



From our Executive Director, Phil Sparling

Hello Charis Family,

The other day I was hiking with my brother and two nephews. We climbed Mount Rose, which is just off the shore of Lake Tahoe. What a beautiful hike. Five and a half miles to the summit, starting at an altitude of 8,000 ft and peaking at just over 10,700. Five and a half miles back to the car. We hiked super early in the morning, just after the rising of the sun. What makes this hike so beautiful is the variety of landscapes located on one mountain. Around almost every

turn there is new vegetation or landscape, or a new view of the surrounding valley or distant mountain range. Every mile we experienced a different kind of beauty.

This seems to be a metaphor for ministry today. Every hour we get presented with a new change. New data is always coming at us and adjustments need to be made on a daily basis. What your ministry looked like yesterday, or a week ago, or a year ago is so different than what is right in front of you now.

But in the midst of this constant change we find two constants. First, just as every landscape on Mount Rose has its beauty, so every new ministry situation has something beautiful inside it. God is smart enough and flexible enough to reveal the beauty of the Gospel in every landscape. Let's not just see the darkness, the negative, or the hurtful. Let's see the Gospel beauty in the situation, and exploit that as an attraction to Jesus. Second, Jesus' attribute of Immutability has never been more precious to us than now. He is our steadfast rock, our bulwark, our refuge. He remains the same at all times and His mission for us is still intact. We can anchor our lives and ministries to Him and weather the storms of change. Let's never forget the Immutability of our Jesus.

As we gather to conduct Fellowship business, let's remember the incredible privilege we have to do His work in this generation. Thanks for being willing to share your time and talents to move us all forward. You are a valuable part of God's work in and through us.

I am blessed to serve people like you!

Phil

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Addendums:

Church Planting Mosaic

Manual of Procedure Updated

Online Ballot.....

..... <https://forms.gle/YgQg45CNgHipCXhg7>

Agenda

Tuesday, July 28 at 7:00 p.m. EDT / 3:00 p.m. PDT

- 1) Membership Committee Report and action to seat delegates
- 2) Fellowship Council Elections
- 3) Ratifications of Treasurer and Secretary and appointments
- 4) Recommendations of new member churches
 - a) Roseville Bible Church – Roseville, Michigan
 - b) Alexia Manor Church – Greenwich, Ohio
 - c) Windy Acres – Ashland, Ohio
 - d) Ocean View Fellowship – Indialantic, Florida
 - e) Grace Church of Rancho Cucamonga – Rancho Cucamonga, California
 - f) Journey Church – Warrington, Pennsylvania
 - g) Grace Church at West Shore – Saint Leonard, Maryland
- 5) 2020 Resolutions
- 6) Changes to the Manual of Procedure
- 7) Changes to the Constitution
- 8) The 2021 Budget
- 9) Executive Director's update

(note: This is a preliminary agenda. The Fellowship Council meets in advance of the delegates meeting and may have additional recommendations.)

CHARIS FELLOWSHIP MEMBER CHURCH LIST

(as of July 15, 2020)

Listed by: State, City, Church Name, 2019Avg. Worship Attendance/Membership

AB,Medicine Hat,GracePointe: 34/30
AK,Anchorage,Dimond Grace Fellowship: 8/18
AK,Eagle River,Eagle River Grace: 136/76
AK,Kenai,Kenai Grace Brethren Church: 29/20
AK,Soldotna,Peninsula Grace Church: 323/63
AK,Sterling,Sterling Grace Community Church: 18/5
AZ,Peoria,ValleyLife Grace Brethren Church: 40/60
BC,Surrey,Community of Hope: 85/51
CA,Auburn,Auburn Grace Community Church: 650/360
CA,Bellflower,Bellflower Brethren Church: 227/125
CA,Canyon Lake,New Hope Community Church: *
CA,Cherry Valley,Grace Fellowship: 40/50
CA,Chico,Living Hope Fellowship: 86/56
CA,Lakewood,Iglesia Cristiana De la Comunidad: 34/30
CA,Long Beach,Community Grace Brethren Church: 42/42
CA,Long Beach,Grace Cambodia Church: *
CA,Long Beach,Los Altos Grace Church: 200/139
CA,Modesto,La Loma Grace Brethren Church: *
CA,Norwalk,Grace Brethren Church of Norwalk: 94/63
CA,Orange,Grace Church of Orange: 400/208
CA,Rialto,Sunrise Mission: *
CA,Ripon,Ripon Grace Brethren Church: 163/155
CA,San Diego,Grace Brethren Church: 39/34
CA,Santa Ana,Maranatha Grace Brethren Church: 16/30
CA,Seal Beach,Grace Community Church of Seal Beach: 376/356
CA,Simi Valley,Grace Church of Simi Valley: 456/225
CA,South Pasadena,Grace Brethren Church of S. Pasadena: 105/34
CA,Whittier,Community Grace Brethren Church: *
CA,Whittier,Grace Brethren Church of Whittier: *
CA,Yucca Valley,Grace Community Church: 34/15
CO,Colorado Springs,Grace Brethren Church: *
DC,Washington,About My Father's Business: /50
FL,Brooksville,Grace Brethren Church: 70/43
FL,Deerfield,Family Christian Community Center: 12/
FL,Fort Lauderdale,New Calvary Evangelical Church, Inc: *
FL,Fort Myers,Friendship Grace Brethren Church: 19/14
FL,Fort Myers,Villas Grace: 50/
FL,Lauderhill,Eglise Evangelique de la Paix: *
FL,Melbourne,Grace Brethren Church - Suntree: 75/60
FL,Miami,Mispa Missionary Community Church: 70/85
FL,Ormond Beach,Grace Community Church: *
FL,Pinellas Park,Grace Brethren Church of Pinellas Park: 84/60
FL,Port Richey,Gulfview Grace Church: 196/114
FL,Sebring,Grace Church of Sebring: 280/174
FL,Tampa,Iglesia Comunal Cristiana: 150/71
FL,Valrico,Iglesia Comunal La Esperanza: 30/30
HI,Mililani,Waipio Grace Brethren Church: 100-120/75
HI,Waipahu,Grace Fellowship Hawaii: 394/164
IA,Cedar Rapids,CR Grace Church: *
IA,Dallas Center,Dallas Center Grace Brethren Church: 18/23
IA,Garwin,Carlton Brethren Church: 25/51
IA,North English,Pleasant Grove Grace Brethren Church: 11/14
IA,Waterloo,Grace Fellowship Church: *
IN,Berne,Bethel Brethren Church: 47/82
IN,Columbia City,Community of Hope Grace Brethren Church: 149/50
IN,Elkhart,Fuente de Vida Grace Bilingual Church: 75/
IN,Goshen,Grace Community Church: 2361/438
IN,Howe,Brighton Chapel Brethren Church: 282/202
IN,Kendallville,Legacy Church: 120/
IN,Kokomo,Indian Heights Grace Brethren Church: *
IN,Leesburg,Leesburg Grace Church: 103/46
IN,Osceola,Grace Brethren Church: 256/82
IN,Union City,DayStar Grace Brethren Church: 28/28
IN,Warsaw,Community Grace Brethren Church: 189/134
IN,Winona Lake,Winona Lake Grace Brethren Church: 838/672
KS,Portis,Grace Brethren Church of Portis: *
KY,Hyden,Victory Mountain Grace Brethren Chapel: /10
KY,Jackson,Happy Church: 80/Don't Keep
MA,Essex,North Shore Bible Church: 85/62
MD,Brunswick,Grace Fellowship Church: 90/35
MD,Clinton,Clinton Grace Brethren Church: 263/206
MD,Easton,Mid-Shore Community Church: 22/22
MD,Frederick,Grace Community Church: 458/233
MD,Hagerstown,Calvary Grace Brethren Church: 37/43
MD,Hagerstown,Cornerstone Community Church: 119/104
MD,Hagerstown,Maranatha Brethren Church: 129/133
MD,Hagerstown,Valley Grace Brethren Church: 212/102
MD,Lanham,Grace Brethren Church: 59/42
MD,Leonardtown,The Point of Grace Church: *
MD,McHenry,Grace Brethren Church: 8/5
MD,Mechanicsville,Grace Chapel Ministries of Southern MD: 189/142
MD,Owings,Grace Brethren Church: 479/
MD,Waldorf,Grace Church Waldorf: 285/300
MI,Chelsea,Main Street Church: 200/200
MI,Detroit,St. Antoine Bible Church: *
MI,Lake Odessa,Grace Brethren Church: 25/32
MI,Menominee,Menominee Grace Brethren Church: *
MN,St. Paul,Twin Cities Church: 150/250
NJ,Hope,Grace Community Church: 40/29
NM,Albuquerque,Native New Life Ministries: *
NM,Taos,Grace Brethren Church of Taos: *
NY,New York,New Generation Community Church: 15/15
OH,Akron,Grace Church of Greater Akron - Bath Campus: 5627/673
OH,Ashland,Ashland Village Community Church: 5/5
OH,Ashland,Eastgate Bible Church: *
OH,Ashland,Grace Church: 897/694
OH,Ashland,Grace Ranch: 24/
OH,Ashland,Southview Grace Brethren Church: 185/190
OH,Bellefontaine,Bellefontaine Grace Church: 244/
OH,Blacklick,East Side Grace Brethren Church: 525/270
OH,Bowling Green,Grace Church of Bowling Green: 30/35
OH,Brookville,Brookville Grace Brethren Church: 85/73
OH,Canton,Grace Brethren Church: 135/112
OH,Centerville,Centerville Grace: 286/
OH,Clayton,Grace Bible Church: 45/45
OH,Columbus,Capital City Grace Church: 20/28
OH,Covington,Friendship Grace Brethren Church: 45/66
OH,Danville,Grace Church: *
OH,Dayton,Basore Road Grace Brethren Church: 73/6
OH,Dayton,Calvary Grace Brethren Church of Dayton: 30/8
OH,Dayton,First Grace Church: 120/80
OH,Dayton,North Riverdale Grace Brethren Church: 10/14
OH,Delaware,Delaware Grace: 320/
OH,Dublin,Encounter Church: *
OH,Dublin,Grupo Amor Cristiano: *
OH,Dublin,Northwest Chapel Grace Brethren Church: 428/108
OH,Fremont,Grace Community Church of Fremont: 2074/1933
OH,Gahanna,Three Creeks Church: 180/180
OH,Greenville,Greenville Grace Brethren Church: 300/192
OH,Greenwich,Lexington Fox Hollow: 3/3
OH,Grove City,Grace Chapel: *
OH,Hilliard,Movement Church: 236/80

OH, Homerville, Grace Brethren Church of Homerville: 108/100
 OH, Huber Heights, Grace Community Church: 129/154
 OH, Jacksontown, Grace Brethren Church of Jacksontown: 8/4
 OH, Kettering, Calvary Grace Brethren Church: 31/31
 OH, Killbuck, Layland Church: 6/
 OH, Lexington, Grace Brethren Church: 90/68
 OH, London, London Grace: *
 OH, Macedonia, Western Reserve Grace Church: 350/278
 OH, Mansfield, Grace Village Church: 7/7
 OH, Mansfield, Woodville Grace Brethren Church: 101/99
 OH, Marion, Marion Grace: 51/46
 OH, Marysville, Marysville Grace Brethren Church: 906/284
 OH, Maumee, Maumee Valley Church: /42
 OH, Middlebranch, Grace Brethren Church: 123/72
 OH, Millersburg, Grace Bible Fellowship: 40/28
 OH, Minerva, Grace Chapel: 289/177
 OH, Mt. Sterling, Sterling Grace Brethren Church: *
 OH, Mt. Vernon, Grace Community Church: *
 OH, Pataskala, Pataskala Grace Church: 52/68
 OH, Pickerington, Grace Fellowship - Pickerington Campus: 2594/857
 OH, Plain City, Darby Grace Brethren Church: 65/55
 OH, Powell, Grace Church: 842/312
 OH, Reynoldsburg, White Stone: *
 OH, Rittman, Grace Brethren Church: 90/101
 OH, Tipp City, The Bridge: *
 OH, Toledo, Toledo Grace Brethren Church: 18/30
 OH, Troy, Gospel Community Church: 107/52
 OH, Twinsburg, LifeSprings: 12/16
 OH, West Alexandria, Grace Brethren Community Church: 18/96
 OH, West Milton, Community Grace Brethren Church: *
 OH, Westerville, Grace Polaris Church: 1235/962
 OH, Wooster, Grace Church: 2038/1738
 ON, Mississauga, Renew Church - Meadowvale: 405/220
 PA, Altoona, First Grace Brethren Church: 33/68
 PA, Armagh, Valley Grace Brethren Church: *
 PA, Avis, Grace Fellowship: 48/48
 PA, Bethlehem, Lehigh Valley Grace Church: 78/100
 PA, Blain, Grace Brethren Church of Sherman's Valley: 27/30
 PA, Chambersburg, Grace Brethren Church: 65/37
 PA, Coatesville, Encuentro Latino: *
 PA, Conemaugh, Conemaugh Grace Brethren Church: *
 PA, Dillsburg, Hope Grace Brethren Church: 160/83
 PA, Duncansville, Grace Fellowship Church: 350/
 PA, Elizabethtown, Grace Brethren Church: 101/
 PA, Ephrata, Grace Church: 76/48
 PA, Everett, Community Grace Brethren Church: 199/174
 PA, Everett, Everett Grace Brethren Church: *
 PA, Greencastle, Community Grace: *
 PA, Hollidaysburg, Vicksburg Grace Brethren Church: 45/
 PA, Hopewell, Hopewell Grace Brethren Church: 61/46
 PA, Johnstown, Davidsville Community Church: 40/
 PA, Johnstown, Johnstown Grace Brethren Church: *
 PA, Johnstown, Liberty Grace: 177/51
 PA, Johnstown, Pike Grace Brethren Church: 133/88
 PA, Johnstown, Singer Hill Grace Brethren Church: 60/78
 PA, Kittanning, Grace Brethren Church of W. Kittanning: 78/75
 PA, Lancaster, Grace Church at Willow Valley: 284/169
 PA, Lancaster, Grace Church Lancaster: 87.4/56
 PA, Lititz, Grace Church - Lititz Campus: 375/294
 PA, Loganville, Community Cornerstone Church: 40/17
 PA, Manheim, Manheim Grace Brethren Church: 102/76
 PA, Martinsburg, Martinsburg Grace Brethren Church: 509/349
 PA, Meyersdale, Meyersdale Grace Brethren Church: 90/95
 PA, Meyersdale, Summit Mills Grace Brethren Church: *
 PA, Myerstown, New Beginnings Charis Fellowship Church: 89/85
 PA, New Holland, Grace Family Church: *
 PA, Palmyra, Palmyra Grace Church: 188/98
 PA, Parkesburg, Gateway Grace Community Church: 763/346
 PA, Philadelphia, Crossroads Community Church - Holmesburg: 85/NA

PA, Philadelphia, Grace Community Bible Church: *
 PA, Reedsville, Kish Valley Grace Brethren Church: 209/147
 PA, Saxton, Living Hope Grace Brethren Church: 32/NA
 PA, Sellersville, Imagio Dei Communities: *
 PA, Telford, Penn Valley Church Network: 325/400
 PA, Tremont, Echo Valley Grace Brethren Church: 79/70
 PA, Uniontown, Grace Brethren Church: 52/60
 PA, Waynesboro, Waynesboro Grace: 86/56
 PA, Wrightsville, Susquehanna Grace Community Church: 144/51
 PA, York, YGBC: 152/75
 SC, Aiken, Grace Church: 155/220
 SC, Anderson, Grace Fellowship Church: 41/39
 TN, Johnson City, Fountain of Life Bible Church: *
 TX, Longview, Grace Brethren Church: *
 TX, McAllen, McAllen Grace Brethren Church: *
 VA, Alexandria, Grace Brethren Church: 40/45
 VA, Buena Vista, First Brethren Church: *
 VA, Covington, Grace Brethren Church: 34/37
 VA, Norfolk, Awaken Church: *
 VA, Radford, Fairlawn Grace Brethren Church: *
 VA, Richmond, Community of Grace Church: 65/50
 VA, Riner, Riner Grace Brethren Church: *
 VA, Roanoke, Citylight Church: 110/134
 VA, Roanoke, Clearbrook Grace Brethren Church: 20/30
 VA, Roanoke, Hope Bible Church: *
 VA, Winchester, Blue Ridge Grace Brethren Church: 76/75
 VA, Winchester, Winchester Grace Brethren Church: *
 WA, Goldendale, Community Grace Brethren Church: 101/43
 WA, Grandview, Iglesia Vida Nueva: *
 WA, Harrah, Harrah Grace Brethren Church: 19/19
 WA, Kent, Grace Fellowship of Kent: 60/
 WA, Mabton, Iglesia De Los Hermanos: *
 WA, Mabton, Mabton Grace Brethren Church: 68/55
 WA, Sunnyside, Grace Brethren Church: 139/118
 WA, Toppenish, Grace Brethren Church: *
 WA, Yakima, Iglesia De Los Hermanos en Yakima: /50
 WV, Grafton, First Grace Brethren Church: 41/60
 WV, Martinsburg, Rosemont Grace Brethren Church: 55/32
 WV, Parkersburg, Grace Brethren Church: *
 WV, Martinsburg, Rosemont Grace Brethren Church: *
 WV, Parkersburg, Grace Brethren Church: *
 Count = 230
 (* = statistical report and/or fellowship fee not returned in time for this report)

Statistical Report for 2019

Presented to the 2020 Conference
(includes statistical reports received through July 15, 2020)

	2019		2018	2017	2016
	Avg	Total*			
# of Churches in the FGBC (7/1/20)		230	230	234	238
# reporting statistics *		159	177	174	118
Attendance	235	43,041	43,451	42,574	43,331
Small Group	94	14,072	15,123	14,749	14,910
Recorded Conversions	17	2,121	2,070	2,440	2,548
Baptisms	9	1,498	1,601	1,962	1,803
Total Members	148	23,523	23,447	22,946	22,444

Churches added since last report (4)

Grace Church - Lancaster, PA
Grace Church - Bellefontaine, OH
Imagio Dei Communities - Telford, PA
Gospel Community Church - Troy, OH

Churches deleted since last report (4)

Dismissed CA, Long Beach, Grace Brethren Church of Long Beach
Closed OH, Grove City, Southwest Grace Brethren Church
Dismissed PA, Red Hill, Hope Valley Community Church
Dismissed PA, Pottstown, Still Waters Grace Brethren Church

New church applications - not yet members (7)

Roseville Bible Church – Roseville, Michigan
Alexia Manor Church – Greenwich Ohio
Windy Acres – Ashland Ohio
Ocean View Fellowship – Indialantic Florida
Grace Church of Rancho Cucamonga – Rancho Cucamonga California
Journey Church – Warrington Pennsylvania
Grace Church at West Shore – Saint Leonard Maryland

** Survey return rates are lower than usual due to impact of social distancing during the COVID-19 crisis*

Fellowship Council, Charis Fellowship

New Church Recommendation by the Membership Team

June 24, 2020

“We recognize the beautiful mosaic of church forms that exist. However, in order to organize this fellowship of churches in a sustainable way to provide mutual accountability and encouragement as a family of churches, we recognize a local church as a group of Christ followers in a specific location, committed to the Gospel as its one message, under the oversight of Biblical leadership, practicing the ordinances, and on mission to the world by discipling and sending its people.” From <https://charisfellowship.us/membership/applications/about>

The Membership Team of the Charis Fellowship, Fellowship Council, has received and processed applications for membership of the below listed churches to the Charis Fellowship.

1. Roseville Bible Church – Roseville, Michigan

P.O. Box 1229

Ashland, Ohio 44805

567-217-1458

Seednet_andy@yahoo.com

Andy Shank

515 Park St

Ashland Ohio, 44805

567-217-1458

Seednet_andy@yahoo.com

Nathan Wells of Seednet was interviewed by Rich Schnieders. Seednet has Established elders in Andy Shank, Larry White, and Nathan Wells. These elders provide oversight for the Seednet churches. Each local group has other elders in training. Nathan states it typically takes seven to eight years to bring up a man to be considered for eldership. Covid-19 has been difficult for them, but the local church leaders have maintained contact via phone with their congregations. The membership Team is not aware of any issues.

The Membership Team voted without objection to recommend this church to Fellowship Council.

2. Alexia Manor Church – Greenwich Ohio

235 US Highway 250

Greenwich, Ohio 44837

4196857992

Larrylwhite@yahoo.com

Pastor Larry White

235 US Highway 250

Greenwich, 44837

4196857992

Larrylwhite@yahoo.com

Nathan Wells of Seednet was interviewed by Rich Schnieders. Seednet has Established elders in Andy Shank, Larry White, and Nathan Wells. These elders provide oversight for the

Seednet churches. Each local group has other elders in training. Nathan states it typically takes seven to eight years to bring up a man to be considered for eldership. Covid-19 has been difficult for them, but the local church leaders have maintained contact via phone with their congregations. The membership Team is not aware of any issues.

The Membership Team voted without objection to recommend this church to Fellowship Council.

3. Windy Acres – Ashland Ohio

1186 Township Road 1106

Ashland, Ohio 44805

419-908-8181

seednet208@yahoo.com

Nathan Wells

1186 Township Road 1106

Ashland, 44805

4199088181

seednet208@yahoo.com

Nathan Wells of Seednet was interviewed by Rich Schnieders. Seednet has Established elders in Andy Shank, Larry White, and Nathan Wells. These elders provide oversight for the Seednet churches. Each local group has other elders in training. Nathan states it typically takes seven to eight years to bring up a man to be considered for eldership. Covid-19 has been difficult for them, but the local church leaders have maintained contact via phone with their congregations. The membership Team is not aware of any issues.

The Membership Team voted without objection to recommend this church to Fellowship Council.

4. Ocean View Fellowship – Indialantic Florida

400 N. A1A Suite 107-108

Indialantic, Florida 32903

321-205-5969

gbcstree@gmail.com

Bill Tweeddale

110 Mar Len Drive

Melbourne, 32951

321-536-5317

billytweeddale@gmail.com

Interviewed and reviewed by Rich Schnieders. Ocean View is truly a daughter church of Suntree Grace in Melbourne. Suntree continues to provide logistical support for Ocean View. Suntree and Ocean View share youth programs, as well as Suntree, provides overall Elder oversight. Ocean View is training up men to be an independent council of elders eventually. The membership Team is not aware of any issues.

The Membership Team voted without objection to recommend this church to Fellowship Council.

5. Grace Church of Rancho Cucamonga – Rancho Cucamonga California

5719 Beryl Street
Rancho Cucamonga, California 91737
760-685-7493

info@gracerancho.com

Eric Durso
7542 Marmande Place
Rancho Cucamonga, 91730
760-685-7493
edurso@gracerancho.com

This church is an excellent example of church revitalization. Roger Holl interviewed the Pastor, Eric Durso. Grace Church Simi Valley, and Grace Church Grace Church of Orange County came together to aid and support this church revitalization. Local elders have been appointed and are functioning. The membership Team is not aware of any issues.

The Membership Team voted without objection to recommend this church to Fellowship Council.

6. Journey Church – Warrington Pennsylvania

272 Titus Avenue
Warrington, Pennsylvania 18976
8142427220
adamjohnson@journeynow.church
Adam Johnson
272 Titus Avenue
Warrington, 18976
814-248-0651
adamjohnson@journeynow.church

Adam Johnson, the Pastor of Journey Church, was interviewed by Tim Clothier. This is a release of a campus of Penn Valley Church in Telford. Penn Valley has provided assistance and oversight with local elders, also being appointed and functioning. This is an exciting church plant that is making the transition from Campus church to interdependent church. The membership Team is not aware of any issues.

The Membership Team voted without objection to recommend this church to Fellowship Council.

7. Grace Church at West Shore – Saint Leonard Maryland

Grace Church at West Shore
325 Madeline Drive
Saint Leonard, Maryland 20685
4104746665
gracechurchwestshore@gmail.com
Jay G. McKinley
325 Madeline Drive

Saint Leonard, 20685
4104746665
jaygmckinley@gmail.com

Jay McKinley, Pastor of Grace Church of West Shore, was interviewed by Rich Schnieders. Grace Church of West Shore is a church plant from Grace Church of Calvert county where Jay had been on staff. Jay McKinley, the pastor, is currently the only elder. Other men have been identified as elders and function as elders but have not been officially appointed yet. Jay plans to move forward with recognizing these men as elders. Until then, an "official board" functions as the official leadership.

Jay advised they have a decision to make as the school they had been meeting in has not yet allowed them to return, and there is a possibility they will not. Jay said they will continue and will discover a new location, but it is an item for prayer. The membership Team is not aware of any issues.

The Membership Team voted without objection to recommend this church to Fellowship Council.

The Membership Team met via Zoom on Wednesday, June 24, 2020, to discuss the churches listed above. The Membership Team recommends these churches to the Fellowship Council and the Fellowship Delegates to be accepted as new member churches in the Charis Fellowship.

The Membership Team is excited and pleased to see new churches of varying sizes apply for membership to the Charis Fellowship. God is at work the Fellowship in many different ways and many different locations. We praise God for the work He is doing in and through the Fellowship.

Respectfully Submitted on behalf of the Membership Team by,



Dr. Rich Schnieders
Membership Team Chairman
June 24, 2020

Charis Fellowship Statement of Financial Position

31-Oct-19

ASSETS

Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 498,700
Accounts Receivable - net of allowance	5,942
Prepaid Expenses	2,549
Total Current Assets	<u>\$ 507,191</u>

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities

Accounts Payable	\$ 5,804
Payroll Liabilities	2,048
Contract Liabilities	4,860
Total Current Liabilities	<u>\$ 12,712</u>

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted	\$ 494,479
Temporarily Restricted	

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 507,191</u>
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Statement of Activities

Year ending October 31, 2018

UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS

Revenues

Membership Fees	\$ 226,613
Conference Income	66,388
Eagle Commission	89,693
Contributions	106,093
Focus Retreats	48,623
Retirement Investment Plan Fees	11,787
Other Income	7,027
Net Assets Released from Use Restriction	5,887
Total Revenue	<u>\$ 562,111</u>

Expenses

Program Services	
Conference	\$ 126,550
Focus Retreats	92,629
Eagle Commission	80,567
Supporting Services	
Fellowship Council	88,899
Retirement Investment Plan	22,576
General Administration	101,280
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 512,501</u>

Increase (Decrease) in Unrestricted net assets	\$ 49,610
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Increase (Decrease) in Temporarily Restricted net assets	(5,587)
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Net Assets at Beginning of Year	<u>450,756</u>
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Net Assets at End of Year	<u>\$ 494,779</u>
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Notes:

Payroll expenses are allocated to Conference, Focus Retreat and General Admin exp. Categories.

Reviewed by Himes and Krull, LLC

Report #5

2021 Budget

For Conference Business meeting in 2020

Revenues

(1)	Membership Fees
(2)	Conference Income
(3)	Focus Retreats
(4)	Donations
(5)	Estate and Brotherhood Gift Restriction Release
	Other Income
	Total Revenue

2021	
\$	200,000
	75,000
	45,000
	104,000
	116,190
	500
\$	540,690

Expenses

	Program Services
(2)	Conference
(3)	Focus Retreats
	Supporting Services
	Fellowship Council and Executive Director
(6)	Salaries, Benefits, Travel, Meetings, Initiatives
(7)	Additional Salary and Benefits for Transition
	General Administration
	Total Expenses

	121,800
	72,700
	94,245
	90,750
	161,195
\$	540,690

Footnotes and assumptions

- (1) Assumes reduced fees collected in 2021 and no increase for 2022 - \$6.85 per attendee - \$9,100 max with modest increases for online and late payments.
There will likely be a reduction in fees collected in 2020 as well which will effect funds brought forward out of savings
Fellowship fees for 2021 will be based on 2019 attendance due to the uncertainty of attendance in 2020.
- (2) 30% of salaries for the Fellowship Coordinator and the Operations manager are allocated to Conference
Conference budget is variable in that more people = more income. Most expenses are fixed
- (3) 20% of salaries and benefits for the Fellowship Coordinator and the Operations manager are allocated to focus retreats
Focus Retreat budget is variable in that more people = more income. Most expenses are fixed
- (4) Donations expected

National Ministries	79,000
Brotherhood Mutual	\$ 25,000
	\$ 104,000
- (5) In 2016 the Fellowship received a \$180,000 estate gift which the council restricted for re-branding and transition expenses.
Since 2016, the Fellowship has received \$75,000 in gifts from Brotherhood Mutual which was also held for future needs
The 2020, 2021, and 2022 budgets include gradual restriction releases as new income.
- (6) 50% of salaries and benefits for the Fellowship Coordinator and the Operations manager are charged to conference and focus retreats
- (7) Transition Assumptions
This budget assumes we will have an overlap of the present Charis Fellowship Coordinator and the next Coordinator.

2020 Report of the Social Concerns Committee Of the Charis Fellowship

Ephesians 4:14-15

“As a result, we are no longer to be children, tossed here and there by waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, by craftiness in deceitful scheming; but speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him who is the head, even Christ,...”

The Social Concerns Committee would first like to thank Donald Shoemaker for his many years of service to our Fellowship as the Chairman of the Social Concerns Committee. Under his leadership he helped guide the committee through some exceedingly difficult social, cultural and political issues providing clear biblical statements in a very articulate and respectable manner. Don’s passion for the Social Concerns Committee was evident and as a Fellowship we all greatly benefitted from his service.

Currently the Social Concerns Committee is adjusting to the change in leadership, but we are focused on continuing the work that we are task to accomplish. As per the Manual of Procedure our primary task is to “prepare resolutions to present to the annual business meeting” of the Fellowship. It is apparent to anyone who pays attention to the current state of affairs that the role of this committee is not only necessary, but vital in providing an avenue for the Fellowship to address an ever increasing amount of issues that are facing the church today.

As a committee we are looking to the future and to add new members as well as utilize better ways to connect with and communicate to our churches and ministries. We ask for your continued support and prayer as we prayerfully serve in this capacity. It is our desire to make ourselves available and to be used as a relevant and credible resource. We invite members of our Fellowship to contact us at any time to discuss issues, thoughts, or resolutions. What a blessing to represent a Fellowship who knows that God is sovereign and control, and to minister alongside of you in the mission to which God has called us.

For the Social Concerns Committee,

Mark Abel, Chairman. Committee Members Mark Combs, Mike Jentes, Kathryn MacMillan, Rich Schniders, John Teevan.

**Resolutions Proposed to the 2020 Business Session of
the Charis Fellowship
Prepared by the Charis Fellowship Social Concerns Committee**

Resolutions are approved by the delegates annually to express the convictions of the Charis Fellowship on certain contemporary social issues. They are non-binding and are intended to be advisory and of teaching value. Churches are encouraged to adopt them as statements of local church conviction. Resolutions are for one year and often address issues of importance but of limited duration. Resolutions do not address doctrinal issues but focus on societal developments that intersect with Christian doctrine.

Human Life—Its Dignity and Duties

Whereas God is the creator of the heavens and the earth and all it contains (Genesis 1:1; Psalm 24:1); and

Whereas God created humanity as his highest creation, making humanity alone in his image and after his likeness (Genesis 1:26; Psalm 8); and

Whereas God created man as male and female, both as bearers of his image (Genesis 1:27); and

Whereas the woman was made from the man, she alone being equal to him yet different from him, to complete the duality of human existence and make marital union possible (Genesis 2:18-23); and

Whereas God appointed mankind as stewards over creation (Genesis 1:26, 28; Psalm 8:6-8); and

Whereas God chose Israel, the object of his love and protection, to be his special people and a blessing to the whole world (Genesis 12:1-3; 17:7-8; Amos 3:1-2; Zechariah 2:7; Romans 9:4-5; 11:28-29); and

Whereas human sinfulness deeply afflicts our relationship to God and to one another (including how men and women, parents and children, rich and poor, strong and weak, and people of differing races relate to each other) and also afflicts our understanding of ourselves (who we are as human beings), tempting us to define ourselves in subjective humanistic ways rather than according to our creator's design (Genesis 3:16; 6:5; 8:21; Romans 1:18-32; 3:10-18);

We therefore affirm several ethical implications of these biblical truths:

1. All human life (including the unborn, those with mental and physical infirmities and those who are terminally ill) is precious and worthy of our protection and care.
2. The loss of any human life by the actions of another is tragic. Nonetheless, taking human life is justifiable in narrow circumstances such as self-defense or defense of others (whether

exercised by an individual or by the magistrate). Yet even this is tragic, for God himself takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked (Ezekiel 33:11).

3. Abortion as practiced in the United States and many other countries is abhorrent to God and an assault on human dignity. Its practice is to be opposed legally and morally and ministries of care for the mother and child must be developed and offered. Of special concern is new legislation that allows abortion up to the moment of birth. Adoption is always an honorable alternative to abortion. Men and women must avoid sexual sin and both must take responsibility for its consequences.

4. Assisted suicide is an illegitimate response to human suffering toward the end of life. Instead, ministries of care, support and pain management are to be offered to the dying. Assisted suicide for those suffering a terminal illness will easily be rationalized to justify suicide for other reasons and to justify taking human life without consent.

5. The Word of God justifies capital punishment as a proper judgment against those who commit premeditated murder. Rather than being a violation of our creation in the image of God, capital punishment is actually based on this truth (Genesis 9:6). However, the actual practice of capital punishment must be by legitimate authorities and must rest on equity and sufficient evidence and always be seriously judged by biblical standards.

6. To serve human needs we must declare and practice “the true fast” of Isaiah 58—do not exploit workers, do not engage in quarreling and malicious talk, loose the chains of injustice, set the oppressed free, feed the hungry, shelter the poor, clothe the naked, service the needy, defend the defenseless.

7. We call for opposition to all forms of human trafficking, especially sexual exploitation, and abuse against immigrants. Families should be kept intact as much as possible.

8. Support and justice must be extended toward all who are abused or sexually assaulted, especially in situations of subjugation or fear. Protections and an atmosphere supporting honest disclosures are vital. Sexual assault under the guise of

religious or secular positions is especially offensive to God and should be to us.

9. Christians must never forget the historical sufferings of the Jewish people and must express alarm at increases in anti-Semitism in our own day and nation. We must be bold in expressing our love for the Jewish people and our repentance for wrongs in the past. We must stand up and be counted and call for actions against anti-Semitism.

10. Marriage is foremost an establishment by God, not an institution of man. Marriage is a union between a man and a woman, sealed in the covenant sign of sexual union. Sexual relationships are appropriate within marriage only. Marriage is God's plan for birthing and raising children in a loving, supportive home. God intends that marriage be a life-long covenant not "put asunder" by man.

11. People may choose to live honorably before God in singleness, as exemplified by many biblical personalities including Jesus and the Apostle Paul. This choice may lead to greater undistracted service to God. It may also open avenues of temptation that must be resisted.

12. "Gender identity" needs to be understood by fair analysis of data and by listening to those who do not identify themselves by conventional male/female categories. However, our ultimate directives come not from social constructions but from biblical understandings. God created human beings as either male or female. Departures from this understanding, whether due to dysfunction or choice, are not the plan of God. Our society must be careful not to coerce people and institutions (including churches) that do not support current expansion of gender identity rights. Boys and girls (and their parents) have a right to privacy and safety and to fair instruction on this subject that is not agenda driven.

13. Human governments are established by God for promotion of justice and punishment of evil and for the peace and safety of their citizens. Governments exist to further the wellbeing of all, not to accumulate power and wealth into the hands of the rulers and the privileged at the expense of subjects. Governments should enhance human flourishing and liberty, not repress these in any way. Governments must protect freedom of religion. Christians should pray for all who are in authority and be open to participate in government through voting, influence and service as much as is ethically possible.

14. America's prisons are often places of bureaucracy and neglect that assault the human dignity of prisoners while failing to truly reform them. Prison reform must include fitting punishment that makes victims whole, plus training that enable willing prisoners to return to society and live constructive lives.

Those who have paid their debt to society should have a process to accrue citizen rights once again, including the right to vote.

15. Civility in speech and good conduct toward others who are in God's likeness are our duties. Our communications with one another must be consistent with loving our neighbor as ourselves. Civility must begin at the highest levels of government—the president and the Congress in America—and continue to all other levels. Civility must avoid the *ad hominem* attacks on opponents that have become so much a part of today's charged political climate. Civil communication must characterize all "social media" and Christians especially must not communicate with gossipy, malicious, or oppressive words in their use of social media.

16. Humanity must understand "dominion over creation" not as ownership but as stewardship. We must also recognize God is infinite and creation is finite. To consume creation's resources as if they are infinite is a form of idolatry. We are free to use and enjoy creation, not to misuse it or deny future generations its enjoyment. In our quest to be good stewards of creation, we must always and only worship God the Creator and never deify or worship creation in any way.

17. Since God created the entire human race, his "Common Grace" flows to all people. Common Grace is seen in the benevolence of creation, a basic sense of right and wrong given to all, institutions such as family and good government, wholesome human achievements and enjoyments, and in other positive features of human existence. Christians are able to work with non-believers to expand the benefits of common grace.

Governmental Responsibility

Governments must operate with a strong sense of integrity and faithfulness to the laws of the nation. They must honor their commitments to their citizens by fulfilling their basic duties, controlling entitlements and spending, and avoiding immense deficits that will burden future generations.

We warn our government against yielding to the passion for an ever-broader expansion of rights that are popular at the moment but are not wise or good for the long-range health of the nation.

Religious Freedom

We strongly support religious liberty in America and around the world as we look with alarm at the deterioration of this freedom, especially as it is repressed in countries like China but even incrementally in the United States. We support:

- Genuine freedom of religion for all, not to be reduced to “freedom of worship.”
- The free *exercise* of religion, not to be reduced to the right to believe as you choose.
- Freedom of religion for all religious organizations, not merely “houses of worship.” This includes the right to employ people who adhere to the doctrines and morals of the church or religious organization.
- Freedom for people to live out their religious convictions in public and in their workplaces and not be harassed and penalized by adverse governmental action.

Immigration Reform

America has been a land of immigrants since before the nation was founded. Between the extremes of nativism and open borders, most citizens have open arms toward immigrants but also see the rule of law and secure borders as essential for a safe and civil society. Today our nation and our churches are increasingly populated by people from a multitude of cultures and lands, and many of these people are undocumented.

How can our Charis Fellowship respond?

1. We call on our churches to give prayer, thought, discussion, and action toward addressing the problem of the undocumented immigrant in a God-honoring way.
2. We recognize the divisive and controversial nature of this debate, and we encourage dialogue in the churches that is respectful, open-minded, and solution focused.
3. We further call on our churches to be the “reconciling presence of Christ” in the midst of a broken system that creates rancor, resentment, racism, selfishness, fear, exploitation, danger, and disregard for the law.
4. We call on our society and elected leaders to rise above political posturing and rancor to work toward a solution on immigration that is compassionate and realistic—a solution that accomplishes the government’s responsibility to protect its citizens and guests, while at the same time provides relief to the oppressed.
5. We recognize that meaningful solutions to this problem are not easily reached and must come through a determined will to

achieve them. We deplore the present situation when our Federal Government is unable to resolve key immigration issues year after year.

6. We also recognize that the United States cannot accommodate everyone who desires to come to this country. Correcting the situations that force many to flee their home countries is one way to reduce the number attempting to gain entry into the United States.

7. We also call on the Federal Government to be wise in its use of Foreign Aid to aid in reforming situations in those foreign countries.

COVID-19 (new)

The Bible speaks a great deal about sickness. We read in the Scriptures of a God who heals every disease (Psalm 103:3, Matthew 9:35, 10:1) yet we also read in those same scriptures that God brought about various plagues or diseases for a clear purpose (Exodus 9:14-16). God can and has used diseases as punishment for sin to a specific people for specific sins (Leviticus 26), but in doing so, His goal is always repentance and restoration (2 Chronicles 7:13-14). It is also clear in the Word of God, that not every plague, disease, or disaster is of God’s direct judgment, but many are symptoms of living in a world marred by sin (Genesis 3). Such events as the global pandemic of COVID-19 may be an example of this.

The Scriptures teach that no one knows the time of Christ’s return (Matthew 24:36). However, to be able to biblically interpret historical and current events and recognize them in light of the signs of our times is both wise and comforting (Matthew 16:1-4). The spread of disease is a foreshadowing of the sickness and pandemonium that will be part of the end times. Jesus taught of this even while He was here on earth (Matthew 24, Luke 21). The current COVID-19 situation is a sign that should be a catalyst that causes all people to ponder issues of life, death, and eternity. In so doing, seek and find the truth of Almighty God.

We know God is Sovereign and is working out His perfect will (Romans 8:28, 11:36) even amongst these trying and seemingly uncertain times. In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, we call upon Christians to:

- Be diligent and persistent in pursuing opportunities to minister to those who have been greatly affected by the pandemic or who are serving those impacted. (Colossians 4:5)
- Follow civic and medical directives in an attempt to help from spreading the virus, so long as those directives do not violate the commands of God as it is our personal responsibility to protect ourselves and to help protect those around us. It is also our responsibility

to set aside our rights or opinions for the sake of others or the gospel. (1 Corinthians 8-10, Philippians 2:4-11)

- Follow as best we can within the cultural setting and atmosphere the biblical mandate to assemble and to carry out the mission and function of the body and bride of Christ. (Hebrews 10:25)
- To not hoard resources or price gouge necessities for personal use or profit. (Matthew 7:12)
- To not panic or be controlled by fear, but to labor tirelessly to share the gospel of Jesus Christ and to be a people whose lives demonstrate His love to those who are watching. (Philippians 4:6-7)
- To be a people who provide biblically relevant and logically practical answers within the scope of our knowledge and experience to those who are asking honest questions in regard to the pandemic. (1 Peter 3:15)
- Be continuously in prayer for... (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

o ...those who have contracted the virus to recover to full health. (James 5:16)

o ...the protection of those who are serving those who are infected—, for their emotional, physical, and spiritual strength as they minister to their fellow man. (Psalm 27)

o ... those who have lost family and friends to the pandemic, that they may be able to properly mourn and honor their loved ones. (Matthew 5:4)

o ...those in civil leadership that they will make decisions that honor the dignity of all human life and not be influenced or directed by political gain or agendas. (1 Timothy 2:1-2, Psalm 2:10-11, Proverbs 21:1)

o ...those who take care of the most vulnerable in nursing homes or assisted living that they can still provide tender, compassionate care as well as deal respectfully with those who are separated from their loved ones. (Matthew 25:40)

o ...those who have lost employment or income-earning ability to find jobs where they will be able to provide for their families. (Jeremiah 29:7)

o ...those who are working to find a vaccine. That one will be discovered in a timely manner and that it will be effective, safe, affordable, and available to the public. (Jeremiah 29:7)

o ...those who are in church and ministry leadership that they will be able to sort through the information, discern truth, and make decisions that will honor God. (Colossians 1:9, Ephesians 1:15-17)

The Social Concerns Committee

Chair: Mark Abel <keepaneyetothsky@gmail.com>

John Teevan

Rich Schnieders

Mark Combs

Kathryn MacMillan

Mike Jentes



Eagle Commission

The spiritual support ministry and link to our Chaplains and their families

Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches dba Charis Fellowship
P.O. Box 814, Winona Lake, IN 46590-0814

Phone: (574) 267-5162 // Email: info@eaglecommission.org // Website: eaglecommission.org

It goes without saying that military ministry since Access2019 in Auburn has been different. For for the first time since 2003, none of our chaplains are currently deployed overseas in a combat zone. But ministry looks a lot different! Virtual counseling and chapels, less face-to-face time, delays in summer moves are just a part of that. Yet in spite of these challenges, our chaplains report increased virtual chapel attendance, increased attendance at virtual Bible studies, professions of faith, baptisms and opportunities for discipleship. As the endorser, my travels were curtailed in mid-March at which time we started meeting via the Zoom.

Key events this past year include:

- Reassignments: Army Chaplain Carl (Deanna) Phillips intrapost move at Fort Belvoir, VA; Army Chaplain Pete (Monica) Stone from Fort Belvoir, VA to Scofield Barracks, HI; Army Chaplain John (Marlene) Jacobsen from Fort Jackson, SC to Fort Sill, OK; and Army Chaplain Camron (Kerri) Michael from Fort Bragg, NC to Fort Gordon, GA.
- Deployments: Thru Feb 2020, Army Reserve Chaplain Jeremy Pfeister (Grace Church of Greater Akron, Norton, OH).
- Promotions: Navy Chaplain Justin Hayes (Winona Lake Grace, Winona Lake, IN) promoted to Lieutenant Commander (Aug 2019). Army Carl Phillips (Brighton Chapel Brethren Church, Howe, IN) promoted to Lieutenant Colonel (Feb 2020).
- New Endorsements: Army Reserve Chaplain Tim (Ashlie) Wilmetti (Pataskala GBC, Pataskala, OH). Army Reserve Chaplain Candidate Zach Williams (Eagle River Grace, AK).
- Losses to military retirement - **NONE**. (NOTE: Air Force Chaplain George (Rose) Youstra will retire in 2021).
- Other: Canadian Armed Forces Chaplain Oliver (Cheryl) Edwards entered military service. He is our Fellowship's first chaplain ever in the Canadian Armed Forces!

Organizationally, the Eagle Commission was blessed with solid giving in 2019. Donations increased 22% over 2018 giving thanks to new churches, several generous grants and the support of GBIF. Since summer 2018, the Eagle Commission, with the support of GBIF and other Fellowship ministries, began work on bylaws and other necessary documents toward corporation status. I am excited to announce that as of June 1, 2020, the Eagle Commission is incorporated in the state of Indiana. Jim Augspurger (Polaris Grace, OH), George Merchant (Calvert GBC, MD) and Keith Michael (Martinsburg GBC, WV) agreed to serve as the initial board officers. Together, we are looking at building a solid and visionary base for the Eagle Commission for years to come.

The vision of the Eagle Commission remains unchanged as stated in our bylaws:

- **Seek to fulfill the biblical mandate of Matthew 28:19-20 to make, baptize and teach disciples of members of, and those served by, military and other governmental agencies including, without limitation, the United States Department of Defense (the "US DOD") and the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (the "VA").**
- **Fulfill its ministry by recruiting highly qualified pastors who act as Chaplains in military and other governmental agencies including, without limitation, the US DOD and the VA.**

As I wrote last year, I believe that as a Fellowship, the Lord has given us an open door to send our best young pastors and commission them as Christ's ambassadors to the almost 2 MILLION men and women who wear our nation's uniform. I also strongly urge all our pastors and churches to pray fervently for new men from our Fellowship who will serve as chaplains. The military is accessioning chaplains --- we can decide if we want to be part of God's Great Commission and those who love Jesus and will boldly proclaim the Gospel. As we send them, we also have the responsibility to maintain connections and prayer teams for them and their families.

On mission! By grace!

Mark Penfold, DMin.
Chaplain (Colonel), U.S. Army, retired
Endorsing Agent

**CHARIS FELLOWSHIP
RETIREMENT INVESTMENT PLAN
PO BOX 634
WINONA LAKE, IN 46590
574-267-5163**

Retirement Planning Committee

As of **July 7, 2020**, the total combined asset value of the Fellowship Retirement Investment Plan was **\$20,865,545**. Currently, we have **378** participants in the plan.

Thirty-four investment options are available to plan participants along with the Roth program. Quarterly, individual reports are sent on a timely basis.

Account information is available on-line via a secure website at www.oneamerica.com. We have met with One America representatives to review our plan and discuss ways to improve our cooperative services.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Kenneth A. Seyfert, Chairman

Committee Members:

Mr. Tom Avey

Mr. Ryan Bowell

Rev. Bruce Barlow

Administrative Assistant:

Mrs. Sue Lehman

slehman@charisfellowship.us

Fellowship Council Nominee Biographical Data

Region A

Tim Sprinkle

District: Heartland

Church: Grace Church, Leesburg, Ind.



Tim Sprinkle has served as pastor of Leesburg Grace Church since 2007. He loves to preach, teach, instigate, and innovate. He earned a B.A. in Biblical studies from Grace College (2001), M.Div in pastoral ministries from Grace Seminary (2004), and is working on a D.Min. in discipleship from Talbot Seminary. He is married to Liz, his encouraging and lovely bride; they parent two daughters, Claire and Margot, and a son, Sensi. Tim is an associate member of the

Evangelical Theological Society, author of multiple Kerux Commentaries, and curriculum writer for Momentum Youth Conference. He loves God, others, running, and the OSU Buckeyes.

Region B

Wade Rininger

District: Northeastern Ohio

Church: Renew Church, Mississauga, Ontario



Wade has been a pastor in the Charis Fellowship for 15 years. In 2015, Wade and his wife, Anna, along with daughters, Emery and Elliot, moved from sunny St. Petersburg, Fla., to Canada to help Renew Church begin plans for its third campus. Wade now serves as the Mayfield West campus pastor and on the church's executive team at Renew, while Anna leads the campus children's program. Wade also serves as a coach for Assist Church Expansion. Since their arrival in Canada, the Rininger family has welcomed two more children, Elias and Eva.

Why only one name from Regions A and B?

Districts have the privilege of nominating names to the Fellowship Council. This year, only the Heartland district nominated for Region A and the Northeast Ohio district nominated for Region B. The Charis Fellowship nominating committee can add names but they felt that there was sufficient representation from other districts in regions A and B.

Region C

Devin Livingston

District: Chesapeake

Church: Community of Grace, Richmond, Va.



Devin Livingston came to Community of Grace in November 2016 from Calvert County, Md., where he served in a sister Charis Fellowship church. He completed his M.Div. from George W. Truett Seminary at Baylor University in 2008. His wife, Katherine, is a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner (WHNP) in the Richmond area and they are

blessed with two children Eli (3) and Mira (1) who fill their lives with incredible joy. They love the Richmond area and are excited to see the amazing things God can and will do!

Laban Reeves

District: Northern Atlantic

Church: New Generation Community Church, New York, N.Y.



Laban Reeves was a founding member of New Horizon Church in Harlem, New York, in 2006, where he was trained as a leader and gained first-hand experience with the challenges of starting a new church. He served as deacon and assistant pastor before becoming a licensed minister and subsequently

lead pastor in 2017. Under his leadership, the church is relaunching as New Generation Community Church. Laban's wife, Charity, is a community school director and supports the operations of New Generation. They both share a love for music and presenting the gospel to a new generation. They are blessed to have a blended family with four kids; Isaac (20), Azaria (15), Lemuel (9) and Caleb (4).

Highlights from the January 2020 Charis Fellowship Council Meeting Seal Beach, California

Overview: Meetings began Wednesday evening January 29 with dinner and a season of prayer. Thursday, January 30 was for reports from our National Ministries and from the various commissions of the council. Friday concluded those reports and the council acted on recommendations.

The Executive Director (Phil Sparling) expressed his appreciation for being asked to serve as Executive Director of the Charis Fellowship. Phil said, “My personal encouragement—Let’s Go, we are empowered! If we are serious about Biblical Mission, Biblical Relationship and Biblical Training, let us do it!”

Phil shared some initiatives which include: the Charissymposium, National Leadership Certification, and Conflict Resolution department

The council received a report on the Charis Alliance from Dave Guiles.

Each Executive Director of a national ministry that was present (or a representative) gave a short update on their ministry and met in small groups with council members to talk about opportunities and challenges.

MOTIONS PREVAILED

- to ask Jeremy Wike to put together a team to construct Mosaic-like 20 documents on the other two topics of the Identity Statement’s three points (training leaders and 21 doing good).
- to adopt the Structures Team Constitutional and Manual of Procedure additions and changes as noted, along with correcting any typos as needed. *
- to appoint Mark Abel to a three-year term as Social Concerns chairman, beginning immediately, with the ability to succeed himself.
- to approve and adopt the Church Planting Mosaic Document.
- that upon the receipt of a letter of recommendation from the Southern California District to remove the Long Beach church from the membership of the Charis Fellowship, that the Fellowship Council move forward with option three of the Long Beach motion approved by the delegates at Access 2019 in Auburn, California and that the Long Beach Grace Brethren Church be removed from the membership roster of the Charis Fellowship.
- to include the following in the Manual of Procedure: 22 ARTICLE VII, Section Six. Endorsing Agent for Chaplains. The Fellowship Council has 23 the responsibility to appoint, oversee and annually review the chaplain Endorsing Agent 24 on behalf of Charis Fellowship. *
- to allocate up to \$10,000 from general fund for these three 202021 initiatives (Charissymposium, National Leadership Certification, and Conflict Resolution 22 taskforce).

* note: these changes will be presented to the delegates for consideration at the 2021 Business meeting

Church Planting Mosaic

The Charis Fellowship is an interdependent family of churches within the U.S.A. and Canada, who are committed to biblical truth, biblical relationships and biblical mission. Regarding the mission we have been called to, we believe every local church exists for the glory of God and has been called to make, disciple-making, disciples (Matthew 28:19-20). Furthermore, we value and prioritize church planting as a significant means through which disciples are made. Therefore, on the foundational promise that Jesus will build his church (Matthew 16:18) “We affirm that God’s plan for this age is most fully expressed through establishing healthy churches.”¹

In order to best value, celebrate, and prioritize church planting, while providing sustainable forms of accountability and encouragement, the Fellowship Council recognizes a local church as, **“a group of Christ followers in a specific location, committed to the Gospel as its one message, under the oversight of biblical leadership, practicing the ordinances, and on mission to the world by discipling and sending its people.”**² Church planting happens in a variety of forms, and can be accomplished through a variety of strategies that are based on the context, call, resources, and leadership of those planting.³

The goal of this document is to highlight that across our Fellowship, a mosaic of church planting forms, strategies, and contexts exists.⁴ There is exciting variety throughout our Fellowship as churches, church planters, missionaries, businessmen, lay leaders, and a whole host of others seek to glorify God by making disciples and planting churches. The Fellowship Council is committed to celebrating all of the many varied pieces and people that are hard at work planting churches; doing so in a way that magnifies the greater picture that together we are collectively creating. Furthermore, we passionately call all churches within our Fellowship to prayerfully consider pursuing church planting in one of the many forms and strategies outlined below.

The audience of this document is three-fold: 1) new churches considering joining the Charis Fellowship, 2) existing churches within the Charis Fellowship, and 3) existing church planting ministries within the Charis Fellowship.

Church Planting Forms:

There are many different forms of church planting, regardless of strategy or context. Example forms include...

TRADITIONAL church planting places an emphasis on making disciples through:

- establishing an effective community that reaches people for Jesus,
- establishing multiple biblical leaders/elders,
- supporting a pastor or pastors,
- and eventually supporting ministries outside their community with people, prayer and finances.
- They may also be known as “Conventional” or “Legacy” Churches.

¹ <https://charisfellowship.us/ccf> (A Summary of our Commitments to Biblical Mission, point #3)

² <https://charisfellowship.us/membership/applications/about>

³ Commitment to Common Identity. <http://www.charisfellowship.us/ccf>

⁴ This document does not say everything that *could* be said, nor, everything that *should* be said. Forms, contexts, and strategies not listed, that fit within the definition of “local church” recognized by the Fellowship Council, are not meant to be excluded.

The long term goal is that these churches become self-supporting, healthy, reproducing, and resourcing churches.

MULTI-SITE church plants are organized and governed by an existing church with an emphasis on making disciples through:

- reproducing the healthy “DNA” of that existing church,
- sharing common support systems for creativity, efficient leadership, and management oversight,
- and financial investment (of varying degree).

The long term goal is that these campuses become either 1) separate, healthy, reproducing, resourcing churches, 2) venue(s) that offer a different culture from the main campus, or 3) a semi-independent church working in a symbiotic relationship with the main campus.

SIMPLE church planting places an emphasis on making disciples through:

- the direction/oversight of biblical leadership with an apostolic influence,
- using methods that are simple and reproducible,
- starting small with simple forms that grow and multiply,
- developing long-term leadership from new believers (the “soil”),
- and working where more traditional church planting doesn’t.
- These churches tend to start small (perhaps just a shepherd and gatherer), tend to be simple in form, and focused on developing long-term leadership from new believers (the “soil”).
- They may also be called “Organic”, “House”, “Embryonic”, or “Micro”

The long term goal is that these churches become self-supporting, healthy, and easily reproducing churches.

Church Planting Strategies:

Church planting is accomplished through a variety of different strategies. Example strategies include...

PIONEERING is an effort to start a new church where there was not a church before. This can be pursued by a single missionary or with/through a team that is sent out of an existing local church. At times, in our history, this has been called “daughtering” or “birthing” a new church.

ADOPTION is an effort to rescue a church from decline and death. A healthy church adopts a declining church to help it realize a new vision and effectiveness. The adopted church may become a campus/branch of the healthy church.

REPLANTING is an effort to rebirth an existing church (typically traditional in form) that needs revitalization. This is accomplished through a new pastor being called to lead the church in a new direction or a healthy church, or district, assisting and encouraging a church in decline.

CELEBRATIVE COMPLETION is the intentional celebration of the ministry of a church, recognizing the completion of that church's life-cycle and transferring its resources back into the Fellowship for new churches to be started.

Church Planting Contexts:

Regardless of form or strategy all church planting efforts happen within a particular context. We celebrate and encourage church planting to take place within any and all unique contexts as God directs. Example contexts include...

- **FOCUS PEOPLE PLANTING**--These churches are generally organized around shared linguistic or cultural backgrounds and reach out to individuals and groups who share similar backgrounds.
- **MULTI-ETHNIC**--These churches are characterized by an intentional effort to reach out to, and be representative of, ethnically and racially diverse groups of people.
- **URBAN**
- **SUBURBAN**
- **RURAL**
- **MARKETPLACE**
- **UNIVERSITIES**

The Call to Church Planting:

We affirm that the church is God's plan for this age, and commit to mobilize our members and resources to plant new churches because:⁵

- the Spirit of Jesus poured out upon the Church is the Spirit of Mission to the nations (Acts 2:1-42; 13:1-4),
- the Church is a fruitful community in which disciples are made (Acts 2:42-47; Eph. 4:11-16),
- the Church calls the lost to be reconciled to Christ through its evangelistic efforts (2 Cor. 5:16-21),
- the Church displays the multifaceted wisdom of God (Eph. 3:10-11),
- and through the Church, God is glorified in Christ Jesus (Eph. 1:21)

The body of Christ is much bigger than just the Charis Fellowship! The Charis Fellowship - indeed the global Charis Alliance - is part of the universal church that has been given the mission of making, disciple-making, disciples. In obedience to that mission, and as stewards of this Charis Fellowship, the Fellowship Council calls upon every church to engage in the process of reproduction, which can be done in a variety of ways, such as:

- Intentional evangelism that leads to new disciples and new churches.
- Starting a new church (Simple, Traditional, Multi-site)
- Raising up and sending out church planters.
- Partnering with another church to start a new church.
- Leaving an inheritance for new churches.
- Teaming up with regional and national leaders focused on church planting.

⁵ Commitment to Common Mission. <http://charisfellowship.us/page/ccm-en>

Measurable Fellowship Council Goals for 2025:

1. Welcoming new churches into The Charis Fellowship who have a passion, desire, and plan to reproduce themselves.
2. Encouraging every church within The Charis Fellowship to prayerfully consider how they will engage in church planting.
3. Celebrating the mosaic of church strategies and forms that are planted within a variety of contexts.
4. Celebrating Church Completion and the reinvestment of assets into new church plants.

Revised April 24, 2019

Edited May 9, 2019

Manual of Procedure

Recommended changes and additions are red

Charis Fellowship is registered as an Assumed Business Name of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, Inc. in the state of Indiana.

The Charis Fellowship is comprised of autonomous yet interdependent local churches. Together these churches celebrate, collaborate, catalyze, and commemorate a Gospel movement that values biblical truth, biblical relationships, and biblical mission.

ARTICLE I MEMBERSHIP

Section One. Procedure.

1. Application for membership shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary of the Fellowship Council accompanied by evidence of compliance with the conditions set forth in Section One, Article IV of the Constitution. Applications must be received before the first day of January preceding the annual meeting of the corporation. The Fellowship Council may extend this deadline up to two months before the annual meeting if there is a written request for the extension from a national ministry, a cooperating ministry, a cooperating district, or a sponsoring church that is already a member of the **Charis Fellowship**.
2. The Fellowship Council will publish the names and locations of churches who are applying for membership at least one month in advance of the next annual meeting of the corporation.
3. A check for membership fees shall accompany the application.
4. The Fellowship Council shall recommend the appropriate action to be taken regarding the application at the next annual meeting of the corporation.
5. Upon recommendation of the Fellowship Council, a congregation may be received by majority affirmative vote of the delegates present, entitled to vote, and voting at the annual meeting of the corporation.

Section Two. Termination of Membership. Should a member church fail to adhere to the requirements of Article IV, Section One of the Constitution at any time or fail to submit statistical reports or pay membership fees for a period of three successive years, it shall be subject to dismissal from the Fellowship in the following manner:

1. Upon report of such failure, the Fellowship Council shall investigate the report and determine the validity of the charge. It shall be the intent of the Council to offer assistance to the offending church to enable it to comply with its membership obligations.
2. Upon satisfactory resolution of the problem, a report of the church's compliance shall be entered into the records of the Fellowship Council and may be announced to the Corporation at the discretion of the Council.
3. If no satisfactory resolution of the problem is agreed upon, the finding of the Fellowship Council shall be reported to the next annual meeting of the Corporation.
4. Upon the recommendation of the Fellowship Council the offending church shall be dismissed from the Fellowship by majority affirmative vote of the delegates present, entitled to vote, and voting at the annual meeting of the corporation.

Section Three: Procedure for the Re-Instatement of Dismissed Churches. Should a church that was previously dismissed from the **Charis Fellowship** desire to become a member again, the following procedures should be followed:

1. The Church seeking re-instatement should comply with all of the procedures for membership as outlined in Section 1 of this Article.
2. The only additional requirement of a church to be re-instated is that along with the application for membership there must be a written statement signed by at least three local church leaders/members that:
 - a. Describe the resolution to any past issues that led to the dismissal.
 - b. Explain the church's reasons to become faithful members again with the **Charis Fellowship**.

ARTICLE II MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

Section One. Place of Meeting. The Fellowship Council may designate any place within or without the State of Indiana as the place of the annual meeting or any special meeting.

Section Two. Notice of Meetings. Written or printed notice stating the time and place of the meeting shall be given by the Secretary of the Fellowship Council to each member church at least thirty days prior to the meeting. The notice of any special meeting shall state the purpose of the meeting.

Section Three. Delegates. In order to seat delegates, each church must meet the following requirements.

1. The appropriate credential form must be filed with the Fellowship Coordinator by the date specified.
2. The assigned membership fees, assessed by the previous annual meeting of members, shall be received by the Fellowship Coordinator by the date specified.
3. The annual statistical report shall be submitted and received by the date specified.
4. Delegates whose churches fail to meet these requirements shall be seated only upon a two thirds majority affirmative vote of the delegates present, entitled to vote, and voting at any meeting based upon extenuating circumstances deemed worthy of exception.
5. Member churches are expected to pay membership fees whether or not they send delegates to any meeting of the corporation, and the treasurer is directed to notify delinquent members of this responsibility.
6. Each member church shall be entitled to at least two delegates. Additional delegates are based on the average attendance at the largest regular gathering of the member church according to the following schedule:

Average Attendance Number of Delegates

0-50	2
51-100	3
101-200	5
201-300	10
301-500	20
501-1000	25
1001-2000	30
2001+	35

Section Four. Transaction of Business. The agenda for the opening session of the conference shall include the report of the Membership Committee, presentation of new churches for membership, approval of an agenda for the business sessions, and the election of officers for the next conference year. Additional reports of the Membership Committee shall be made only at the beginning of each session's business. The agenda of any special meeting shall be an early order of business at the first session.

Any member of a member church, not a delegate, shall have all privileges of a delegate, except that he shall not be allowed to make a motion or to vote upon any question. Persons desiring to speak in the conference must first address the moderator and be recognized. No person shall speak upon the same question more than twice until others have had ample opportunity to speak. Debate shall be limited to ten minutes per speech. Standard rules of order, such as Robert's, shall be followed in all points not specifically provided for herein.

Section Five. Dissent. In the event that divisive issues threaten to disrupt business sessions and subvert the purposes of the Conference, the moderator shall:

1. Stop all further debate on the issue for that business session.
2. Call for a meeting of the Fellowship Council to be held before the next business session to formulate a recommendation on further procedures concerning this issue.
3. Present this recommendation as the first item of business at the next business session.
4. Call for an immediate vote on the recommendation of the Fellowship Council without further debate. Should a recommendation to stop debate fail to pass, debate shall resume.

**ARTICLE III
FELLOWSHIP COUNCIL (BOARD OF DIRECTORS)**

Section One. Responsibilities. Specific duties of the Council include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. It shall be the duty of the Council to make full and complete arrangements for the conference (and any special meetings), including the preparation of the proposed agenda. The Council shall consult recognized National Ministries in its conference planning and may invite representatives of National and Cooperating Ministries to its planning sessions. (Expenses for these representatives shall be borne by their respective ministries.)
2. The Council shall select the time and place for the conference and shall report its plans to the conference at least two years in advance.

3. The Council shall receive and evaluate applications from churches seeking membership in the corporation, recommending the appropriate action to be taken by the conference.
4. The Council shall investigate reports concerning a member church's failure to adhere to the requirements for membership in the corporation, determine the validity of the charges, and recommend the appropriate action to be taken, if any, by the conference.
5. The Council shall convene any special meetings of the Fellowship for emergency purposes.
6. The Council shall receive and evaluate applications for recognition from prospective districts of churches and recommend the appropriate action, if any, to be taken by the conference.
7. The Council shall receive and evaluate the requests of groups desiring recognition as national or cooperating ministries of the corporation, recommending the appropriate action to be taken by the conference.
8. The Council shall serve as the finance committee for the Fellowship, reporting to the conference the financial condition of the corporation and proposing an annual budget for the conference's approval.
9. At each annual meeting of the corporation, the Council shall report on its own activity, its plans, and recommendations for progress in the Fellowship. It shall alert the conference to potential problems, areas of concern, opportunities for ministry, etc., and shall recommend appropriate action with regard to these matters. Such suggestions may be conveyed to the conference, in consultation with the Executive Director, through his annual address.
10. The Council shall name the endorsing agents of the Fellowship for the military chaplaincy.
11. The Council may serve in an advisory capacity to its member churches, recognized districts, national and cooperating ministries, and other bodies who seek its counsel with no authority other than to offer counsel to these bodies.
12. Each elected member of the Council shall be responsible to communicate with one or more districts in his region as determined by the Council.
13. The Council shall be responsible for the soliciting and the receiving of statistical reports. It shall report significant statistical information at the annual meeting of the corporation.
14. When the moderator stops debate on a divisive issue at a business session of the conference, the Council shall meet to make a recommendation to the next business session. It shall include in this recommendation: 1) whether or not to invoke a moratorium and, 2) if a moratorium is recommended, it shall also recommend procedures for conflict resolution.
15. The Fellowship Council and Nominating Committee shall make reasonable effort to include qualified laity in leadership positions in the Fellowship.
16. The Fellowship Council shall present a name for Executive Director to the conference one year prior to the expiration of the current term for affirmation by the delegates. That Executive Director shall select an Assistant Director, that is approved by the Fellowship Council to be affirmed by the delegates on a single question ballot for a one, two or three year term.
17. Contracts shall be established for employees of the Fellowship Council. Each employee shall be subject to periodic review.
18. The Fellowship Council may consult National and Cooperating ministries in the development and implementation of strategic plans as appropriate to the mission of the **Charis Fellowship**.

Section Two. Meetings. The Council will hold an annual meeting just prior to the conference at the place designated for the annual meeting of the corporation. A mid-year meeting of the Council will be held approximately six months after each annual meeting of the corporation at a time and place specified by the Council. The mid-year meeting shall not be held if there is insufficient business to merit the expense and time. Other special meetings of the Council may be called by the chairman in consultation with the other Council members.

Section Three. Board Decisions. All actions of the Council must be sustained by a majority vote of the Council membership (nine or more affirmative votes).

Section Four. Notice. Notice of any meeting of the Fellowship Council must be given to each member of the Council at least thirty days prior to the meeting. The notice of any special meeting shall state the purpose of the meeting.

Section Five. Removal. Any member of the Fellowship Council who ceases to fulfill the Biblical guidelines for leadership as set forth in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 shall be removed from office by majority vote of the remaining Council members. This action shall be ratified by the corporation at its next annual meeting. If a member leaves the region he represents, his position on the Fellowship Council is vacated.

Section Six. Vacancies. In case a vacancy occurs on the Council, the remaining members of the Council shall fill this vacancy by appointing a qualified representative from the region represented by the member being replaced. If the unexpired portion of the term remaining extends beyond the next annual meeting of the corporation, the Council's appointment shall be ratified at that meeting.

ARTICLE IV OFFICERS

Section One. Responsibilities and Duties. The officers shall have the powers and discharge the duties customarily and usually held and performed by like officers in similar corporations, including, but not limited to, the following:

1. Executive Director.
 - a. He is the chief executive officer of the corporation during the years for which he is elected
 - b. He is a member, ex-officio, of the Fellowship Council and shall serve as chairman of the Council for the years of his term as Executive Director.
 - c. He will serve as moderator, presiding over any and all business meetings of the conference, or he may select another person to serve as moderator. Should he choose another to serve as moderator, the Executive Director shall retain all rights, responsibilities, and authorities described in the Constitution and the Manual of Procedure. Anyone acting as moderator, if he is personally involved in a matter, shall defer to the Executive Director or Assistant Director.
 - d. Represent the **Charis Fellowship** as its official spokesperson for all matters related to the official communication, public press releases, or other informational opportunities presented during his term.
 - e. Adequately prepare the newly elected Executive Director for the position through education and communication as deemed necessary to provide a smooth transition between administrations.
 - f. The Executive Director must agree to the Charis Commitment to Common Identity of the **Charis Fellowship**, be a member in good standing in one of the member churches in the **Charis Fellowship** and be committed to the welfare and health of the **Charis Fellowship**.
2. Assistant Director.
 - a. He is a member, ex-officio, of the Fellowship Council and shall serve as vice chairman of the Council for the years of his term as Assistant Director.
 - b. He shall fulfill the functions of the Executive Director in the latter's absence or illness or when called upon by the Executive Director to do so.
 - c. He shall assume the office of Executive Director in the event of his resignation, decease or inability to serve as the Executive Director upon notification by secretary of the Fellowship Council.
 - d. Represent the **Charis Fellowship** when delegated to do so by the Executive Director in areas deemed helpful by the Executive Director.
 - e. Adequately prepare the newly elected Assistant Director for the position through education and communication as deemed necessary to provide a smooth transition between administrations.
 - f. The Assistant Director must agree to the Charis Commitment to Common Identity of the **Charis Fellowship**, be a member in good standing in one of the member churches in the **Charis Fellowship** and be committed to the welfare and health of the **Charis Fellowship**.
3. Secretary.
 - a. He shall make and keep an accurate, written record of all Fellowship Council and conference business and make records available for annual publication in a form approved by the Fellowship Council.
 - b. He shall secure the service of an assistant secretary to facilitate the execution of his duties.
 - c. With the cooperation of the Minutes Review Committee he shall provide printed copies of the minutes of each conference business session for publication.
 - d. The Conference may choose to amend published minutes at the first business session succeeding publication.
4. Treasurer.
 - a. He shall receive and dispense all funds coming to the Fellowship and shall establish and maintain a bank account in which said funds are to be kept.
 - b. He shall report to the Council as requested and annually at the annual meeting of the corporation delineating the financial status of the corporation.
 - c. He shall invest available funds in such a way as to provide additional income to the Fellowship.

Section Two. Fellowship Coordinator and Administrative Staff.

1. The Council shall employ a Fellowship Coordinator and Administrative Staff as needed. Their remuneration shall be included in the budget proposed to the annual meeting. The Fellowship Council shall establish necessary guidelines.
2. They shall be directly responsible to the Executive Director and the Fellowship Council and ultimately to the corporation.
3. They may sit with the Fellowship Council by invitation but shall not have a vote in its proceedings.

Section Three. Removal. Any officer who ceases to fulfill the Biblical guidelines for leadership as set forth in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 shall be removed from office by majority vote of the Council. This action shall be ratified by the corporation at its next annual meeting.

Section Four. Vacancies. Other than the office of Executive Director, a vacancy may be filled by the Fellowship Council for the unexpired portion of the term. In the case of a vacancy in the office of Executive Director, the Assistant Director will immediately succeed to the office and responsibility of Executive Director upon notification by the secretary.

ARTICLE V COMMITTEES

Section One. Membership Committee.

1. 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.
2. The chairman shall be named annually by the Fellowship Council.
3. It shall be the duty of the Committee to provide appropriate credential forms to member churches and a place at which these forms and membership fees shall be received.
4. This Committee shall have no authority to withhold any delegate with properly executed credentials from the conference.
5. In the event of disputed delegations from member churches, the membership committee shall refer the question to the Fellowship Council which, in turn, shall make recommendation of the appropriate action to be taken by the conference.

Section Two. Nominating Committee.

1. The Nominating Committee shall present nominees to the conference for the annual election of the Fellowship Council.
2. Nominees shall be triune immersed members in good standing of congregations that are members of the **Charis Fellowship** and shall give their consent to nomination and shall agree to serve, if elected.
3. The geographical regions which nominees are to represent on the Fellowship Council shall include the following recognized districts:
 - a. Region A: Arctic, Hawaii, Mountain Plains, Nor Cal, Pacific-Northwest, Southern California Arizona, Iowa Midlands, and Heartland
 - b. Region B: Northcentral Ohio, Northeastern Ohio, Northwest Ohio, Tri-States, Allegheny and Western Pennsylvania
 - c. Region C: Blue Ridge, Chesapeake, Mid Atlantic, Northern Atlantic, Florida, and Southern.
4. Each cooperating district may annually submit to the Nominating Committee the name of one member of a church within its district as nominees for the Fellowship Council. These names shall be placed on the ballot. If a district fails to submit a name in timely fashion, the committee may add a nominee of its own choosing from that particular district.
5. This committee shall submit nominations to the Fellowship Coordinator to be included on a printed ballot. The ballot is to be so arranged that only one nominee from each region shall be elected to the Fellowship Council.

Section Three. Parliamentary Committee. The duties of this committee are stated in the **Charis Fellowship** Constitution, ARTICLE VIII, Section Three.

Section Four. Minutes Review Committee. A Minutes Review committee shall be appointed annually by the Fellowship Council to review and approve the minutes of the Conference before they are published.

Section Five. Social Concerns Committee. A Social Concerns Committee shall be appointed by the Fellowship Council. Members shall serve indefinite terms. The chairman shall be named by the Fellowship Council. It shall be the duty of the Committee to recommend annual resolutions to the conference for approval by the delegates according to the following guidelines:

1. Resolutions should address societal issues from the standpoint of biblical values.
2. Resolutions are prepared and submitted by the Social Concerns Committee. Resolutions can be proposed to the Social Concerns Committee subject to policies on their focus, style and deadline.
3. Resolutions shall be submitted to Fellowship Council for affirmation at least one month before National Conference.
4. Resolutions affirmed by Fellowship Council should be made available to delegates at least a day before the opening of Conference business.
5. Resolutions are open to discussion but not alteration (except by the chair, for purposes of clarity or corrections of grammar or fact).
6. Resolutions are voted either up or down. "Division of the Question" is permitted.

7. Resolutions are to be communicated to the local churches.

Section Six. Committee Expenses. Expenses of any committee shall be defrayed by the corporation upon receipt of proper reports to the treasurer.

ARTICLE VI

Ministry Associations

Section One. National Ministries.

1. Requirements. Although the national ministries of the Charis Fellowship remain distinct, autonomous legal entities, such ministries seeking recognition by the corporation and desiring to serve the Fellowship as a national ministry shall meet the following requirements:
 - a. The ministry and its governing body shall agree to cooperate harmoniously under the Charis Commitment to Common Identity set forth in Section Two of Article III of this Constitution.
 - b. The ministry must be sponsored and controlled by members of Charis Fellowship churches. The ministry shall not be a subsidiary of only one local church; it shall have representation on its governing board from each of the geographical regions of the Fellowship as identified in Article V, Section Two, Point #3 of the Manual of Procedure.
 - c. The ministry must have a scope of ministry broader than the immediate local church ministries and exist to serve other Charis Fellowship churches.
 - d. The ministry must meet a recognized need related to the fulfilling of the Great Commission.
 - e. The ministry must be able to demonstrate a tradition of national influence that has consistently advanced the mission of the Charis Fellowship.
2. Procedure. National Ministries meeting the requirements of Section One of this Article may be recognized by the Fellowship, upon recommendation of the Fellowship Council, by two thirds affirmative majority vote of the delegates present, entitled to vote, and voting.
3. Recognized National Ministries. Ministries recognized as national ministries of the Charis Fellowship are not creations of the Fellowship, nor are they an integral part of its organization. While the Charis Fellowship requests an annual report as a courtesy, it does not in any way control any of the recognized national ministries.
4. Review. The Fellowship Council has the responsibility to review national ministries regarding the above qualifications. Recommendations for removal of a National Ministry's recognition shall be approved by the delegates by a majority affirmative vote.

Section Two: Cooperating Ministries.

1. Requirements. Although cooperating ministries of the Charis Fellowship remain distinct, autonomous legal entities, such ministries seeking recognition by the corporation and desiring to serve the Fellowship as a cooperating ministry shall meet the following requirements:
 - a. The ministry and its governing body shall agree to cooperate harmoniously under the Charis Commitment to Common Identity set forth in Section Two of Article III of this Constitution.
 - b. The ministry must be sponsored by at least four Charis Fellowship churches or controlled by members of Charis Fellowship churches.
 - c. The ministry must have a scope of ministry broader than the immediate local church ministries.
 - d. The ministry must meet a recognized need related to the Commitment to Common Mission of the Charis Fellowship.*
2. Procedure. Ministries meeting the above requirements may be recognized by the Fellowship, upon recommendation of the Fellowship Council, by an affirmative majority vote of the delegates present, entitled to vote, and voting.
3. Recognized Cooperating Ministries. Ministries recognized as cooperating ministries of the Charis Fellowship are not creations of the Fellowship, nor are they an integral part of its organization. While the Charis Fellowship requests an annual report as a courtesy, it does not in any way control any of the recognized cooperating ministries.
4. Review. The Cooperating Ministry has the responsibility to demonstrate that it desires and qualifies for Cooperating Ministry status at least every five years. The Fellowship Council has the responsibility to review cooperating ministries regarding the above qualifications. Recommendations for removal of a Cooperating Ministry's recognition shall be approved by the delegates by a majority affirmative vote.

Section Three: Cooperating Districts.

Requirements. Although cooperating districts of the Charis Fellowship remain distinct, autonomous legal entities, in order to be granted and to maintain the status of a Charis Fellowship cooperating district, the following requirements must be met.

1. A district may be formed with a minimum of three churches.
2. The district may be organized for fellowship and cooperative ministry with area churches and the Charis Fellowship.
3. The district and district officers shall subscribe to the Charis Commitment to Common Identity.
4. The district shall have made application with Charis Fellowship for recognition as a cooperating district.

ARTICLE VII MISCELLANEOUS

Section One. Continuing Resolutions. Continuing resolutions may be submitted at the annual meeting of the corporation by the Fellowship Council or from the floor. The resolution must be in writing. If the resolution is submitted from the floor, a written presentation must be given to the secretary during the same business session at which the resolution is presented.

Section Two. Conference Year. The conference year shall begin with the conclusion of the conference and continue to the conclusion of the succeeding conference.

Section Three. Fiscal Year. The fiscal year of the corporation shall be November 1 through October 31.

Section Four. 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.

Section Five. Ordination of Pastors. Each local church has the authority and responsibility to hire and ordain its pastors for ministry. Charis Fellowship churches are encouraged to ask a Charis Fellowship cooperating district to provide assistance in this ordination process so that these leaders can benefit from an ordination that is recognized among the Charis Fellowship churches. Inspire Charis Pastors Network, a National Ministry of the Charis Fellowship, develops and guides the ordination process used by the districts and maintains a list of recognized pastors who have been both ordained by a local church and endorsed by a Charis Fellowship cooperating district.

Section Six. Endorsing Agent for Chaplains. The Fellowship Council has the responsibility to appoint, oversee and annually review the chaplain Endorsing Agent on behalf of Charis Fellowship.

ARTICLE VIII AMENDMENTS TO MANUAL OF PROCEDURE

This Manual of Procedure may be amended by a majority affirmative vote of the delegates present, entitled to vote, and voting at any business session.