

FGBC Membership Fee Recommendation:
January 13, 2006

Background: For the past 4 or 5 years, the Fellowship Council has been engaged in discussion about better ways to assess membership fees in the FGBC. The reasons for the review are complicated but this report offers two as a starting point:

1. Financial Trends: The present basis for membership fees is local church membership which is a statistically declining number. Therefore we are compelled to constantly increase membership fees in order to maintain the same funding levels. Total local church membership in the FGBC is decrease by 5.25 % in the past 5 years while attendance has increased by 5.11%.
2. Fairness: The present system for membership fees creates inequity in membership fee costs to local churches. We have churches of 1000 people in average attendance that have 200 members and churches of 1000 people in average attendance that have 1500 members. The membership fee for each church of equal size will be \$1,000 and \$7,500 respectively.

Many ideas have been discussed:

1. Basing membership fees on local church attendance.
2. Basing membership fees on local church offerings.
3. Basing membership fees on ranges of attendance, or membership, or offerings.

The North Central District in Ohio has adopted an attendance/range based system. The Fellowship Council decided to watch this district as a “test” case for a possible change of the FGBC membership system.

Recommendation:

To base FGBC membership fees on ranges of attendance as follows:

Less than 50 people:	\$100
51 - 100 people	\$250
101 - 200	\$500
201 – 300	\$1,000
301 – 500	\$1,500
501 – 1000	\$2,500
1001 – 2000	\$5,000
More than 2000 people	\$10,000

The actual fee schedule would be approved each year in the budget process by the delegates at national conference.

There would be a 5% discount for churches that pay by a deadline date.

Based on current statistics, this would generate approximately \$152,000 per year.

The attendance count would be on an “honor” system. The church would classify itself based on average attendance at its largest weekly event or some general equivalency.