

Fellowship Council—Long Beach, CA January 24, 2013

PRESENT: Bob Fetterhoff (Exec Dir 2010-2013), Bart Sawatzky (Exec Dir 2013-2016), Doug Courter ('13-East), Dan Jackson ('14-East), David Kennedy ('15-East), Dan Thornton ('16-East), Randy Weekly ('17-East), Nathan Bryant ('13-Central), Bruce Barlow ('14-Central), Clancy Cruise ('15-Central), Jason Carmean ('16-Central), Greg Serafino ('17-Central), Roy Halberg ('14-West), Michael Saldivar ('15-West), Richard Todd ('16-West), Tom Avey (Fellowship Coordinator), and Greg Howell (Recording Secretary) Matt Householder was absent because of illness.

GUESTS: Ed Lewis (CE National), Dr. Bill Katip (Grace College and Seminary), Ken Seyfert (Grace Brethren Investment Foundation), Col. John Schumacher (Eagle Commission), Michel Faulkner (GO2 Ministries), Janet Minnix (Women of Grace, USA), Dave Guiles (Encompass World Partners), Joel Richards (Association of Grace Brethren Ministers), Liz Gates (Brethren Missionary Herald), Jeff Carroll (Grace Village).

Devotions: FGBC Executive Director Bob Fetterhoff asked the outgoing representatives to share devotions. Doug Courter began by explaining his first thought when planning for this presentation was: “How can I impress these guys?” Then he was reminded of 1 Corinthians 2:1-4, Luke 3:16, and John 3:30 about John the Baptist announcing and paving the way for Christ. Doug described his need to be a mirror, not a sponge. He asked himself; “How can I be a reflection of the Holy Spirit, not even try to “suck-up” a little bit?” Then he expressed that his change in motive makes him able to pick a sermon or music based on God’s direction rather than personal pride.

Bob then asked the group to share how they have seen the glory of God in a fresh way.

After Introductions around the room Bob Fetterhoff shared his 5 major areas of responsibility as Moderator/Executive Director of the FGBC:

- 1) Plan conference, with much thanks to Dave Guiles and Ed Lewis for details they are already working on. And thanks to the NAT/ORGs for agreeing to limited presentation time at Atlanta
- 2) Focus retreats. He has attended at each and very grateful for the network
- 3) EVLC (Enduring Vision Leadership Community—Tom Hocking’s name). It has been able to meet over the past 2 years, and many of those times with George Bullard. Bob expressed thanks for them and their continued work
- 4) Jeff Bogue—GoNet: Leading leadership
- 5) Talking with Tom Avey (never quits—email nearly every day) about one of these areas or something else.

Q & A time

Q: Has the multi-year Moderatorship been good? Yes, but its better the way Bartley is doing, able to ramp up with a year in the wings. I feel like I jumped in in the middle. But there is great value in a multi-year term. It gives consistency of message, methods, and strengthens relationships.

Q: What didn’t you expect or we don’t see? We will come back to that. It’s like asking a pastor what he does all week.

A MOTION PREVAILED to approve the July Fellowship Council minutes with the minor changes noted

National Ministry Reports (10 minute report, 5 minute Q&A)

CE National (Ed Lewis)

Ed explained that during the past couple years CE has put the focus on helping pastors and leaders in churches, not to supply curriculum. They are now trying to be a catalyst to help people live on mission, which will transform churches. Key guiding verse is 2 Co 5:15—not live for selves but for Him who died for us. How is CE tackling this? 1) impact the rising generation (TIME teams again, Youth ministry program at Grace College—taught to live on mission), 2) reaching neglected people (Urban Hope 14 yrs—moving into the city—

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for sample so other churches can take it home), 3) equip workers to be ministry leaders—Ed Short, from SonLife Ministries—meeting with 30 pastors, help churches get ideas and resources, cf Super Weds, North of 55 events, Weekender (part of Youth Conf for parents—so they can catch the idea of living on mission with teens), 2020 vision, CE's lending library. Ed said it has been a phenomenal time for him. City Life will be a new 2 wks ministry immersion into inner city experience (no performance, like Barnabas)—Jesus called for workers—not leaders, at Urban Hope we call them delegators. Q: How is “Tag You’re It” going—lots of materials, if child is old enough to accept the Lord old enough to lead some one.

Grace Schools (Bill Katip -report distributed at the meeting)

Happy 75th Birthday Grace! Bill shared a power-point paper copy divided in 25yr increments
Massive Online Open Courses (MOOCs) flipping (read online—at class interact), 12 crs hrs of applied learning seminary, college this yr. , BIF helping Grace get the Encompass building soon.

Q: how is the short-fall now? A: seeking the Lord for an exceptional gift income year, asking for 2m unrestricted

GBIF and Retirement Investment Plan (Ken Seyfert)

Reflected back on Bob Fetterhoff's presentation at 2012 Conference that ½ of Fellowship is large churches, how do we relate to that—embrace, because of God's blessing, reality is have some very sizable churches in our fellowship. Benefits of large ministry to fellowship—Akron, OH multi-campus outreach, not more than 5 years ago Fairlawn nearly closed—now averaging several thousand, Medina—ready to close 6 months ago now up to 300. Now closing deal for office space cutting rent from \$160,000 to mortgage of \$90,000. GBIF will probably surpass \$100m in assets this year. Larry Chamberlain will retire this summer. The board has named Ken to succeed him as Executive Director. There is a big question as to what to do with the excess reserves. Should we (GBIF) be looking to help outside the fellowship? GBIF oversees the Chaplaincy Endorsing Agent – COL Schumacher is willing to continue as Agent.

Eagle Commission (John Schumacher)

When he started there were 3 chaplains, now 19. COL Schumacher was awarded the Centurion of the Year award at the National Association of Evangelicals Chaplain's Commission (NAECC) annual meeting. The award is an authentic miniature of the helmet that Centurion military leaders in the Roman Empire wore as part of their uniform —a few Chaplains have received, but he was quite surprised and honored.

Go2 (Michel Faulkner)

He began by stating that church planting is a youngman's game. Go2 is growing, expanding, 3 initiatives: 1) Circles of Grace 1700 nationally—most effective/pragmatic tool—prayer, 2) demographic networking, 3) church-planter identification tool. He shared about the large faith-based diabetes initiative for social justice – Navajo has largest % undetected, so their healthcare is expensive. (In comparison, HIV/AIDS is under control. But there is no drug regimen like that for diabetes). The faith community can have great impact on diabetes thru local church at low or no cost. GO2 has a new project: MAP help leaders understand and saturate their community. Set up like an MDiv cohort. The first one will be in Chicago in April and then in Harlem. Michel came into FGBC thru Go2 and he thinks there are 100's or 1000's of pastors looking for fellowship. No one has cutting edge mentality like FGBC has. He believes God's hand is on us. He knows of 7-10 leaders in Harlem right now. His church is focusing on families and children. They use their food program as a hook to get them in the door. He reported that there is very little real hunger problems, contrary to what the media says. He has about 30 kids in their Friday night program.

Women of Grace USA (Janet Minnix)

WGUSA is concentrating on Leadership development. She just came from a summit with 7 leaders representing 7 states. She distributed the newest edition of Spectrum magazine and sent around a clipboard to sign-up for personal copy for FC wives

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Celebrating the 100th anniversary of SMM (Serving My Master) whose motto is: “it is easier to raise a girl than to repair a woman”. Transformational Summits in Alaska. These are pre-leadership summits for women who need encouragement to think about leadership, and to connect, interact, share what God is doing in their lives.

Brethren Missionary Herald (BMH) (Liz Gates)

Liz passed around a written report. She explained that the BMH Board asked her to redesign and prepare BMH for the next generation—moving from a communication society to a relationship society and came up with the three functions of BMH: communication, conversation, conservation. Communication will now take the form of Grace Connect—an online blog reporting on people, churches and events in the FGBC. BMH is also doing more with e-books—especially FGBC classics She directed attention to the BMH Communication report on pages 76-77 of the Fellowship Council binder. Comments: NB these were very hard changes—done very well

Encompass World Partners (Dave Guiles)

Dave distributed a magazine style report/timeline (noting it was his first real report)

He stressed that Encompass is anxious to help host conference Vision 2020 South in Buckhead near their new office. He updated the Fellowship Council on the C.A.R. situation--rebels signed peace accord/50 miles outside the capital city. But there is still lots of concern with increase in destructive activities.

AGBM (Joel Richards)

He distributed a printed report, emphasizing the value of the online handbook, and stressed need to get all members on line. Joel also mentioned that the Board is working on ways to honor pastors so it is not just as a memorial at the end of their life & ministry. He advertised Dr. Ken Bickel's ethics book published by BMH and announced that all AGBM members will get a free copy. Other ways that the AGBM is striving to care for members is to find some good pastor retreats and send a few couples each year. Dr. Mark Saunders, Pastoral Ministry Director is going to go to at least 3 Focus Retreats to develop relationships. He is also coordinating a dozen regional representatives in the caring and communicating with members.

Bob Fetterhoff summarized the reports: God has given a great trust to the FGBC thru all these ministries. We have a great history with 75th anniversary for Grace, 100th for SMM, Encompass over 100 years old. We have tremendous creativity, fluidity, and flexibility to adjust (Go2, BMH). We can be very grateful to God for what He has accomplished and blessed the FGBC with. Bob invited the national leaders to sit in on afternoon discussion of the Statement of Faith and our Identity.

Statement of Faith / Identity Project - Report from Dave Guiles

Bob Fetterhoff introduced the topic by explaining that the past reports are similar to the old poem about blind men describing an elephant, each one only able to grasp a part of the whole. Dave challenged us to think as globally as possible—zoom out as far as possible.

In missions we talk about commitments starting/planting self-governing, self-sustaining, self-propagating churches, self-theologizing

The FGBC has been non-creedal--now it will be exciting and a little scary to see what the global community does as they tackle the Statement of Faith. Charis 2015 wants to adopt a global expression of what it means to be Grace Brethren. Will the North American 4% have greater weight in the discussion? Much of this discussion applies to the next generation. We need to solve this soon (maybe sooner) before we lose relevancy with the emerging generation. Dave sees his role as setting the focus—getting the right people to the table. He stated that whatever comes out, we hope the global FGBC can agree and next generation also. Dave's also hopes that the Fellowship Council has his back! (He admits to being one who agrees with all of the Statement of Faith.)

So the Identity Project should...

- 1) Not be a revision of the Statement of Faith—but that it remains one of our historical documents. It became a creed, and carried more value than probably was intended. That is not going to work in our post-modern world, but let's make something new that goes all the way back to Christ, Bible and the apostles.
- 2) Have a very relational focus—past divisions/documents in church history had more to do with differences than relationships/shared values. We as fellowship are uniquely positioned. How do we relate to all of Christendom?
- 3) Be seen as a process, a golden opportunity to relate well with one another. We have not always played well together in the sand box. Maybe the Lord is giving us another shot. Can there be a generational dialog? Can umbrella be big enough for “us” all to get under? How well do we really “love one another”?
- 4) Focus on the next generation. The next generation always wins (ultimately they just have to wait it out.) But what if we could change with them?
- 5) Remind us that we aren't supposed to do this alone. We are part of a global community. (It maybe that we need to make them comfortable to sit at the table as not the parents, but the older siblings). Charis brought us to the table initially with the commitment to common mission, next natural step is to identify who “we” are.

Statement of Faith / Identity Project discussion.

Three spheres

- 1) Basic doctrinal statement (which all/most evangelicals can agree with) Identifying us as part of the 545 million evangelicals in the world today. To demonstrate where we fit in history & globally. This would be 8-12 doctrinal issues that each of us would be willing to take a bullet for. We may find that maybe we are not as unique as we think we are.
- 2) Historic—here's who we are as a global fellowship/denomination
Dave assumes this will generation the most heated debate. It will not just be historic, but what we want to project doctrinally into the future. Having the right dialog is most important. We will need to be willing to hold this section with a little more open hand than creedal as we have become. This is our tribe—who we are, if you want to be a part of our tribe, these are the things we expect you to share. This will take a whole lot of prayer and dialog.
- 3) Prophetically—social concerns (self-theologizing)—continuing resolutions (probably all ought to have a “self-destruct” mechanism, so future generations don't have to vote out something that is written in stone, but doesn't apply anymore). What are the burning issues of the day. Maybe we need to give a little more light & life to future presentations/discussions at Conf.

Looking now more at the broader brush strokes than the leaves (3rd tier)

Currently we are a bounded set—(either in or out/can sign or not)

We will probably need to be a more centered set with lots of arrows pointing to the center. Lots who can identify with the basics but not all agree exclusively only. The main thing that will surface will be our values. (ie hermeneutic)

A MOTION PREVAILED to ask Dave Guiles to lead the FGBC/USA in the discussion of developing a statement of common identity.

EVLC Report (Bob Fetterhoff)

The future of the FGBC rests in the hands of future generations. The main pillar of the Commitment to Common Mission is leadership training. We can't plant new churches without producing leaders also. A number of teams have had varying degrees of success. But we need to do more. Bob invited present committee members to briefly comment.

Clancy Cruise and Integrated ministries: This team needs new teammates because current team can't come to the table because they are out there doing it! Shift gears and acquire team members who can help collect and tell the stories.

Church planting: Tim Boal has been helping collect church planters for get-togethers. He has been targeting church planters under 35. These are very specific, focused groups.

Bob concluded his report by stating that it is hard to talk about the EVLC as a whole, but can relay specific activity from the three committees.

Commission reports and recommendations:

Structures (Dan Thornton, Chair) presented the following recommendations:

1. In order to remove unnecessary restrictions on delegates from open churches, we recommend the following:

A MOTION PREVAILED with one abstention to recommend the following Constitutional change to the delegates at 2013 Conference.

Amend the Constitution, Article IV, Section two, item 3: by removing the phrase "(Exception: delegates from churches which receive members without trine immersion may not vote on any matter involving the subject of water baptism in relation to church membership. This limitation does not apply to medical exceptions.)"

Discussion: under current constitution, this is a moot point, because the constitution already says baptism and membership are not connected. So there is no situation where it would apply. The purpose was to keep open churches from changing the trine-immersion requirement for FGBC membership, however the 1991-93 decision removed the FGBC's requirement for a connection between baptism and membership in any given local church. (local churches can still require trine immersion [or baptism in general] for membership but there is no FGBC requirement). So there will never be a vote on baptism affecting membership because the connection has been removed. So individual FGBC's can accept members on whatever basis they desire, but when they baptize, it must be by trine (triune) immersion.

2. In order to create a new category of "Partner Churches" who are associated and affiliated with the FGBC, we recommend the following:

Add a new section to the Manual of Procedure, Article VI as follows..

Section Three: Partner Churches

Requirements: Partner Churches in the FGBC are churches that are not members, yet are associated and affiliated with the FGBC and which fulfill the following requirements

1. Regarding Biblical Mission - the church is involved in mission endeavors jointly with FGBC churches and ministries

2. Regarding Biblical Relationships - the church is in active partnership with one or more FGBC churches.

3. Regarding Biblical Truth - the church is fully committed to the FGBC Covenant (Scripture as foundation and rule) and the church is committed to respect the FGBC Statement of Faith.

The Fellowship Council shall develop policies and procedures to ensure these requirements are met. Partner Churches are required to make an annual contribution to the FGBC office equal to the annual fee for member churches.

Discussion:

Q: Will churches just join to get a GBIF loan? Yes, would see membership fee as a loan fee, rate is better than many commercial lenders. GBIF not in a hurry, just want Fellowship Council to define for them. So Fellowship Council can take some time to formulate.

A MOTION FAILED to recommend this change for adoption by delegates at 2013 conference. NO VOTE

A MOTION PREVAILED to refer the idea of "Partner Churches" to the Structures Committee and instruct them to converse with GBIF concerning practical aspects and report to the Fellowship Council at January 2014 meeting.

3. In order to better know, encourage, and assist works that have begun but are not yet fully-developed churches, we recommend the following: "To include a report in the handbook every year listing developing churches."

A MOTION PREVAILED to include a report in the handbook every year listing developing churches.

4. No action on Mr. Martin's motion

Regarding the suggested constitution amendment suggested by Jeff Martin at conference 2012, we recommend no action at this time other than to hold on to this idea until we consider a process and timeline for broader changes to the Statement of Faith. Jeff's amendment was to "Change description of 12 articles of statement of faith from 'basic truths taught in the Bible which are common to our Christian faith and practice' to 'basic truths taught in the Bible which we will teach and practice.'"

5. In order to be consistent, applying the same language to our National and Cooperating Ministries as we did to our churches, we recommend the following:

Amend the Manual of Procedure, Article VI, Section One, Item 1a AND Article VI, Section Two, Item 1a; replacing "The ministry and its governing body must subscribe to the Statement of Faith set forth in Section Two of Article III of this Constitution." with "The ministry and its governing body shall agree to live harmoniously under the Covenant and Statement of Faith set forth in Section Two of Article III of this Constitution."

A MOTION PREVAILED to recommend the amendment Article VI, Section One, Item 1a AND Article VI, Section Two, Item 1a; of the Manual of Procedure replacing "The ministry and its governing body must subscribe to the Statement of Faith set forth in Section Two of Article III of this Constitution." with "The ministry and its governing body shall agree to live harmoniously under the Covenant and Statement of Faith set forth in Section Two of Article III of this Constitution."

6. Note that Encompass World Partners has rescinded its request to make constitutional changes, finding that the current language is adequate. No action needed.
7. Committees
 1. For Nominating Committee, we recommend: To nominate the first 12 of the following man that accept the nomination: Doug Courter, Nathan Bryant, Tony Webb, Tim Boal, Dave Guiles, Tom Hocking, Nathan Zakahi, Jason Carmean, Dan White, Steve Shipley, Galen Wiley, Roland Maust, Joe Cosentino, Dale Harris, Dave Holmes, Jeremy Bury
 2. For Parliamentary Committee, we recommend: To allow the Executive Director to pick from the following list to serve as a parliamentary committee at the annual business meeting: Jesse Deloe, Galen Wiley, Mark Soto, Bud Olszewski, Doug Courter, Fenton McDonald, Doug Sabin, Dan Thornton, Terry Daniels, Beau Stanley.
 3. For Membership Committee, we recommend: That the Executive Director can pick two from the following list of approved names for the membership committee at national conference: Roy Halberg (California), Terry Daniels (California), Larry Edwards (PA), Roland Maust (PA), Christian Becker (Virginia), Don Eshelman (VA), Steve Shipley (Florida), Charles Thornton (Alaska), Richard Todd (California), Ron Smals (Ohio).

A MOTION PREVAILED to authorize Tom Avey and the Executive Director to choose the above FGBC committees as suggested.

Membership (Bruce Barlow, Chair)

The Committee was tasked with defining when a church is a church. When does it cross the line from a point of light/developing church to being ready to be recognized as a church?

1. Definition of a church

To be included in the membership application: "For the purpose of membership in the FGBC, a local church is a group of Christ followers in a specific location who want to be a church, 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."

This is at the front end of the application. If a church is ready to this point then they can be encouraged to apply.

Friday, January 25, 2013

Devotions

Nathan Bryant conveyed his encouragement that he was accepted as part of the “family” even though he did not attend Grace or grow up Grace Brethren. He pointed to 1 Chronicles 12:22 *For from day to day men came to David to help him, until there was a great army, like an army of God.* (NASB) Thanked “us” for being able to be part of the family. Thankful that Bartley was chosen to lead even though he is probably the least Grace Brethren in the room. The FGBC is attractive to outsider pastor/church-planters.

Membership Committee

1. New Church application

a) Definition of an FGBC Church

The definition is to be a preamble to the membership application.

Some of the questions the definition may raise with churches as they apply are already addressed relationally in the flow of the membership application. (See pages 47-49 in the binder for the membership application.)

This reworked definition is to be used internally by Fellowship Council and on the new church application.

A MOTION PREVAILED to adopt the following definition of a local church for the purposes of receiving churches into FGBC membership.

“For the purpose of membership in the FGBC, we define 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.”

Discussion: There still needs to be something about threshold (bench marks) when it becomes a peer church, cf Jonathan Carey’s questions (in binder)

The Committee is planning to talk with Ken Seyfert to have GBIF provide \$2500 for Go2, Vision Ohio, etc to help individual emerging churches to get started and then present \$5000 (the balance of \$7500—the current new church gift) when a church becomes an FGBC member.

- b) Additionally, the current application says “If you wish to request an extension of this deadline, include a letter of reference from a cooperating district missions board, a sponsoring church that is already a member of the FGBC, or Grace Brethren Missions.” Change to :

”If you wish to request an extension of this deadline, include an email or letter of reference from the sponsoring FGBC church, ministry or district.”

- c) We believe the question about letterhead or sign on page 49 was deleted during an earlier revision.
- d) We want to add an element to the membership Interview process. This is in response to a number of questions raised by Larry Chamberlain in a 2012 discussion about the monetary gifts to new churches. This will be added to the set of questions Jonathan Carey developed for use in interviews with church leaders seeking membership.

”We encourage you to seek legal counsel regarding establishing your incorporation, your state tax exempt status, and your 501C3 federal status. This process varies state to state and will usually involve establishing church by-laws, constitution, and duly elected officers.”

2. New Ministries

- a) Three-Strands An application has been received from "Three Strands" to be recognized as a cooperating organization. It is a medical NGO in CAR. It fits under Integrated Ministries. The application is in the FC binder. Art. VI of Manual of Procedure requires that they have to prove they are in compliance with leadership membership. They want separate recognition so that they can gain access to the FGBC membership for communication/funding—rather than under the Encompass umbrella.

Clancy will be speaking with Mike Taylor and asking questions about the percentage of GBC in the composition of their board.

3. Review of Cooperating Ministries

The Manual of Procedure says that the Fellowship Council will review the continuing status of Cooperating Ministries every 5 years. The Membership Committee will set the clock now for review, since some are more than 5 years old. The Committee will start with oldest ones and start a rotation of review from now on.

4. New Churches

- a) We have received a membership application from Life Springs Church (Ron Boehm). Michael Saldivar will call Ron and talk through the application. May be conflict with existing church. P 48 3rd question from bottom
- b) Pre-benchmarks, if still an emerging church, at least starts a pipeline relationship with the group. Annual will now have a list of points of light, emerging churches, and their sponsoring entity.

Finance Committee Report (Dan Jackson)

1. 2012 Budget report with 2013 Budget Page 65 of binder

A MOTION PREVAILED to accept the Finance Committee report as printed

- a) Cost of living adjustment to Fellowship Coordinator's salary starting Nov 2012 to date about will be about \$1000.
- b) Bob Fetterhoff gave history of the connection with Brotherhood Mutual. Because the FGBC has chosen Brotherhood Mutual as our preferred insurer, then a dividend is returned to the Fellowship equal to a percentage of the company's profits due to low claims by us as a group. The ballpark dividend will be about \$40,000 to go to the FGBC general fund. Their end of year disbursements is in the Spring. It will be used to pay down the lost revolving credit (from GBIF) and increase Tom's benefits package. (The Finance Committee will unanimously decide how to much and what health Insurance company since Indiana dissolved their state health insurance and Obamacare is still unknown.)

2. 2014 Budget - not ready yet.

Questions—Will we provide COLA for Sandy retroactive to Nov 2012 as well? Yes
Should we consider every other year conferences & Focus retreats so that we are not over spending?

Can we down grade our Winter meeting accommodations so we can afford to give Tom a raise? Maybe Brotherhood Mutual windfall will be an annual answer—we will know within 6 months.

BMH Transitional task force.

Report from BMH board

Bruce Barlow on behalf of the adhoc transitional committee: They looked at fiscal viability, ministry viability, interchurch communication and cheerleading. He suggested Fellowship Council members ought to drop a note to Terry White thanking him for the resurrection of BMH. He is retired now. He noted the name change to Grace Connect (online) is an attempt to communicate with social media. Bruce also expressed that BMH needs to increase the story telling 10 times.

Q: Could BMH and FGBC sites be combined? Having both seems redundant.

Q: How is BMH addressing the 20 somethings age group? A: Twitter & Facebook (it was shared that the 70+ age group is fastest growing users of Facebook)

BMH has to transfer from print media to electronic and is asking GBIF for funding.

Q: Are there younger reps on BMH board who can advise/rep these areas?

Q: Is BMH really on a balanced budget? Is it realistic? A: Yes, with \$37,000 rent from Tree of Life, but that will disappear in 2 years. Currently BMH is able to operate without touching the \$1m principle.

Comment: It is hard to keep up with 3 communication sources (AGBM, FGBC, GraceConnect). Tom Avey recommended a merge, but it was rejected.

Q: Is there something that Fellowship Council can do to direct cooperation? A: No, influence is the best we can do (Nat/Orgs still have a silo mentality)

Q: Could Fellowship Council strongly recommend? Which do we encourage our churches to consult? Young guys are using Facebook to follow because of automatic feeds. How do we interact? A: Best way is if Liz takes initiative to connect all the information. It is an issue we are aware of, but can't resolve at Fellowship Council level.

Social Concerns report (Don Shoemaker, Chairman)

Don shared the Committee's makeup and that he is trying to retire: Don S--Chairman, Bob Fetterhoff, Doug Jensen, Russ Ogden, John Teevan, John Smith, Eric Eickhoff and Mark Able. He noted the lack of laymen and women on committee. Don called attention to his report (in the binder) and emphasized that an Immigration policy needs to move ahead. Also that the need to address deficit spending as a moral issue which John Teevan will work on. And it seems that Religious liberty continues to need to be addressed (especially in light of the fact that tolerance seemed to be lacking during inauguration week)

Bob Fetterhoff thanked Don and encouraged the Fellowship Council to pass on to your region the wealth of information. These documents express views of the FGBC. We have very few authors in fellowship with Don's skill and abilities.

Structures update:

1. Regarding the constitutional amendment suggested by Jeff Martin at conference 2012, Structures Committee recommends that the Council not bring this motion to the conference floor at this time. We believe that this could be considered later, after the two-year planned development of a Statement of Common Identity, which should provide a better context to evaluate this or similar recommendations. [Jeff's amendment was to "Change description of 12 articles of statement of faith from 'basic truths taught in the

Bible which are common to our Christian faith and practice' to 'basic truths taught in the Bible which we will teach and practice.'"]

2. Lop-sided Regional Representation on the Fellowship Council

Presented just for discussion, any action wouldn't be considered until July. The possibility of balancing out the number of churches in each region was discussed with the following recommendation to the Council:

Problem: The current number of churches in each region is unbalanced:
53 in Western, 85 in Central, 110 in Eastern.

Recommendation: Adjust the districts as follows: change compass designations to ABC or 123, make gerrymandering possible in the future.

- Iowa-Midlands and Heartland districts become part of Western Region.
- Western Pennsylvania and Allegheny districts become part of Central Region.

Result: The number of churches in each region would be more balanced:
75 in Western, 89 in Central, 85 in Eastern.

Process: This requires an amendment to the Manual of Procedure and will only affect future elections. No current terms on Fellowship Council should be changed. Future elections should follow the new groupings. Balance will be achieved in 2017.

Affects 1) reps back to regions, 2) board members of cooperating ministries

Discussion:

No consensus. Not sure Indiana would like to be considered part of the Western region and West might be shut out of reps. Structures will bring back in July

Executive Director Report

1. Vision2020West-- Bob Fetterhoff shared that attendance was about 50 delegates short of break-even. Tom Avey says we generally have lower registrations when we hold conference in the west. But it is important for morale and attempting to connect with all regions
1. Vision2020South Bob Fetterhoff stated that this is about best opportunity to get everyone together. It is not necessarily to Momentum's advantage to have combined conference time/location, but CE sees the need to try for the benefit of Adult conference.

This will be a blend of traditional Conference and Equip because of **mobile learning labs**. Encompass is coordinating and each lab will be bused to different areas and led by missionaries/staff. Each lab will meet at 9:30am for an orientation time in a specified room at the conference hotel. They will then board a bus to ministry sites to observe a wide variety of ministry opportunities. The group will lunch at a local restaurant to debrief together (ie refugee simulation, churches reaching out to refugee, micro-enterprise, Moody city, etc.) The labs will experience the ethnic diversity of Atlanta with the goal of showing that it was a good move for Encompass to relocate there. Many cutting edge ministries are also located at Atlanta.

Bob encouraged Fellowship Council reps to check out the 2020South web page for schedule. He suggested that there will probably be a get-acquainted dinner the opening night. This will be the un-conference conference, focused on learning about the ethnic community. Before breakfast, Tom Julien will give devotions about spiritual warfare from his book. Some of labs will be family-friendly. Kids Conference will be a kids missions conference as well—Glen Sykes is directing the Kids Conference.

Attendees will be able to see the Encompass office. The auxiliary sessions will occur Sunday afternoon. There will also be a monolog guest historic missionary. Elderboards should be encouraged to do this together.

Q: will attendees realize this is different enough to come prepared for it? That will be up to reps getting local churches to provide the promotional information.

Sat afternoon/evening will be kept free to see Atlanta attractions

Bus tours will keep people together (but fees don't cover the expense—Bob Fetterhoff has secured a \$5,000 gift to help cover and requested the Finance Committee to save some from Brotherhood Mutual windfall)

Fellowship Council should talk it up, use online videos at Focus and Ministerium
With limited budget it is hard to advertise differently than other types of conferences.

2. Conference in 2014 (Sawatsky)

Bartley wanting concentrate on cities and places where younger families would be interested has chosen Washington, DC. It is also where he started as a Grace Brethren.

3. Focus Retreats in 2012/2013 (Fetterhoff)

Dan Allen has been leading and this year using regional pastors. But he is not committed beyond this year. Tom Avey is requesting ideas if Dan wants a break. Knute Larson was suggested

4. Focus Retreats in 2013/2014 (Sawatsky)

Bartley wants to get Dave Guiles around to share FGBC Identity at Focus Retreats.

Bob Fetterhoff commented on the job of Executive Director

Coming back to the questions asked at the beginning of these meeting, he expressed some of the difficulties.

- Accessibility is a big challenge because Executive Director can't get to the National boards.
- Assessment is also difficult because lack of information because of inaccessibility.
- Lack of authority by the Executive Director.
- Adjustments were needed as he went. Hopefully this will make it easier for Bartley and others who follow.

He did however, share some real joys:

1 Real progress especially the ELVC. The test will be the product coming out of this.

Bob expressed appreciation for Jeff Bogue—GoNet and George Bullard

2 Real provision (windfall from Brotherhood Mutual) Bob encouraged the Fellowship Council reps to talk up cooperation with Brotherhood Mutual to local churches. Fiduciary responsibility is good stewardship

3 The changes effected do promise a positive future

Q: Is there a Fellowship Council Purpose statement? A: essentially Fellowship Council is the Elderboard of FGBC, but really most authority is by influence. The Fellowship Council can give vision, especially along the lines of the Commitment to Common Mission.

Q: How Executive Director sees his role if it is just to make Conference happen? A: Like a local church Elderboard—mostly spiritual authority, influence unity, greatest strength is number of men who have been on Fellowship Council. Tom Avey says about 70% are connected by Fellowship Council, Focus, or NatOrg boards

BF: We are responsible for the collective health of FGBC (can't control individual churches). Our strength/authority really revolves around relationships with NatOrgs and pastors.

Assistant Executive Director (Sawatsky)

1. Assistant does not automatically become Executive Director, but Bartley asked Dave Guiles to consider being his Assistant. They are still talking. It is helpful to have Assistant chosen before term begins in order to be available (if Exec. Dir. dies, Fellowship Council meetings—vision discussions, etc.) This will position Dave well if Fellowship Council wants him at the end of Bartley's term. The timing would be good, after 2015 Charis Identity determinations. As Assistant, Dave would attend Focus retreats, special projects [Dave has experience with the Encompass name change], access to people/meetings]. Dave needs to talk with Encompass & his wife before making it official. Bartley will put on paper and run by BF & Tom Avey. Then it will probably need to be ratified at conf.

2. Looking ahead (Sawatsky)
Identity is key

Looking forward—nothing crazy, glad good things are happening, CCM working on together is great. He wants to build on top of that.

He wants to establish some visionary goals we can work together on (# of churches, aging fellowship, get all the individual parts together focus on common goal) We have the people and resources.

After we establish our identity then can market to younger leaders with the connections we have and can find—more new churches

Bartley says he is a mediator by nature, he is not an administrator, but feels he is a team player. He stated that he doesn't have a lot of marbles in pocket. He relies on people who do. He couldn't believe what Bob meant when he asked him to assist and consider being the next Executive Director. Bartley expressed that we need to continue to strengthen relationships, and find new ways to strengthen the "supporting ligaments" (ala Tom Julien). We need to discover and reinvent how a Fellowship works, how to connect/communicate with each other.

He gave thanks to Bob for time to ramp up for this

And to Tom for all the behind the scenes stuff he does (he is **the** ligament)

He will rely on Tom for a lot. He is much like Bob as a mediator.

Q: Will Bartley have a chance at 2020South to cast vision? A: At Business session as we wrap things up.

Additional Business

Is it time to talk about move FGBC office to Columbus, OH?

Q: Why? A: More geographic center, accessible to airport, local to of most larger churches (average OH FGBC is 311).

Tom Avey: It is most likely where future leaders will come from. (Columbus is one of 2 regions of world we have critical mass –other is CAR) Winona Lake is a hard place to get out of. It is 3hrs to

airport, and less and less is happening out of Winona Lake. Encompass, GBNAM, and Ed Lewis are basically out of the area. Tom wants to be able to help transition for his successor.

Q: Does it make sense to move to OH. A: For Transportation reasons makes a lot of sense. Not thinking until 2014 at least

Q: How much is needed to facilitate getting NatOrgs together?

Comment: Good Leadership looks past personal to group benefits

DG suggested it would be helpful to request Tom Avey to investigate to give him facts and accurate picture of pros and cons of a move.

Tom Avey Commented: It would be nice to have some Encompass presence in Columbus also, and maybe some other nat/orgs

CC we look with favor to Tom Avey investigating the feasibility of relocating FGBC office to Columbus

A MOTION PREVAILED: That the Fellowship Council authorize Tom Avey to investigate the feasibility of relocating the FGBC office to Columbus and give a report to Fellowship Council in July.

Bruce Barlow wanted to address why he voted “NO”. He based his vote on what would we do if we were starting from scratch? CE has the best rapport with younger generation. What we really need is to attach an office of FGBC events and communication to CE Moving FGBC to Columbus will meet needs of 40-50+, but not necessarily the 20s & 30’s.

Miscellaneous Questions

Is the Blue Ridge situation resolved? A: Yes, very positively relationship wise.

Can we put a tab on web for contributions? A: Yes, Tom Avey will attach a giving tab.

Adjourned 12:45 with prayer for lunch by Dan Thornton

Fellowship Council will meet Friday, July 26 before Conference in Atlanta (Buckhead) 9-12 noon

January 2014 Fellowship Council will be Jan 29-31, Wed pm thru Friday afternoon. Details TBD

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory M. Howell, Recording Secretary