

Application for Ministries seeking Cooperation Ministry Recognition by the FGBC Inc.

Please review the Constitution and Manual of Procedure for the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches. Note carefully ARTICLE II, ARTICLE III and ARTICLE X of the Constitution and ARTICLE IIII of the Manual of Procedure, which deal with the cooperation ministry requirements.

How does your ministry seek to serve the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches?

GCBI seeks to offer one form of discipleship for those who desire to study all 1189 chapters of the Bible in a systematic, one year study. After ten years of operation, more than 100 students entered the next phase of their lives with an in-depth (as much as one year can allow) examination of the Bible in a “life learning laboratory” of the local church ministry. In addition, several FGBC churches are now lead by former students and teachers (Melbourne, FL, Ormond Beach, FL, Ocala FL). Students are involved in a variety of projects to aid the district churches as requested.

How did your ministry take official action to subscribe to the Covenant and Statement of Faith as found in Article III of the Constitution of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, Inc.?

GCBI was founded under the spiritual oversight of the Council of Elders of the Sebring Grace Brethren Church - and, as such, is in full compliance with Grace Brethren Church teaching and polity. Our FL District has offered council for various issues, but has no direct oversight.

List the present responsible officers of the ministry with titles:

Council of Elders: Hank Bult, Rod Spencer, Dr. Wendell Anderson, Pastor Matthew Wheelock, Pastor Todd McQueen, Ed Fitch, Kirk Eshelman, Dr. Randall Smith.

Director: Dr. Randall Smith

Mentoring Couple: David and Kirsten Nickish

Resident Assistants: Ashley Campbell and Peter Pieringer

Explain how the ministry is sponsored and controlled by members of FGBC churches?

The fiscal operation is overseen by Global Vision Outreach, Inc. The complete spiritual oversight is led by the Council of Elders of Sebring Grace.

Is the ministry a subsidiary of only one local church? (Y/N)

In terms of decision making, that would be a “yes”, but in terms of ministry “no”. Many FGBC churches have sent students, and we send them back prepared (Lord willing) for ministry in their local work.

How does the ministry must have a scope of ministry broader than the immediate local church ministries and exist to serve other Grace Brethren Churches?

Our mission is to train students to know, teach and follow God’s Word. We function best when a church sends a student they want trained with specific gifts and abilities in mind. Our work has trained five Urban Hope students, two of whom opened another Bible Institute in Philadelphia in that ministry. We have students opening new campuses in Central America at this time, and many students serving in Grace Brethren churches. We also have offered assistance to Missionary training efforts, etc.

How does this ministry meet a recognized need related to the fulfilling of the Great Commission?

We know of no program that carefully and systematically walks a student through the careful application of principles from all 1189 chapters of the Bible - so we would have to include “Biblical World View” as a major need being met.

To the best of your knowledge, does your ministry or any leadership of your ministry have unresolved problems with another Grace Brethren church, leader, district or cooperating ministry? If so, who can we contact for clarification?

No.

In seeking to be a cooperating ministry of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, does the ministry recognize the obligation of mutual encouragement and cooperation with Grace Brethren churches, districts, national ministries and/or other cooperating ministries?

Absolutely, it is at the core of our purpose.

If accepted by the procedures outlined in ARTICLE X, Section 2 of the Manual of Procedure and the ministry becomes recognized as cooperating ministry of the Fellowship of Grace Brethren Churches, Inc., does the ministry understand that :

It is not a creation of the FGBC ? (Y/N)

It is not an integral part of the FGBC? (Y/N)

It is not in any way controlled by the FGBC or Fellowship Conference? (Y/N)

The Fellowship Conference asks for an annual report only as a courtesy? (Y/N)

Please attach a brief history and description of the ministry to this application.

Great Commission Bible Institute was officially begun in 2004 as a means of drawing students to a residential (dormitory) based program in Sebring Florida for the systematic study of God's complete Word, and training in practical ministry in the laboratory of a local church and Christian community. We have graduated students each year that were obtained from churches in ten states and two foreign countries (to date), and each is given a Diploma of completion. We have cooperating agreements with a number of Christian Colleges that have accepted our students without any formal ties.

General Instructions: Fill out this application form and send it with to the FELLOWSHIP OF GRACE BRETHREN CHURCHES, P. O. Box 384, WINONA LAKE, IN 46590. The deadline for application is January 1st in order to be considered in the following annual conference.

Official Name of Ministry Great Commission Bible Institute (GCBI)

Mailing Address: 3333 Golfview Rd, (Physical location of Dorms at 109 West Center Ave. Sebring, FL 33871)

City State Zip: Sebring, FL 33875-5005

Phone 863-382-9603

Email dr.randall.smith@gmail.com

Website gcbi.net_

Person filling out this application: Randall Smith

Contact Person: Randall Smith, David Nickish