

Fellowship Council
Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches
Structures Commission Conference Call Meeting
January 6, 2005
Minutes

Structures - Ted Kirnbauer (chair), Vic Young, Nathan Zakahi, Robert MacMillan (new)

A) Committee Assignments and Nominations

1) Nominating Committee –

i) We need to place 12 names on the ballot. 6 will be elected by the delegates to the nominating committee.

- (1) Ted Kirnbauer
- (2) Mark Saunders
- (3) John McIntosh
- (4) Jesus Munoz
- (5) Jeff Gill
- (6) Ron Boehm
- (7) Jim Bown (Phil)
- (8) Wayne Hannah
- (9) Neil Cole
- (10) Don Shoemaker
- (11) Richard Todd
- (12) Joel Richards

ii) Chair: Recommend Dan White as Chair of Nom Committee.

2) Parliamentary Committee - One new name needed. Appointed by the Fellowship Council. Present committee is Dave Plaster, Galen Wiley and Mark Soto. Dave Plaster is off the committee after this conference. Names in order of priority are:

- i) Jerry Young
- ii) Terry White
- iii) Jesse Deloe

3) Membership Committee - Two new names are needed. Present Committee is Andy Wirt ('05), Charles Ashman ('05), Steve Shipley ('06), Brad Kelley ('06) and Dave Rosner ('07). Tony Webb declined the appointment.

i) Recommendation: to reduce the size of the Committee to 3.

- (1) Change Manual of Procedure: Article V, Section 1 point #1 to: A membership committee, consisting of three members, shall be appointed by the Fellowship Council. Members shall serve three year terms, arranged so that one new member is appointed each conference year.

ii) Names if this amendment is defeated:

- (1) Glen Shirk
- (2) John Davis

4) Pastoral Connections Coordinator - Greg Howell has served. I am suggesting that we bring this function into my office.

i) Discussion – this is a broader issue of future leadership. Do we need a discussion with the AGBM? How can the ministerium association help?

ii) Tom will contact Greg, about moving the functions into the national office and come to the FC meeting with a proposal.

iii) We cannot have a fellowship wide central leadership training system. But we can have a central clearing house.

iv) Need a strategy and job description for a pastoral connections person.

v) Tom will make a list of churches looking for pastors.

5) Secretary - Tom Avey is the present corporate secretary. Appointment requires delegate ratification.

i) Recommend Tom Avey.

6) Treasurer – Larry Edwards is the present treasurer. Tom Abbot is the primary check signer. Appointment requires delegate ratification.

i) Recommend Larry Edwards.

7) Hispanic/Ethnic Advisor – Last year we decided to bring an Hispanic advisor to meet with the Fellowship Council. I am currently working on getting Gerardo Leiton to the meeting. I should have more info when we meet.

8) Unfinished Business:

- i) From past years minutes: “Group Health Insurance – John McIntosh will ask an insurance man in his church to see if it is possible. Dave Ogden will contact Christian Care Ministries - Christian Care Medi-share (Melbourne, Florida). Also check into Brotherhood Mutual about church liability.”
- ii) Discussion: even if there are no good options for group health insurance, should be have a report prepared that reflects work done to this effect?

B) FC Manual of Procedure and Constitution

1) Do we want to continue this discussion from past year?

- i) Changes to the Moderator and Fellowship Council member term.
 - (1) Moderators serve as moderator for 2 years.
 - (2) Elect a moderator-elect in even-numbered years.
 - (3) Increase Fellowship Council regional representation to 15, 5 from each region.
 - (4) Increase fellowship council member terms to 5 years.
 - (5) Leadership Team – the LT is a creature of the Fellowship Council and is without delegate mandate or design. So the FC can configure the leadership team as an executive committee however it sees fit. Suggestion: the FC places the moderator, moderator-elect and 2 at-large fellowship council members on the Leadership Team.
- ii) Discussion:
 - (1) This is still an open issue
 - (2) Tom encourages the FC to consider this proposal again after Equip05.
 - (3) Dan Allan: The apparent concern is the willingness of moderators to serve 2 year terms.

2) Changes to Cooperating Organization status (also being discussed by the Membership Committee)

- i) We have talked about requiring a renewal of cooperating organization status every 5 years but no action was taken.
- ii) The Leadership team has discussed a request by Asia’s Hope for cooperating organization status. We did not invite them to present themselves at this meeting so that we could discuss broader issues separate from their request. Issue: Do we need another category for partnering organizations?
 - (1) Overview of Cooperating organization realities
 - (a) Constitutional Requirements
 - (i) Must subscribe to the Statement of Faith
 - (ii) Must be controlled by Grace Brethren people.
 - (iii) Must not be a subsidiary of any one local church.
 - (iv) Must exist to serve other Grace Brethren Churches (not just one church).
 - (v) Must meet a recognized Great Commission need.
 - (vi) Must have board representation from each of the three regions
 1. Except that an organization is geographical in scope.
 - (vii) Must be recommended by the Fellowship Council and approved by the delegates by a 2/3rd majority vote.
 - (b) Written privileges:
 - (i) Organizations recognized as cooperating organizations of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, Inc. are not creations of the Fellowship, nor are they an integral part of its organization. While the Fellowship Conference requests an annual report as a courtesy, the Fellowship Conference does not in any way control any of the recognized cooperating organizations.
 - (ii) Member churches need not support cooperating organizations
 - (iii) Shall be consulted in the planning of conference and may be invited to attending planning meetings (at their own expense).
 - (c) Traditional Privileges:
 - (i) Listed and report included in the FGBC Handbook.
 - (ii) Invited to place ads in the conference program.
 - (iii) Given stage time at National Conference
 1. Commissioning services
 2. CE Awards
 3. Other
 - (iv) Discounts for exhibit space at conference.
 - (v) Invited to meet with the Fellowship Council each year.

- (vi) Invited to participate in monthly prayer meetings in Winona Lake.
- (vii) Invited to provide advice to the Fellowship Coordinator and Strategy committee of the Fellowship.
- (viii) Provided time at national conference to conduct required annual business.
- (ix) Larger organizations are invited to sponsor a meal at national conference.
- (x) Larger organizations voluntarily contribute to the funding of the FGBC National Office.
- (d) Family Privileges:
 - (i) Represent (speak for) the FGBC.
 - 1. ie: FGBCWorld, "What we believe?" and other publications by CE national.
 - (ii) Enhanced ability to raise funds in some FGBC churches (gives identity).
 - (iii) Increased potential to influence and help churches in the FGBC.
 - (iv) A seat at the family table.

(2) Questions

- (a) Cooperating Organization status provides implied "in" to churches for fund raising. Should we protect our churches from this implied obligation?
- (b) We have only one category of partnering ministries. All should be treated equally? Is Grace Brethren Men on an equal footing with Grace Brethren International missions?
- (c) Is there a limit to how many organizations that can enjoy these formal, traditional, and family privileges?
- (d) Can we use the following clause in the constitution to "affiliate" with some organizations without the cooperating organization expectations:
 - (i) Constitution, Article XI, Section Three: **Affiliations.** The Fellowship may affiliate with other fraternal, evangelical organizations only with the adoption of an appropriate resolution by the Conference. Cooperation with such organizations, without formal membership, may be approved by the Executive Committee of the Fellowship Council.
 - (ii) This was most likely written to cover our affiliation with organizations outside the FGBC (like AD 2000)

iii) Discussion: This discussion will be a major agenda item for the Structures Committee when they meet in Sacramento

C) Fellowship Council members and Focus Retreats.

- 1) The Leadership Team has considered the wisdom or formally budgeting funds so that council members can attend one cross-country focus retreat during their 4-year term on the fellowship.
- 2) Tom will work on a recommended change to the Expense reimbursement policy.

Membership Commission Meeting Notes

January 12, 2004

By conference call

Present : Ed Waken (chair), Mike Jentes, Jim Brown, Dan Gregory (new), Tim Boal, Tom Avey

A) New Churches

- 1) The following applications are in process
 - i) Upper Arlington, Ohio – coming later
 - (1) Assignment – Mike Jentes
 - ii) Mason, Ohio
 - (1) Assignment – Ed Waken
 - (a) Ed contacted Ned Denlinger immediately after the meeting. Comments: “As you probably know, Ned is a long time veteran of the FGBC. He has and I think is serving as the district missions chairman. He is excited to be leading his group of people and wants to keep on planting more and more churches. Ned’s church is an affluent church (according to Ned) and they are helping another smaller GBC financially as they have needs. Ned continues to run his computer company and will not be supported by the church.”
 - iii) Lancaster, CA – Oscar Chavez
 - (1) Assignment – Ed Waken
 - (a) Ed contacted Oscar immediately after the meeting. Comments: “He will be baptizing 5 people by triune immersion next month. He is talking with Tom Hocking to have himself triune immersed at the Focus retreat. He has a desire to plant other GBC’s in his area. He was very excited and appreciative of the phone call. I asked him to be thinking of ways that we as a fellowship/district could help him feel more welcomed over this next year. He said that he could not afford attending the Focus retreat so I offered to help him get there via the FGBC. I have already communicated that to Tom A. in a voice mail.”
 - (2) Need clarification on baptism. – (see comments above)
 - (3) How do they do official members (20 official members)?
- 2) Discussion:
 - i) New churches application process.
 - (1) Membership commission is working to continue to be more relational in joining the FGBC by finding ways to get pastors or leaders of new churches to attend National Conference, or Focus Retreats, or Winter Meeting of the FC.

B) Delinquent Churches

- 1) Revised report is on www.fgbc.org/fc. Charles Ashman is continuing to follow-up on churches and will have a new report when the Fellowship Council meets.

C) New Statistical Report and Survey

- 1) The statistical report is an opportunity to gather new information from our churches. For example:
 - i) Age of pastor
 - ii) Are you planting a church or planning to?
 - iii) Small groups.
 - iv) Do you have formal membership
 - v) Do you have Small Groups?
- 2) No action taken at this time.

D) Membership Task Force and related issues

- 1) The membership task force is a group outside of the Fellowship Council that exists to discuss membership issues and recommendations to the Fellowship Council for change when needed. It is still an on-going discussion.
- 2) Progress to date:
 - i) The Membership Commission of the FC continues to work to make the new member process more relational
 - (1) Ie: members are assigned to applying churches to assist and build relationships.
 - ii) We produced the “Why Associate with the FGBC Brochure” and a Membership Certificate sent them to churches in last year’s membership fee/stat report process.
 - iii) We are watching the NCO model for membership fees with strong interest.
- 3) Idea for next fellowship council meeting: gather whoever is interested in a discussion about the future of church membership.
- 4) Comment: It is time for another meeting of the Membership Task Force.

E) Cooperating Organization Categories (also being discussed by the structures commission)

- 1) We have talked about requiring a renewal of cooperating organization status every 5 years but no action was taken.
- 2) The Leadership team has discussed a request by Asia’s Hope for cooperating organization status. We did not invite them to present themselves at this meeting so that we could discuss broader issues separate from their request. Issue: Do we need another category for partnering organizations?
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 - (d) Discounts for exhibit space at conference.
 - (e) Invited to meet with the Fellowship Council each year.
 - (f) Invited to participate in monthly prayer meetings in Winona Lake.
 - (g) Invited to provide advice to the Fellowship Coordinator and Strategy committee of the Fellowship.
 - (h) Provided time at national conference to conduct required annual business.
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 - (j) Larger organizations voluntarily contribute to the funding of the FGBC National Office.
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- 4) Discussion
 - i) Mike Jentes
 - (1) What is history of Cooperating Organizations? Ie: Dave Hocking's Bible Institute
 - (2) Need history of cooperating organization status - Jerry Young or Dave Plaster.
 - (3) How do we want organizations to cooperate with us?
 - (4) Who do we want to cooperate with?
 - (5) "Associates" is a good idea.
 - (6) Some grants are restricted from ministries that are tied to denominations.
 - ii) Can an organization cooperate but not be a member of?
 - iii) Dan Gregory
 - (1) What was Asia's Hope purpose in becoming a cooperating organization?
 - (2) Tom:
 - (a) Heritage – leaders have a Grace Brethren background
 - (b) Cooperation – they want to cooperate with the FGBC
 - (c) Identity – they want an identity with (in) the FGBC.

- F) This was most likely written to cover our affiliation with organizations outside the FGBC (like AD 2000) Idea: Encourage the idea of family/connection by providing some Power Point presentations that could be sent to the churches to run during their announcement time or a short DVD presentation that could be ran...if we did a monthly or quarterly DVD thing, it would serve to remind the church/leaders that they are part of larger family. I know for me that I must remember to communicate that we are part of the FGBC especially because there are so few GBC's in AZ other than the churches we have started. (from Ed Waken)
- 1) Discussion
 - i) Keith Shearer may produce something similar to this.
 - ii) Can we do something via ppt that is easy to use?
 - iii) Perhaps we can use the "Why Associate" brochure as a basis for a PPT.
- G) Agenda for the Commission meeting in Sacramento:
- 1) Cooperating Org discussion.
 - i) Mike will contact Jerry Young about a history of Cooperating Organization program.
 - 2) Review the why associate brochure.

Fellowship Council
Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches
Finance Commission Conference Call Meeting
January 13, 2005

Present: Larry Edwards (chair), Mark Saunders, Larry Edwards, Ron Smals (new), John Teevan, Tom Avey

Meeting Notes:

1. Auditors Financial Review
 - a. The commission reviewed the FGBC financial review as provided by Dahms & Yarian.
 - b. Promise of Honor Funds
 - i) Promise of Honor funds are not audited in the GBIF audit. Ken Seyfert and Tom Avey agreed that it should be a part of the FGBC review. Tom is working with the auditors to do some initial preparation so that these records can be a part of next years review.
 - c. Motion Passed: According to the provisions in income tax law, a minister of the Gospel is not subject to federal income tax on the parsonage allowance paid to him as part of his compensation to the extent used by him to rent or provide a home. Based on Rev. Tom Avey's estimate of his home expenses, it is agreed to officially designate 50% of his total cash salary as parsonage allowance. Resolved that as long as Rev. Tom Avey is our employee the above amount of designated parsonage allowance shall apply to all future years until modified. (Requires full Fellowship Council approval)
 - d. Motion Passed: According to the provisions in income tax law, a minister of the Gospel is not subject to federal income tax on the parsonage allowance paid to him as part of his compensation to the extent used by him to rent or provide a home. Based on Rev. Charles Ashman estimate of his home expenses, it is agreed to officially designate 100% of his total cash salary as parsonage allowance. Resolved that as long as Rev. Charles Ashman is our employee the above amount of designated parsonage allowance shall apply to all future years until modified. (Requires full Fellowship Council approval)
2. Budgets
 - a. The commission reviewed the proposed detailed budget for 2005 including the budget for Equip05.
 - b. The commission reviewed the preliminary budget for Celebrate06.
 - i) Question – Do we need background checks of childcare workers?
 - c. Fiscal Year Motion – In July of 2002 the Fellowship Council approved the change of the fiscal year from a calendar year to November 1 – October 31. However, the fiscal year is established in the Manual of Procedure and there is no record of delegate approval of the change. We need to care for this at the next meeting of the delegates.
 - d. Motion Passed: The Fellowship Council permits the fellowship coordinator to invite a pastor to focus retreat who otherwise wouldn't come due to finances. (Requires full Fellowship Council approval)
 - e. Motion Passed: to recommend the budget as printed.
3. Expense Reimbursement Policy
 - a. Motion Passed: to recommend revision to expense reimbursements policy as follows:
Focus Retreats: Leadership team members may attend up to two focus retreats each year outside their own region at FGBC expense according to the general expense guidelines. Additionally, the moderator may attend all Focus retreats at FGBC expense during the year of his moderatorship. Fellowship Council members can attend one focus retreat outside of their region during their 4 year term at Fellowship Council expense.
4. Fellowship Coordinator Contract
 - a. The Leadership Team does Tom Avey's annual review.
5. Unfinished business from last year:
 - a. Basis for National Organization contributions to the FGBC Office.
 - i) The basis has been voluntary so while there is some uniformity in gift size, there are differences that cause questions. The amounts are published in the budget each year. Each year, cooperating organizations received a letter as follows:

“Thank you for your voluntary support for the position of Fellowship Coordinator. My record shows that ??? contributed \$?? for the year 2003 on October 13, 2003.

If possible, the Fellowship Council would like ??? to contribute the \$??, for the year 2004 before October 31, 2004, the end of the FGBC’s fiscal year.

At the 2004 annual meeting of the Delegates of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, a budget for 2005 was approved that called for no increase of support from Cooperating Organizations for the National Office of the FGBC. Therefore you can also expect a request for \$??? in 2005.

Again, I thank you for your support in this endeavor and your partnership in the gospel.”

- b. Membership Fee Basis – no resolution yet.
 - i) The membership task force continues to monitor membership in the FGBC. It is looking with interest at the NCO system.