

FELLOWSHIP COUNCIL MINUTES

July 25, 2009

Worthington GBC, Columbus, Ohio

PRESENT: John McIntosh (Mod-'09), Tom Hocking (Mod-'10/'11), Tom Avey (Fellowship Coordinator), Doug Black (E-'11), Brian [Skip] White (C-'11), Larry Humberd (E-'10), Ron Smals (C-'10), Jonathan Carey (C-'12), Doug Courter (E-'13), Greg Howell (Recording Secretary), Phil Sparling (W-'10), and Nathan Bryant (C-'13).

ABSENT: Stephen Joyce (E-'09), Bob Wagner (E-'12), Jason Carmean (C-'09), Oscar Chavez (W-'09), Phil Helfer (W-'11), Chris Ball (W-'12), Dan Thornton (W-'13).

Tom Avey invited the Council members to view Steve Moore's blog with GBIM Board. Dave Guiles provided a printed outline.

John McIntosh opened the meeting asking us to share personal joys or prayer requests.

Time was spent in prayer for personal requests mentioned and for conference, Tom Hocking closed the session with prayer.

John McIntosh thanked the Council members and expressed his appreciation to each for taking time out to be at this Fellowship Council meeting.

The minutes of the Winter Meetings were not ready for approval. It was suggested that a sub committee approve them or that we wait until January.

A MOTION PREVAILED to set Tom Avey's housing allowance for 2009 at \$35,000.

Financial Update: Tom Avey has asked another accounting firm to correct the financial report since Dahm's & Yarian still has not responded (nor have they been paid). Innisbrook settled for half the attrition penalty, which will be reflected at the end of this year. We might be able to maintain a positive cash flow this year depending on whether or not we break even on Equip09. There are 552 people registered for Equip09 plus children in Child Care and Kids Conference. There were about 160 at Neil Anderson's seminar Friday & Saturday. Registrations are better than last year's attendance and better than Equip 07. There are 17 Doctor of Ministry and 12 Master of Arts students registrants. John McIntosh suggested that we thank the Worthington GBC staff whenever we see them because hosting our Conference is a financial and resource drain on the church. Their sacrificial ministry to the Fellowship is greatly appreciated.

Tom Hocking reminded the Council that we need to find a moderator that can push our vision during the next decade and especially the next couple of years. He referred the Fellowship Council to the Moderator's Job Description and plan from the January 23rd, 2008 draft. He gave the background of how he and Jeff Bogue became the current moderator - vice-moderator ticket. Tom directed the Fellowship Council to the Moderator job Description of July 2009. Tom introduced the *Springs of Life* book. If Jeff is nominated by the council in 2010 he will focus on church planting and wants to challenge each GBC to step up to the plate. He believes we should expect every church we plant to be committed to the agencies of the FGBC. That is his style and it is effective, as God has used him at Norton and Fairlawn. Tom quoted Dave Guiles' comment that he is impressed with Jeff and is amazed at his humility.

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Comments and Question/Answers: Tom Hocking and Tom Avey provided the answers concerning Jeff Bogue based on past meetings.

Question: Jeff seems to be focusing on one area of the Charis document, how is he on the others?

Answer: Jeff sees that the best way to implement the Charis documents is to plant churches. Jeff can be with us in January.

Comments: The Charis document may be too broad and needs to be brought together. Nathan Bryant stated that his concern is that Jeff will connect to the catalytic leaders of which we only have a few. However many pastors and teachers may feel de-valued. They may want to plant a church but are not gifted or able to do so.

Comments: The third component (integrated ministry) has not been mentioned. We need to think in terms of "where we are as a Fellowship" and if we don't go this direction what are our alternatives? The most vital thing we can do right now is to listen to each other. The Fellowship Council needs to be committed to the direction we establish.

Comment: We need to figure out what we want Jeff to clarify. What do we want him to do in serving the FGBC? Vision follows a man and once a man buys in to the general vision, the rest falls into place. John McIntosh said he sees his role as pastor as a microcosm of the Fellowship Council. The moderator sees each elder in his giftedness and helps coordinate the diversity into unity. "When I do this [create unity in leadership], the church is healthy." The Charis document is like a triangle and there is a place for each person and church in the Fellowship. Tom Hocking is good at coordinating.

Question: Is Jeff also good at it?

Answer: [Tom Avey] "Consensus building is one aspect of leadership. Is that what we need next or something else?" The FGBC has a long history of seeking consensus building, but it may be our greatest weakness because we seek to avoid conflict or the loss of people and churches at the expense of having a clear focus.

Question: Is Jeff hearing where the Fellowship Council is going and has been or is he going to bring his own vision only?

Answer: [Tom Avey] Tom Hocking's vision is micro (individual) and Jeff's is macro (corporate). Is he on board with the current plan? How are we going to find somebody who isn't going to follow his own vision? In the local church we can only focus on one thing at a time. However it is not healthy if we are focused on that one thing too long.

Comments: Doug Courter suggested that each Fellowship Council member give Tom Hocking one question they would ask Jeff if they could talk face to face. If you want to be part of the team to talk – let Tom know that also.

Note: No official action was taken from this discussion.

BUDGET 2010

The proposed 2010 budget establishes the membership fee which Tom thinks should be level for a while. It includes an extra \$20,000 in Fellowship Council expense based on GBIF gift already received. Income will not increase until the number of churches in the Fellowship increases.

A MOTION PREVAILED to recommend that the 2010 Budget of \$326,000 be adopted by the delegates.

NEW CHURCHES:

New Churches who have applied since our winter Fellowship Council meetings are:

➤Twin Cities Church, Minneapolis, MN, George Stagg. George is 32, humble, a team player. He was introduced to FGBC through BILD training with Steve Galagor Jr. and asked by GO2 leaders and Keith Shear to be Grace Brethren. He is starting with a multi-site church (house churches that could be described as Bible studies w/ meal and bread & cup) and Sunday clusters (2 currently). George is licensed and ordained by his home church in Iowa (not FGBC). Concern was expressed about tri-immersion and three-fold communion once a year. (Comment: Impractical to have footwashing every week as with B&C) A letter of support from Iowa Midlands District was presented. There have been 60 people in attendance weekly since the 2008 launch. The pastor and people really like the FGBC and its conservative stance. Question: Is there any indication about what Pastor Stagg knows/believes or if he expects to have more theological training? We don't know, but BILD can provide an accredited degree? A strength is that Pastor Stagg has surrounded himself with FGBC men. Can we create and monitor a mentoring relationship? He is already working closely with Randy Todd at Dallas Center.

A MOTION PREVAILED to recommend the Twin Cities Church of Minneapolis, MN to the delegates for acceptance into the membership of the FGBC.

➤ The Encounter church of Jerome, OH was started from the Grace Church of Powell Ohio and has a Sunday morning attendance of about 125 after 6 months of operation.

A MOTION PREVAILED to recommend the Encounter Church, Jerome, OH to the delegates for acceptance into the membership of the FGBC.

A MOTION PREVAILED that we recommend that the delegates affirm the Charis CCM and encourage all FGBC churches and believers to participate in it enthusiastically.

VISION LUNCHEON: We do not have a long agenda this time. Is there anything else that needs to be added to the printed agenda besides adding Encounter? Phil Sparling will try to find someone from each new church to give a brief testimony about the church.

CELEBRATION 2010

Celebration 2010 will be held in the Cincinnati, Sheraton Hotel on July 16-20. GBIM might be doing an integrated ministries seminar on July 21st after the Celebration concentrating on micro church planting/missional discipleship. The hotel has an indoor water park that might be an attraction for families.

Tom Hocking has sought a "Big tent place" (ie: eat/meet/sleep same place) How do we get people to do what we always say we want them to do? How do you work with other Christians? How do we actually use integrated ministries? National Ministries corporation meetings will be combined at

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various meals. We need to figure a way to include kids in some of the sessions not just provide entertainment for them.

We will use the ***Springs of Life*** book in Focus retreats as a field test. Will this book work to help people in our churches to become missional? The Fellowship Council needs to read it this week and give feedback ASAP. Tom's first choice place was on the California beach near the *Queen Mary*. It seemed perfect until the National Ministries and a poll said folks wouldn't come to the West Coast. So if we are in the mid-west, could we merge a little with Momentum and get adults involved in CE's Blitz? This would be a way to integrate ministries. Of course this would be for just for one day—but it would expose our people to ways that would show how to do it back home.

COMMENTS: It is a great idea to tag along with Momentum. It will be good to tie the energy of Momentum to the adults. It would not be like Estes Park where the adult program took over and ruined BNYC. Ed Lewis likes the basics of this different approach. Tom Hocking has contacted some Dayton GBCs and is meeting with them. Skip White said this is a great opportunity for Dayton. We like going on a Mission trip and being changed so that you view your own community differently. Friday would be kick off, Saturday the trip to Dayton, and Sunday first day of the conference. Jonathan Carey mentioned that "*Springs of Life*" will fit in better than you think as NT Wright wrote about city regulating water, and it finally blows up. Wright applies it to today and the Gospel." This will be great also for 20 year-olds.

FOCUS RETREATS

If we move toward Jeff's church planting emphasis we need to get pastors involved in making disciples. We will focus on 3 points; love for God, love for people of God, love for the lost. We need to present the Charis document and vision at the Focus retreats. It needs to be constantly presented.

Tom Hocking asked himself: "How would the Charis document look if I was practicing it in my life?" That is where the *Springs of Life* idea came from.

EQUIP11: This is the conference that Jeff follows. Should we make 3 tracks presenting CCM? Or wait until after our January meeting to plan? There was a strong consensus on using CCM as the basis for Equip 11.

THE 2010 WINTER FELLOWSHIP COUNCIL MEETINGS will be held in Simi Valley, CA with housing in homes. The leadership team meets at 1:00 p.m. on January 27. Leaders from church planting ministries in the FGBC will have dinner together on the 27th. The full council starts at 8:00 a.m. on the 28th and will finish by Noon on the 30th.

Note: Tom Hocking will share CCM at the opening session of Conference and again on Wednesday in his address. It was suggested that he keep presenting it at the FOCUS retreats. Larry Humberd reminded us that the opening paragraph of the CCM is extremely important that we need to keep repeating it as well since the 3 points come out of the context of this preamble.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Gregory M. Howell
Recording Secretary