

Fellowship Council: Seal Beach, California January 29-31, 2014

**PRESENT:** Randy Weekley (C-17), Mark Lingenfelter (B-18), Daniel Jackson (E-14), Dave Kennedy (C-15), Rich Todd (A-16), Roy Halberg (W-14), Bruce Barlow (A-14), Phil Bryant (A-15), Dan Thornton (C-16), Clancy Cruise (B-15), Greg Serafino (A-18), Michael Saldivar (B-16), Matt Householder (A-17), Bartley Sawatzky (Exec Dir. 2013-16), Tom Avey (Fellowship Coordinator), and Greg Howell (Recording Secretary)  
**ABSENT:** Joe Cosentino (B-18)

**GUESTS:** Dr. Dave Guiles, Rev. Ed Lewis, Mr. Ken Seyfert, Mrs. Janet Minnix, Miss Barb Wooler, Mrs. Liz Gates, Dr. Tim Boals, Dr. Bill Katip

Devotions were led by Bruce Barlow

Bartley suggested a time of prayer in pairs

Executive Director's Review

Tom outlined the schedule and introduced new members since Conference in Atlanta

- Mark Lingenfelter—Leamersville/Altoona 2 campuses
- Phil Bryant—Vancouver, BC
- Joe Cosentino—Canton, OH (flight canceled unable to attend)

Bartley shared on the "State of Fellowship"...

- 1) Building energy.
- 2) Very positive Vision2020South Conference.
  - a) much appreciation to Bob Fetterhoff and Dave Guiles
- 3) Positive response to general directions for the future (Executive Director's address).
- 4) Bartley continuing to grow in understanding of the FGBC and challenges.
  - a) have spoken with numerous key organization leaders
  - b) have spoken with many pastors
- 5) Very positive Central and Eastern Focus retreats (Identity Initiative).
- 6) Very positive Conference Planning Team meeting in DC (Oct. 28-29).
  - a) Team consists of: Bartley Sawatzky, Tom Avey, Scott Avey, Dan O'Deens, Mike Jentes, Mark Artrip, Jereamy Byng, Sarah Knepper
- 7) Interest growing in Fellowship Forums.
- 8) GoNet meeting December 10 in Akron produced some clarity over vision and direction.
- 9) National Ministry Leaders meeting (January 13-14).
- 10) Fellowship Council meetings (actual) in Seal Beach, CA.
- 11) Feelings trending in the FGBC right now:
  - a) general optimism
  - b) growing optimism among 20-35 year old leaders
  - c) cautious optimism about Identity Initiative
  - d) mixed feelings and opinions over our cooperative efforts as a fellowship (three approached we could take):
    - i) Success rests on greater structure and cooperation.
    - ii) Success rests on key visionary leaders and ministries.
    - iii) Success rests on a combination of i) and ii).

Verbal comments:

- He thanked Tom Avey and Bob Fetterhoff, stating they were the only one who could have led the FGBC to where we are!
- Bartley expressed that the Atlanta Conf was excellent: Dave Guiles and Encompass staff organized great learning labs. The response was pretty positive. There is a recurring comment about not leaving the old folks behind. Bartley's response is; "We won't, but we do want to attract the younger crowd also"
- He stated that he is still getting to know the FGBC. Record attendances at FOCUS retreats so far is helping a lot. The purpose of FOCUS is laying a foundation of love and brotherhood. Relationships are being built so potential sticky future discussions will be among friends.

- Conference planning committee met in Oct at the Omni Shorum Hotel. Most are younger leaders. Bartley wants to tap into their networks.
- He is promoting discounts for conference attendees in order to encourage many to come.
- Under 24 will be free and a deep discount will be obvious for under 30's
- He wants to create a positive buzz for future conferences 120 are already pre-registered.
- Bartley proposes to subsidize groups of 10 if they will attend a meeting (seminar/workshop other than Conference) and schedule at least one meeting together, with up to \$100 discount each. The purpose is to get leaders together. This is being called a "Fellowship Forum."
- Bartley met with GoNet at Akron, OH in November. It him a gave better perspective of younger leaders. Jeff Bogue has brought together young leaders, to connect them with larger ministries in order to learn from them and foster relationships.
- He met with the Enduring Vision Leadership Community in November.
- Bartley described meeting with these groups as "Circling the wagons with the different leadership groups and ages.

## **A MOTION PREVAILED to Approve Fellowship Council Minutes of July 2013 as printed.**

### **NATIONAL MINISTRY REPORTS (10 minute report, 5 minute Q&A)**

#### **1. Encompass (Dave Guiles)**

Current motto: MFD T = More Fruitful Disciple-making Teams

More—in number Fruitful--more less we die Disciple-making—there are enormous distractions (have get back to what it means to make disciples) Teams--multi-national teams learning to work together.

Dave expressed that he spent his first 10 years as Executive Director trying to make GBIM efficient (while thinking "but what if our ladder is leaning up against the wrong wall?")

Next 10yrs—retooling 8 areas to be able to leave "who" and "what" to the next generation

5-strategic focuses

- 1) Realignment—paring down some historic things that no longer fit into MFD T
- 2) Atlanta to become the HUB of apostolic training—2013 Conference gave a great boost! All new Encompass staff will spend at least 5 months immersed with points of light in and around Atlanta
- 3) More effective models for US mobilization, coalitions ie Cameroon--J Carmean-3yrs
- 4) CHARIS—after 2015 that it takes on more of the leadership of our international participation—
- 5) Dave dreams will be that the day will come when all resources of Encompass will be able to focus on new church planting not supporting ailing churches.

#### **2. CE National (Ed Lewis) – report**

Ed recounted the change in his life as a result of trip to Africa while in college and meeting thr Kleivers who were unable to have their girls in Chad. During that same visit a Moslem was converted during Pastor Scott Weaver's message and martyred that same night because of his conversion.

Ed said his driving force was; "If Jake & Freda and a Moslem can give their lives because they were committed to Jesus Christ—so should I"

He mentioned the Moody 100—Wilkerson's story about 100 college students who committed to missions rather than finish school—wanting to be totally committed.

Ed's burden: "Where would we put 100 college students if they came now?" **But are we even calling for them to be totally committed?** Urban Hope's purpose is "giving to the next generation" North of 55 folks are being challenged to impact others rather than looking forward to retirement.

Ed shared a good outline for starting an evangelistic conversation is FISH: friendly, Invite, story, hope.

FOLLOW every single week invite someone to church, pray for someone every day, read Bible every day.

Brochure available at Momentum on what to do if interested in a Christian career.

#### **3. CENTRAL AFRICA SITUATION--Barb Wooler, relief coordinator for CAR**

Barb admitted she finally realized that the FGBC is a fellowship of churches not National Organizations.

She described the huge need in CAR Africa: 3 out of 4 people in CAR are farmers. The Coup on March 24, 2013 replaced the CAR president with a Moslem supported regime which allowed mercenaries from Chad to pillage the country. The upheaval has disrupted agriculture. No planting. NO harvest. People are eating seeds if they have any left. Everybody needs help. The Government can't do it. Several external agencies have responded

The Encompass' focus is on food. She is asking FGBCs for money for 1,000,000 lbs of seeds (can be planted or eaten)

Encompass is cooperating with 15 agencies (League of Evangelical Agencies). They view themselves as a fleet of ships steaming toward same battle. She concluded by stating that she knows “God is doing something special” and referred representatives to the Encompass web page. Dave Guiles added that we need to insert ourselves into the evangelical world and this is a good opportunity since we are already a large presence in the CAR.

Bartley called for a time of small group prayer before break.

#### 4. GBIF and Retirement Investment Plan (Ken Seyfert) – reports

Ken announced that GBIF surpassed \$100,000,000 in investments and attributed it to investors wanting to see the growth of FGBC’s. Regulators and states restrict funding from GBIF to FGBCs. Ken expressed his conviction that if we don’t use, we can lose. He and board of directors want to be sure GBIF is able to help fund churches. He began to think they might need to invest in non-FGBC’s. But rather patience has allowed us to see several FGBC’s need multi-campus expansion and a tremendous level of need that could not have been humanly anticipated. God knew we needed to be prepared. So now GBIF is on hold about going outside the FGBC, and maintaining a “family first” philosophy. GBIF is a part of the family. Maybe even a necessary source for Grace Schools and or some Christian school. GBIF ended 2013 with over \$1mil surplus which can be used for contributions back to FGBC ministries. He stated that the GBIF board trusts the Fellowship Council to approve new churches that the GBIF can award new church gifts to. Recently the award amount has been \$7500.00 to each new church approved annually.

In addition \$50,000 has been awarded each year to Grace for scholarships helping train leaders who will give back to the FGBC. Scholarships are set up to be renewable and forgivable loans (have to pay it back if change minds and go with another denomination.

25% of the distribution this year will go to Africa (Encompass, Water for Good, & Three Strands)

Ken pointed out that his written report includes information about the retirement plan.

He concluded his presentation by asking for prayer for Luke Kaufman. Luke was Ken’s pastor in Pennsylvania and formerly headed the Home Missions/GBIF Board. Luke’s son, Kurt was found dead in his apartment — Greg Howell led in prayer for Luke and family.

#### 5. Women of Grace USA --Janet Minnix

Janet announced that she is retiring and that Viki Rife will replace her as Director. Viki would be here this week except she wanted to be with her daughter who is giving birth at Beal Air force base (Modesto). Janet distributed the Spectrum magazine and the Women of Grace introduction packet.

She shared the tremendous opportunity with Hispanic women that began in Indiana. Rosa Munoz is now coordinating a convention for Hispanic women in Atlanta.

Women of Grace are participating in several GO Teams. Last year to Africa, and September to Argentina and scheduling a team to Cambodia this year. These trips greatly impact ministry partner wives and missionaries. Janet requested that we note the paragraph in her report about ministry concerns in local churches. She expressed her encouragement that Encompass is investigating how women are utilized in ministry. She says she knows it is kind of a “hot button” issue. But she stressed that it is critical that the FGBC affirm these women. She noted that many women have executive positions in the world. And asked, “are local men church leaders consulting with women about decisions?”

She asked if she could introduce Viki to the Fellowship Council at their conference meeting. She has great passion for women.

**A MOTION PREVAILED: to record commendation for Janet and all she has done for WOG and also that she be recognized at Conference this summer.**

Bartley mentioned that every session at Conference will have women on the platform.

#### 6. Go2 --Tim Boal)

Tim shared that there are 2 major parts to the ministry

1) Trying to find workers for the harvest

2) Figuring out how to fund them

He and the associates are involved in the challenges of those things and trying to get people involved in leadership. Since Jesus gave us the challenge to pray for workers, the FGBC needs to call out to General in Heaven to activate. The best way is to work toward an organized prayer movement to call out for workers. That’s what the Circles of Grace is about.

GO2 is also working hard at creating sustaining funding models (café prototype—ready to open/18 connected/waiting for final approval)

Exponential, the largest church planting organization, is supporting this model.  
Tim reminded the Fellowship Council that the reason for planting (and establishing a church) is for “fruit that remains.” He said that we need to count success not by how many churches start, but how many stay around. He likened it to children—not just babies, but grow them to maturity  
Purpose of church planting is so they can reproduce (sustainable—Greek “establish” occurs 18x)  
He said he wished that he could report 100 new churches.  
Tim offered two tools:  
Culture index and demographics from PERCEPT. Both are available to any FGBC especially for hiring. It helps put right people in right places (rainmakers make good church planters). PERCEPT free to any church—helps know who to target (zipcode, county, street corner). Tim wants to get word out of its availability  
GO2 may be only evangelical entity that has access. Terrific tool. Pray that God will raise workers for the harvest. Can’t win a battle without an army.

Tim and Tom announced the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday prayer call from Tom Julien & Roger Peugh and encouraged members to participate monthly as they are able. He reminded that there is nothing like prayer to breakdown barriers and that fellowship is sweeter through prayer.

He reported that 2013 has been the best financial position. It has been hard since the 2007 beginning because of the economy and the need to be separate from GBNAM. This is because of lawyer’s language to separate the “bank” (GBIF) from the ministry-- and then the economy tanked. So GO2 has been trying to find partners. Started 2014 better than ever. All of their Initiatives are going well.

#### 7. Grace Schools Bill Katip

Dr. Katip distributed a PowerPoint handout and promised to provide a written report in future. He expressed that he was honored and humbled to be President of Grace. He shared some of his history & heart. He stated that he views Grace College and Seminary as a parachurch ministry (along side the local church)  
Bill declared that he is not cut out of same mold as past presidents. Bill and wife met at Grace, graduated then worked in admissions. They both felt pretty welcomed having come from a Baptist background.  
He feels it is pretty important to maintain existing values.  
Not long ago only had two kinds of students (college & seminary) but now ethnic groups are coming to town and to campus and multiplying the dynamics. It is important to utilize partnerships with organizations and churches (if started the Seminary today—several suggested to Bill it should be local church based)  
In order to be on the cutting edge they have recently outsourced communication (magazine & web site)  
There is a battle going on, with a marked shift from Christian higher education.  
Bill’s PPT traced the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Grace. He applauded Ron’s greatest legacy as getting reconnected to the community. And Bill emphasized the need to recommit to the FGBC. Going forward, same message, different methods.  
Dr. Katip stated that he appreciates regular contact with past presidents and appointed Dr. Manahan as special advisor to the President.

#### 8. BMH (Brethren Missionary Herald) --Liz Gates

Archives from GBIM being incorporated into the archive project.  
Several BMH titles will be added to LOGOS digital format soon.  
GraceConnect.us is up and running  
The print magazine will be sent free to all addresses provided, but no bulk shipments to churches anymore.

After catered Lunch at the church, Dr. Dave Guiles reported on the Identity Initiative

#### THE IDENTITY INITIATIVE

This initiative has many moving parts.

PURPOSE: The creation, adoption and consistent living out of fresh and meaningful expressions of the global identity of the Grace Brethren movement.

SHORT-TERM GOAL: For delegates representing the global GBC to arrive at the Charis International Leadership Encounter (Oct 2015) fully prepared to debate, improve and approve a set of documents that

accurately describes our identity as a movement of churches faithful to our heritage yet equipped and engaged to fulfill the Great Commission now and into the future.

#### SOME VALUES:

1. To express our identity in clear and motivating ways that connect us to our heritage while positioning us to impact a rapidly changing world.
2. To meaningfully engage leaders on the local, regional and international levels.
3. To orient our doctrinal expressions toward building bridges instead of walls. (battle ground is not about distinctives with those like us—battle is Islam, Buddhism, etc)
4. To move from a bounded set toward a centered set orientation. (not total on-board or not --way we think about truth and act on it. )
5. To ensure that we create a set of living documents that foster ongoing discussion and improvement. (interesting that none of 4 African fellowships' statements of faith are alike—in fact none have preamble about “never ending effort to clarify an understanding of the primary doctrines we accept”) when told, they seemed offended that they were not given that principle.
6. To encourage the development of the Fourth Self (self-theologizing) on local and regional levels. GB theology will never be as rich as when all the nations are able to speak into this. Really scary and really cool! “Selfs” came out about 150 yrs ago. Mission orgs said not successful until these “selfs” are part of plants. We have been slow to release them to theologizing. But notice how America reacted to Europe in these things, why would we expect 3<sup>rd</sup> worlds to be different. Actually is a reflection on our confidence in the missionaries in the past and the Holy Spirit's involvement.
6. To amplify our understanding of our GBC identity to include an appropriate balance between truth, relationship and mission. Right now identity is primarily words on a page. Jesus came in word and truth. Which is more important truth, mission, relationship? Yes! Cant choose.

#### PROCESS:

Biblical Truth (two years of regional cycles culminating at an international gathering, Oct 2015)  
Biblical Relationships (e.g. FOCUS 2013-14, Values Discussions, etc.)  
Biblical Mission (see the Charis Commitment to Common Mission, 2008)  
The 3rd truth clusters is what distinguishes the Grace Brethren  
Each Global region (5) will send a theologian to Atlanta and make a combined rough draft and send to all the leaders in all the regions and all come together to revised in time to present it at Oct 2015  
Charis gathering of 3 leaders from each region. Together they will refine the 3 truth clusters to go back to each national conference to vote on.  
What do we say when people ask what's a Grace Brethren? "Kind of like Baptists" is a lousy answer.  
A better answer is that we “love Jesus”  
“Tell me more!” “We are part of global movement of biblical, orthodox, evangelicals”  
“Tell me more!” “We have a 300yr history of forming churches that value Scripture, share the truth, are committed to relationships, do mission around the world and by the way when you come to communion you will find that we wash feet.”  
FOCUS retreats are designed to help us think about relationships and how to pass down heritage.  
Next year we will talk about tough things in such a way that we would be proud for our grandkids to watch. We want our idengtity to also be missional. We want to continue to remind each other that being brethren is not just a commitment to doctrine, but relational. We can no longer operate with a “I want to sign the document, but don't want to hang out with others and I want to do my own mission.”  
Being Brethren is about commitment to truth, relationship, and mission.

#### WHAT WE NEED FROM YOU as Fellowship Council Representatives:

- Reflections on my (Dave's) recent meeting with the AGBM - a sobering reflection on the potential gains, the costs and the potential pitfalls & dangers. This has to be repeated regularly. The question they asked is “if this doesn't work, what do you have left?” This has to work.
- We need the Fellowship Council members to choose to be proactive and not reactive. Don't just field letters and pass them on to Dave, deal with them. Choose to go to ministeriums and share these things. Nip problems in the bud. Share some of the load here.

Acts 15 gives Dave hope. A few leaders got up and said things that may not have set well with some factions. But ended with “It seemed good to us and the Holy Spirit...”

Next year's FOCUS retreats 2 things=Values of relationships and dealing with 1<sup>st</sup> draft  
Some pastors feel that an end result will be forced on us. Dave emphatically stated; "no, everything will come through Fellowship Council and the Conference delegates.  
He admitted that it could blow up on us--because the enemy wants to derail us. He warned that humanly the document could be is drawn up in such a way as some feel left out of the Fellowship.  
Currently he plans to video tape some sessions at the Florida FOCUS. That way people not at a FOCUS retreat could still get the flavor of the presentation, not just the biased reporting. Also individuals could view online.

He will schedule a session with ladies (50% of voters) at Conference and a workshop at Conference.

The unanswered question is: "where does the suspicion comes from?" To which the comment was made that "Whoever picked Dave, picked the right guy—his passion and articulation are great."

Tom reminded us that the Fellowship Council and FGBC we are relational by definition.

FOCUS is great because everyone gets to freely express feelings. We need to be a family and allow some to spout off so they can own the end results.

Next edition of GraceConnect will deal with these issues.

Update on EVLC, GoNet, and Executive Directors Meeting (Bartley Sawatsky)

### **The Original Plan**

- 1) work with our top leaders (EVLC, GoNet, National Ministry Leaders) to develop some visionary goals for the FGBC
- 2) begin by having the EVLC set some metrics – things we wanted to start to measure
- 3) this resulted in the following:
  - a) Church Start The conception phase of a church. There are a number of ingredients present:
    - i) Person
    - ii) Place
    - iii) Plan
    - iv) Prayer
  - b) Church A group of believers commit to Christ and to one another as a church.
  - c) Member Church A church decides to become a member for the FGBC. A formal application process is followed (currently under revision).

### **What We Discovered**

- 1) The fellowship structure of our organization continues to be a large factor. There are differences in opinion on how a fellowship is supposed to operate.
- 2) The EVLC has tried to make progress on the 3 pillars from the Commitment to Common Mission, namely "church planting," "leadership development," and "integrated ministry." This progress has been limited, mostly because
  - a) there are no paid staff to advance the agendas
  - b) our fellowship structure is not top-down, so buy-in takes longer
- 3) The EVLC's major accomplishments to this point are:
  - a) E-Net (Leadership Development Team)
  - b) Annual Young Leaders' Meeting (Church Planting Team)
- 4) The Integrated Ministry Committee almost completely dissolved.
- 5) After some discussion, we decided to keep the EVLC going for at least another year. The initiatives under #3 (above) would continue regardless of the EVLC's continuation.
- 6) Bartley's goal was to have the EVLC identify what we should measure (accomplished) and to have GoNet form a visionary statement and goals.
- 7) GoNet does not believe that the FGBC (office) can really set a vision or goals for the fellowship. Attempts in the past have failed. This is because there is no way to implement or enforce a vision without a top-down structure. The Executive Director and Fellowship Council really only have relational authority and no more. Up until now, even that relational authority has been limited to one-year terms; not even close to enough time to rally any grassroots movement. Vision statements are formed and forgotten. When they are mentioned, no

one really listens because there are no tracks in place for participating in that vision.

While GoNet verbalized this at the December 10 meeting, it is not the first place I have heard it. Many of our leaders share the same thinking.

- 8) Rather than try to set a vision and goals for the FGBC, GoNet has suggested that the FGBC (office) clarify what the FGBC does (both as a family and office).

Here is what the group landed on:

### **FGBC Purpose Statement**

We exist to celebrate, collaborate, catalyze and commemorate a Gospel movement, led by the local church and supported by a national network.

#### **Celebrate**

We cheer one another on and recognize the achievements of our peers.

#### **Collaborate**

We share our best ideas and resources with one another and commit to active communication.

#### **Catalyze**

We direct resources to the people and groups that are bringing about transformation.

#### **Commemorate**

We give honor to our tribe, history, beliefs and practices.

#### **Motto**

Creating a culture for movement.

- 9) The GoNet leaders showed resistance to developing fellowship-wide visionary goals, citing past failures with such an approach because of the inability of the FGBC office to get churches to participate (due to lack of resources or a top-down authority structure). Their concept of the fellowship is very "starfish" in nature (something we ought to continue to discuss). Either way, I did feel that the language they developed was very useful.
- 10) This language was taken to the National Ministry Leaders Meeting (January 13-14). The leaders present approved of the language developed by the GoNet group, but expressed the importance of leadership within our movement and the need for the Executive Director and Fellowship Council to give direction to the entire FGBC, even if there were not many resources to back it up. The national conference was one place where the FGBC office and leaders should challenge the entire fellowship.
- 11) Moving forward, my intent is to begin to use this language that was developed and also to find more specific challenges that can be used to incentivize the FGBC toward growth and effectiveness. Expect to see this language in print, online and at the national conference in DC.
- 12) Overall, I feel that I am gaining a much better feel for people's expectations for the FGBC, the FGBC office, and my role as Executive Director. I have held a lot of extra meetings (in person and over phone/internet) these first 7 months of my tenure in order to get this grasp. I feel that I will be able to reduce my time allotment to such issues for the rest of my tenure and start making decisions that represent the common interests of our entire FGBC family. Of course, I will continue to listen to what people are saying, recognizing that our movement is never static, but ever-evolving.

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Membership Committee**

##### **1. Conference Committee Appointments and Nominations**

###### **--Membership Committee**

For Conference Membership Committee, we recommend: That the Executive Director 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 (PA), Roland Maust (PA), Christian Becker (Virginia), Don Eshelman (VA), Steve Shipley (Florida), Richard Todd (California), Ron Smals (Ohio).

414 **A MOTION PREVAILED** to authorize the Executive Director to pick two from the following to function as the  
415 Membership Committee at Conference 2014: Roy Halberg (California), Terry Daniels (California), Larry Edwards (PA),  
416 Roland Maust (PA), Christian Becker (Virginia), Don Eshelman (VA), Steve Shipley (Florida), Richard Todd  
417 (California), Ron Smals (Ohio).  
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419 **A MOTION PREVAILED** to authorize the Executive Director to pick three from the following to function as the  
420 Parliamentary Committee at Conference 2014: Jesse Deloe, Galen Wiley, Mark Soto, Bud Olszewski, Doug Courter,  
421 Fenton McDonald, Doug Sabin, Terry Daniels, Beau Stanley.  
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423 **A MOTION PREVAILED** to nominate the first 12 of the following men who accept the nomination to the Nominating  
424 Committee: Nathan Bryant, Tony Webb, Tim Boal, Tom Hocking, Nathan Zakahi, Dan White, Steve Shipley, Galen  
425 Wiley, Roland Maust, Joe Cosentino, Dale Harris, Dave Holmes, Dustin Godshall, Gerardo Leiton, Bruce Barlow, and  
426 Dan Jackson.

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429 Recommendation to change the Manual of Procedure, Art VI, Sec Three, item 3  
430 From – “The district and district officers shall subscribe to the FGBC Statement of Faith.” To – “The district and district  
431 officers shall subscribe to the FGBC Statement of Faith and **the district officers must currently be serving in a**  
432 **member church of the FGBC.”**  
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434 **A MOTION PREVAILED** to recommend to the delegates at Conference 2014 the following change in the Manual of  
435 Procedure, Art VI, Sec Three, item 3 from “The district and district officers shall subscribe to the FGBC Statement of  
436 Faith.” To – “The district and district officers shall subscribe to the FGBC Statement of Faith and the district officers  
437 must currently be serving in and be an active member of a member church of the FGBC.” 2/p  
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440 Fellowship Council re-balancing because of Region Changes  
441 **REGIONS CHANGE AFFECTING FELLOWSHIP COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**  
442 **We recommend this plan to balance Fellowship Council representatives:**

- 443 1) **Designate Greg or Matt to continue until '18 (one extra year)**  
444 2) **Appoint someone to fill Region B term through 2017.**  
445 3) **Get these confirmed at conference 2014 with new -2019 reps.**  
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Term Ending	Region A	Region B	Region C
-2015	Phil Bryant	Clancy Cruise	David Kennedy
-2016	Richard Todd	Michael Saldivar	Dan Thornton
-2017	Matt Householder	<b>Appoint someone</b>	Randy Weekly
-2018	<b>Designate Greg Serafino to continue extra year</b>	Joe Cosentino	Mark Lingenfelter
-2019	Elect summer 2014	Elect summer 2014	Elect summer 2014

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448 Discussion resulted in Matt offering to let Greg continue the extended term and the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> movers agreed to appoint  
449 Greg for the 2018 extended Region A term.

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451 **A MOTION PRVAILED** to extend Greg Serafino’s term to expire in 2018 for the new Region A and that a  
452 representative be appointed to fulfil the Region B term expiring in 2017  
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**A MOTION PREVAILED** to authorize the Executive Director to recommend an appointment for Region B term expiring in 2017 to be agreed by Fellowship Council representatives through email and ratified by the delegates at Conference 2014.

NOTE - After the meeting it was discovered that Mark Lingefelter is actually in Region B. So a revision to this plan will be ratified at the July meeting of the Fellowship Council. That plan will be to appoint someone from Region C and shorten Joe Cosentino's term to a 4 year term (expires 2017).

Sponsorship and Control of Cooperating Ministries --Manual of Procedure, Art VI, Sec Two, 1.b.

Recommendation to change the Manual of Procedure, Art VI, Sec Two, 1.b.

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 by at least four FGBC churches or controlled by members of FGBC churches."**

**A MOTION PREVAILED** to recommend to the delegates at Conference 2014 that the Manual of Procedure, Art VI, Sec Two, 1.b be changed 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 by at least four FGBC churches or controlled by members of FGBC churches."**

Qualifications of a Cooperating Ministry

Recommendation to change the Manual of Procedure, Art VI, Sec 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 Commitment to Common Mission of the FGBC."**

Discussion included: What was original question from membership commission? What to do with a ministry sponsored by just one church. Now would have to find at least 3 other FGBC's to help sponsor. Burden of proof on the ministry. Also it was suggested the add "Commitment to"

**A MOTION PREVAILED** to recommend to the delegates at Conference 2014 that the Manual of Procedure, Art VI, Sec Two, 1.d. be changed 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 Commitment to Common Mission of the FGBC."**

Manual of Procedure, Art VI, Sec Three - about districts with non-GB churches.

Discussion resulted in deciding to have their representative (Dan Jackson), communicate the Fellowship Council's concern that it is bad form to have district officers coming from non-FGBC churches. Then wait to change the Manual of Procedure until the representative has been able to chat with them. We need to do both since we are a Fellowship based mostly on relationships.

Reminder - This summer, we will take action on the "no voting" clause in the constitution.

Friday

**GUESTS:** Col. John Schumacher, and Dr. Don Shoemaker

Devotions led by Roy Halberg centered around the phrase many have used "May the Good hand of the Lord's blessing be on you"

Social Concerns report (Don Shoemaker)

- Don has agreed to chair for the next three years. Since we are a Fellowship of Churches individual churches should adopt resolutions. (Brotherhood Mutual recommends this)
- Here is a very good reason to be a part of the FGBC—not a matter of “if” but when one of our churches will be hit by some kind of law suit.
- All reports are available from Don, resolutions are in the Fellowship Council binder, Don also sends monthly newsletter
- Tom might be able to add resolutions and reports to the FGBC web page in a restricted area
- John S told of lawyer from Beckett firm who emphasized our continuing need to deal with accommodation especially in the military.

#### Eagle Commission Report (John Schumacher)

John reminded us that he works for the Fellowship Council and has been the FGBC Endorsing Agent for 19 years, starting in 1995. He said to read his book to gain an understanding of the Chaplaincy. He expected to hand off the Endorsing job to Mark Penfold, but since he has been picked up for colonel, Mark now won't retire until 2017. John is willing to serve until then.

It was pointed out that nowhere is it documented that the local church is the credentialing body. The government expects us to be like a denomination and ordain at the top. Hence the Eagle Commission has organized its own credentialing review board.

The Structures Committee needs to work with AGBM about standardizing Ordination and include a statement about local churches being responsible for credentialing. Also they may need to deal with which church actually holds their credentials—the one who originally Ordained or the one they are currently serving or retired from.

#### Commission Recommendations: Membership

**A MOTION PREVAILED** to recommend to the delegates at Conference 2014 the approval of Metro Grace's application for recognition as a Cooperating Ministry.

**A MOTION PREVAILED** to recommend to the delegates at Conference 2014 the approval of Woodside Church of Ashland, OH as member church in the FGBC.

**A MOTION PREVAILED** to recommend to the delegates at Conference 2014 the approval of Living Word, Mansfield, OH as a member church in the FGBC.

**A MOTION PREVAILED** to recommend to the delegates at Conference 2014 the approval of Daily Bread, Orange, CA as a member church of the FGBC.

These will be the last churches to come in this way. The new 3 tier system will be established before conference. GBIF is interested in providing incremental financial gifts before they are a viable church. And the Membership Committee is working on a standardized covenant .

#### Delinquent Churches

##### Yakima (Hispanic)

Michael S. and Greg Howell have been involved in this one. Greg will re-contact the church secretary to get the stat report and membership fees submitted.

##### Fountain of Life

Send a certified letter that is conciliatory. Bruce will revise the letter that was sent to Steve Mitchell's church, then Clancy will modify it and send it on to the whole membership committee. It will then be sent out to Pastor Vic over the signature from the Membership Committee.

##### Awakening Chapel, Long Beach.

Tom will be talking to Neil Cole on Saturday. We will hear what he finds out, then write a letter similar to the one being sent to Vic Young, if appropriate.

Bartley suggested to remind Tom if you know of churches having problems.

**A MOTION PREVAILED** to Collaborate with AGBM about churches that are delinquent with stats and/or fees to help them remain in the FGBC in conjunction with FC annual evaluation to assist member churches.

Commission Recommendations: Finance (Jackson)

Richard Todd presented the 2013 Budget report with 2014 Budget

**A MOTION PREVAILED** to receive 2013 financial report and adopt the detailed 2014 budget.

Executive Director Report

Vision2020South (Avey): Registration was 300 which was approximately 50 more than 2013

Preregistrations for Vision Conference 2014 was approximately 120

Thanks to Encompass and mobil learning labs. When can we go back?

History at WL was really good for new folks coming into FGBC

We conduct surveys after each conference but they really don't provide helpful info. We saw positive points on mobile learning labs, positive-negative responses about music were about even, responses about speakers were lower than usual, childcare responses were ok.

1. Vision2020DC (Sawatsky)

We will be at the Omni Shoreham Hotel. The hotel is extremely accessible to Washington DC, should appeal to young families (cities are always a good draw) is within driving distance of 80% of the FGBC. The hotel is full of history, beautiful, they are giving us a good rate (\$109 per night). We suggest you not bring a car, that folks take the train from Reagan Airport. We are working on parking options at Alexandria or Lanham churches. There are lots of restaurants across from Hotel. We are putting a youthful edge do some fun things, build unity and a sense of family. It's a good thing for people to get together. We will put many personalities on stage, lots of stories, a variety of speakers. Friday late-night is the Michael Jr concert (comedian) sponsored by Grace College and Seminary.

THEME: Fellowship

2. Conference in 2015 (Sawatsky)

Trying to do NYC. Tom is checking out locations.

Continuing with the cities. Might not be as family attractive—but is safer last 20 years. Have lots of connections thru Tim Boal (Tim Keller), Galeghor, Faulkner.

Initial concern about delegates being gun-shy about being in NY. Child care will need to be exceptional.

3. Focus Retreats in 2013/2014 (Sawatsky)

The goal is for delegates to gather in Oct 2015 from around the world ready and prepared to approve a statement that describes who we (the FGBC) are.

This year task forces in regions are working on the 3<sup>rd</sup> cluster.

4. Focus Retreats in 2014/2015 (Sawatsky)

Might be good to move Northwest up to September

**Open Discussion**

- Assuming things go well Oct 2015, how do we prepare delegates for dealing with the final document.
- Maybe do regionally and ratify at conf.
- DG concerns: Need to get women involved in discussion. What about delegates who have been out of the loop but are then asked to vote on a document. Qualified elders should determine doctrinal points. Are we creating a potential problem by slipping in our core values by allowing the delegates (unknown, not elders, democratic). Need to set up the delegates in advance (ie: have to be in on the process to vote). Should be elders of church to discuss/vote on this matter. Any precedence for how this was done first time. History Bowman & McClain made message of Brethren Ministry first and then 15yrs later adopted as rule for churches.
- Might be best for AGBM to adopt in 2016 as new standard for credentials, then later suggest it be adopted as guide for churches. May need to change const to reserve doc changes by AGBM members only. Other changes all delegates.

- Can we have a web forum. Dave is not going to defend what is in doc—just the process.
- Tom may be able put up web forum from before.

Bartley/Dave will talk with Joel about AGBM leading acceptance.

Assistant Executive Director (Sawatsky)

Will Assistant Executive Director automatically follow Bartley? Go-Net talked about who will want to do this.

Nathan Bryant & Bartley see this role as a way to give back to FGBC. Technically we are supposed to put up two names. However succession is not automatic.

Need to start thinking about an Assistant Executive Director

Last year the council talked about the wisdom of moving Tom and the FGBC national office to Columbus. Tom has found an apartment he can use in Columbus and is planning to work from Columbus a couple of times each month.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gregory M. Howell,  
Assistant Secretary