to ratify Bob Fetterhoff to fill the vacated term of moderator for January 1 – July 17, 2011 - Passed

MOTION: to ratify empowering Tom Avey & Bob Fetterhoff to reconstruct the 2011 National Conference

MOTION: To nominate Bob Fetterhoff to a 2 year term as moderator beginning after conference 2011

Finance committee motions—Doug Black moved the following motions which were presented and passed individually in this order.

Motion: The finance commission requests the ability to approve the financial review received from Owens PCA.
Passed

MOTION: The finance commission recommends the 2012 budget as seen in the binder to be presented at national conference for ratification in July. Passed

Q&A Nat Org donations—ask to increase to \$7000 from \$5200 for 2012 hasn't been increased in 3 yrs. GBIF traditionally gives more. Will asking for special gifts this year as well.

MOTION: The finance commission recommends a new national dues fee schedule based upon a \$3.90 per attender of the total weekly worship services with a maximum of \$6,000 for any participating church, to be introduced at national conference for ratification in July. Passed

Current fee has been this way for about 3 yrs. New schedule proposed because of comments from churches that are bumping over. Might be best to talk with larger churches to see how they keep track of attendance. This will help spread out the base and not rely on a few big churches.

MOTION that Dan Jackson will be treasurer following 2011 National Conference. Passed

Structures Committee Report: January 27, 2011

Members present: Phil Helfer, Doug Courter, Dave Kennedy and Nathan Bryant.

Issues discussed:

Suggestions to Nominating Committee for FC members

Phil Sparling, Phil Helfer, John Ward, Tim Sprankle, Joe Cosentino, Dan Pritchett, Keith Shearer, Rick Horner, Roland Maust, Jason Carmean, Bob Combs, Jim Custer, Terry Daniels, Terry Hofecker, Dave Holmes, Gerardo Leiton, Doug Black, Ted Kernbauer, Mike Jentes, Jim Snavelly

New name for "Moderator"

It was suggested that Fellowship Executive might suffice

Revisiting the statement of faith

Use revision, update or something similar instead of change

Using a group of "Fathers"—respected men is a good idea (Keith Shearer and Dave Guiles said yes last year)

Dave Guiles should be a part

The work previously done can be found on the FC website—noticing how other churches/entities have tiered their documents/Statement of Faith

Restructuring FC for CCM initiatives.

Leave this until more fruit is born of the EVLC so that it can be seen whether or not this would be answered by their work.

The EVLC, the “Moderator” and other young transformational leadership in the EVLC

The EVLC should remain dynamic and independent. They should work with and relate to the Moderator and report to the Fellowship Council. They should operate outside the system to promote vision, encouragement, and opportunity for Mission. Seems they are already doing this: leadership training ala T Julien, finding stories to share. Don’t tamper too much with what is happening. Just let them report to FC.

BF commented that he was very appreciative of all the work that has been done by EVLC etc but still trying to get his arms around the job. Having gone thru last 10 yrs of moderator proposals, but they haven’t gone very far. Intent on discovering how to fuel the strategies so that they fly. Geo Bullard will give good guidance.

PH expressed that the church planting guys are grateful that the path is opening up for access and connection to a team.

Dan Jacksons Proposal to realign the FC by having members selected by district instead of region

Our present structure is adequate as long as liaison assignments are carried out competently. Members of districts that aren’t represented could put forth a candidate for consideration

Liaison assignments are on web site. NB need to have some follow-up to be sure that liaison happens. Highlights or talking points will be available after meeting.

MOTION: To allow the moderator to pick from this list to serve as a parliamentary committee at the annual business meeting: Jesse Deloe, Galen Wiley, Mark Soto, Bud Olszewski, Doug Courter, Fenton McDonald, Doug Sabin, DanThornton, Terry Daniels - Passed

MOTION: That the Moderator can pick two from the following list of approved names for the membership committee at national conference: Roy Halberg (California), Terry Daniels (California), Larry Edwards (Ohio), Roland Maust (Ohio), Christian Becker (Virginia), Don Eshelman, Brad Kelley , Steve Shipley, Charles Thornton, Richard Todd

MOTION to present these men as nominees for the Nominating Committee: Phil Sparling, Phil Helfer, John Ward, Tim Sprankle, Joe Cosentino, Dan Pritchett, Keith Shearer, Rick Horner, Roland Maust, Jason Carmean, Bob Combs, Jim Custer, Terry Daniels, Terry Hofecker, Dave Holmes, Gerardo Leiton, Doug Black, Ted Kernbauer, Mike Jentes, Jim Snavelly – Passed

MOTION: To appoint Tom Avey as corporate secretary of the FGBC.

MEMBERSHIP COMMISSION

New Church apps

- Palm Bay, FL Recommend the connect to other Haitian churches in Florida and entertain membership next year. We will watch to see if the engaged with Min/district MOTION TO DEFER charging Bruce Barlow to connect with Larry to follow-up 2/p

Bruce will be communicated to them thru Chuck Davis (J Carey will follow thru) and something from FC. Bruce suggested that L DeArmy talk directly with Jean Marie, Pastor Larry & Chuck have a monthly evening Haitian min. Encouraging Jean Marie to attend and communicate that their app is on file to be examined at Jan 2012 FC TA / JC reaffirmed this needs to be cared for relationally

Motion to recommend “Awaken” of Virginia Beach, VA (Mike Humphrey, pastor) for acceptance into the FGBC as a member church. PASSED

Motion to recommend Sterling Grace Brethren Church of Mt. Sterling Ohio (Martin Cordell, pastor) for acceptance into the FGBC as a member church. PASSED

Motion to recommend “Fuente de Vida Grace Bilingual Church, Inc.” of Elkhart, Indiana (Brian Baughman, pastor) for acceptance into the FGBC as a member church. PASSED

Michael Saldivar will work on suggested revisions to the membership application for consideration at the July meeting.

Gaffe on Membership comm when accepted Next Church last year because it made an awkward moment for DGuiles about emergency response ministry maybe dup RAB? How we wordk at coord? RAB works where we already have GBC presence& people on the ground. BB will talk with DG CC will talk with Dan to suggest that CPR3 take the lead where we don't have GBC presence, and GBIM cover where we do—unless there is deferment. Need to cover bases to besure possible overlaps are discussed before approving new ministries. Clarified that there is not just one entity representing a particular ministry.

Brotherhood mutual would like to have endorsement as our preferred commercial liability insurance company. FGBC churches that use Brotherhood Mutual will form an insurance group that can potentially generate income for the FGBC if that group has favorable claims.

MOTION to endorse Brotherhood Mutual Insurance Company as the preferred insurance provider for the FGBC. 2/p

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

<The section that follows is an attempt to capture a very open discussion of the fellowship council. Every attempt was made to maintain the words as they were recorded with minimal editing. Opinions expressed are not official from the council.>

Discussion—so what does that mean? Are we trashing the constitution? Can I say that we are revising? TH avoid using words like “revising” “change” develop new but in the context of the reasons ethnic & generational Need to sow the recognition of the problem before we announce the solution.

Discussion: If we can get all the groups of folks with concerns to open up and talk about what they perceive as obstacles and articulate what they are with the safety of not being accused of rocking the boat.

DG this could be the greatest benefit to our children—puts us in the position to reach the world and not lose our kids able to engage our kids who are wandering off into pluralism.

NB Todd Scoles indicate key to being progressive Brethren is that we “Progress.” TH asked NB Theo diff no Credal ism

DG Do you want a church that engages our kids to carry on the GCommis JC that was the National Conference in Columbus thrust.

DG—returning to the essence of Brethrenism non creedal, progressive. People will probably not die for being non creedal, but will die to save kids and this is the brink of opportunity. We need to have boundaries and want to play on the same team. What makes them to want to put on our jersey.

Don’t talk about the motion—it is a recruitment motion

Talk about being non-creedal, progressive, the essence of Brethrenism, how to engage our kids for

History that caused the EVLC and drives it team is committed to what

BF was concerned that it might be too theoretical and not practical but seems to be very practical as it has evolved

NB how do you put feet to action items needing to be accomplished? Working with a Moderator with longevity so that continuity exists.

To the rest really just really pray and never stop talking about it, if lost hope, go back to the cross and the word and remember we have a great leader who will never leave nor forsake.

CC How do we keep this going? A: someone, EVLC hears the Holy Spirit and truth resonates in them to help us articulate the truth of the glory of Christ which will also resonate in His people and move in us together. Moved by the Spirit and talk about Christ’s glory and then something is going to happen. But we must be willing to lose it all—but if it is of God, He will build His church, do His work in people and draw them to Himself.

NB the sooner we make the change the sooner we will be sure we are going in God’s direction He asked Bob about proposal for National Conference, time line, etc.

BF No, not yet, let Spirit & EVLC work

DB says that 3 task forces each have \$5000 and some other \$ at Mod’s discretion

DG expressed that he did not intend to rebuke and noted that many were not part of the 2005-7 FC to have been the right audience.

BB what responsibilities do we have for July. Should we encourage min to take smaller churches under wing and be sure that since this is a family huddle we need to be there. Reps tell districts to show up in force?

BF what is method to assign such.

TH used to have assignments in past to dist we rep Bruce you could move

BB anything different done by BMH to advertise

CB is this something TA does to communicate

TA Bob, it helps if you (Mod) identifies a theme, if we don't get docs done this summer is important that we get the why accomplished love to anchor a couple of speakers that would be the draw will be working with Bob about location this weekend and Bob has a tentative schedule Liz will want to know what she can begin to advertise (leak).

TH Bob you can communicate with the FC.

BF You have the job now telling others that they need to be at National Conference this summer

TA no subs for personal invite

JC great when we were in TAMPA and all the Hisp were there with interp

TA groundwork is set, Wooster has lots of homes and very strong connect to Jesus Nueos,

DG cautioned that they not be there for token reasons, but that they find their attendance meaningful to them, plan something for them

TH Tom & Doug up date for \$ available

DB \$3500 EVLC & \$4000 carry over from BIF gift. Cheapest may be to invite for day early to National Conference ---GBIF may help, they are very interested in GBIF likes to have letter.

MOTION: To add cooperating ministries to the list of ministries that are asked to donate to the FGBC moderator project and national office, amount to be determined by TA - Passed
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MOTION to adjourn 2/p

5:03 PH closed in prayer