

Application for Ministries seeking Cooperating 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?

Grace in *ACTION* usa (GiA) exists to "Bridge the church to the community through education and economic development." GiA has materials and means to assist any church or group of believers to teach Life and Job Skills to children (K-12) living in areas of poverty. GiA serves the Fellowship when it's churches use the LifeTime Learning curriculum and resources, open a Community Life Center, and/or assist in a local economic development project. Any and all of these efforts can result in bringing people to Christ, growing a local church, and bringing financial support for the work of the local church and mission efforts.

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.?

The Board of Directors was polled and unanimously subscribe to the FGBC Covenant and Statement of Faith.

List the present responsible officers of the ministry with titles:

Gladys M. Deloe, President
Ned Denlinger, Vice President
Jesse Deloe, Secretary, Treasurer

Other board members are:

Clive Craigen
Jim Hocking
Kurt Miller

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

Grace in *ACTION* usa is the creation of a person who belongs to a Grace Brethren Church and directed by a board, all of whom are members of Grace Brethren churches.

Is the ministry a subsidiary of only one local church? (Y/N) No

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?

Generational poverty and its associated problems are everywhere. Often unrecognized or ignored by the church in North America, very little of lasting value has been done to change the situation. A church or group of Christians can begin to impact the pockets of poverty in its area by becoming involved in people's lives, offering real and practical assistance, and teaching children a better way. It's a long and often thankless task.

Communities have charitable assistance; however, very few of them address the underlying issues. Many Christian and government organizations offer various kinds of helps. I have not found any that concentrate on teaching Life Skills as a means of bringing about permanent change. Unfortunately, such efforts are much like putting a band-aid on a gaping wound.

It is the vision of Grace in *ACTION* usa to make a difference through its programs of education and economic development. The ministry of GiA is available to any church (GBC or not) or group that wishes to use it to help those trapped in generational poverty.

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

For years missionaries concentrated on the spiritual and health needs of people, while offering little help in areas like farming, economic development, education, or life skills training. And while the Great Commission says nothing about these practical implications, the good news of the gospel includes every area of life. When we take the gospel to the least and the lost in a package of love that fulfill Jesus' words, "I have come to give you an abundant life," we indeed fulfill the Great Commission. Grace in *ACTION* usa offers the Church a bridge to the community which gives it the opportunity to see lives changed for now and eternity.

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?

To my knowledge, none of the directors has any such problems.

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?

The purpose of requesting this status is to seek the mutual encouragement that comes by cooperation with the Fellowship and other cooperating ministries. We welcome the opportunity and do not see it as an obligation.

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) Yes

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

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

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

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

General Instructions: Fill out this application form and send it 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 _____ Grace in *ACTION* usa _____

Mailing Address _____ 1412 Camelot Drive _____

City State Zip _____ Winona Lake, IN 46590 _____

Phone _____ 574-372-6317 _____

Email _____ gdeloe@comcast.net _____

Website _____ www.graceinactionusa.org _____

Person filling out this application: _____ Gladys M. Deloe _____

Contact Person: _____ Gladys M. Deloe _____

History and Description of *grace in ACTION usa*

Grace in ACTION usa is non-profit organization begun in 2006 to "Bridge the church to the community through education and economic development." The ministry originated from a burden to assist the people trapped in generational poverty in Jackson, Kentucky, location of The Happy Church. Jackson is county seat in one of the poorest counties in the United States.

The first attempt at economic assistance was short-lived and revealed the need to begin the process of change by educating children in generational poverty. A K-12, LifeTime Learning curriculum is being prepared for this purpose. The curriculum teaches the **Life Skills and Job Skills** necessary to break out of the poverty cycle and become productive, and hopefully Christian, citizens.

In order not to overlook and lose the teens (Leaders in Training), we will train them to teach the skills to the younger children. This plan enables the teens to learn and take ownership of the material, while building confidence in their own giftedness and abilities.

Topics covered in the curriculum are:

- Making Choices
- The Value and Use of Money
- Moral and Character Development
- Love Matters
- The Care and

The *vision* of grace in ACTION usa is to see fully integrated (holistic) churches engaged in the process of both local and national community transformation. The *mission* is to inspire and prepare individuals and churches to show the love of Christ to their communities through spiritual, relational, education, and economic development.

Grace in ACTION usa *purposes* to accomplish its vision and mission as Christians:

- **Equip** individuals and churches to use their skills and resources in order to
- **Establish** Community Life Centers where they can
- **Encourage** those without hope of fiscal independence, thus
- **Enabling** personal development through education, training, funding assistance, and accountability;
- **Educate** those who wish to work by providing opportunities to learn employable skills and principles of ownership; and
- **Empower** people to achieve the dignity which comes with spiritual, social, economic, and emotional stability

There is a strong Biblical rationale for a ministry like GiA. Scripture teaches that we must minister to the poor:

...if there are any poor in your towns...do not be hard-hearted or

tight-fisted toward them. Instead, be generous and lend them whatever they need. ...Give freely without begrudging it, and the Lord your God will bless you in everything you do.

Deut 15:7,8,10 NLT

Those who shut their ears to the cries of the poor will be ignored in their own time of need. If you help the poor, you are lending to the LORD ~ and he will repay you.

Prov 21:13 & 19:17 NLT

Even while we were with you, we gave you this rule: Whoever does not work should not eat. Yet we hear that some of you are living idle lives, refusing to work and wasting time... . In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we appeal to such people. Settle down and get to work. Earn your own living.

2 Thess 3:10-12 NLT

Grace in ACTION usa will encourage and assist churches and groups of Christians who wish to open a Community Life Center, enabling them to “leverage” the love of Christ into the community and further bridge the church to the community. Such centers help Christians become “insiders” in their community. This kind of personal involvement provides opportunities to share Christ in the lives of unbelievers they assist.

The ministry is too young to have realized any lasting results. But GiA is motivated to inspire Christians to help move people away from dependence on government and others’ assistance, restoring their personal dignity, and introducing them to Christ.

Everywhere you turn you see the face of poverty. Our vision now reaches beyond Jackson, Kentucky to any location where the LifeTime Learning curriculum could be taught. The FGBC is planting churches in inner cities from New York to California. GiA can help! Established churches are beginning to see the value of involvement in community programs that assist their underprivileged neighborhoods. GiA wants to come

alongside them. And GiA hopes to challenge those in declining churches to teach the LifeTime Learning curriculum as a way of reaching out to other ethnic and socio-economic groups living in their towns. All of these are opportunities for GiA to offer help for today and hope for tomorrow.

Additional information is available on the GiA website at www.graceinactionusa.org.

grace in ACTION usa
EVENTUAL ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

BOARD of DIRECTORS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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DIRECTOR, COMMUNITY LIFE CENTERS
DIRECTOR, FUNDING
DIRECTOR, LOCATIONS

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LOCATION/ON-SITE COMMUNITY LIFE CENTER CO'ODS
JOB SKILLS INSTRUCTORS, COACHES, MENTORS
SPIRITUAL COUNSELORS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gladys M. Deloe, President
Ned Denlinger, Vice President
Jesse Deloe, Secretary, Treasurer
Clive Craigen

Jim Hocking

Board of Directors Resumes

Clive Craigen, BA, Grace College, MA, Inner City Studies-Ed. Northeastern Illinois Univ

Associate Missionary for Student Mobilization, GBNAM

Assistant Prof of Urban Ministry, Moody Bible Institute

Adjunct Faculty for Prison Extension, Grace College

Gladys M. Deloe, BS, Counseling, Grace College

Owner, Helping Hands Therapeutic Reflexology

Founder & President, grace in ACTION usa

Jesse B. Deloe, BA, Indiana Univ, MDiv, Grace Seminary
Minister, FGBC

Senior Editor, Brethren Missionary Herald Co.

Secretary, Treasurer, grace in ACTION usa

Ned Denlinger, BS, Systems Analysis, Miami Univ

Founder & President, DCS Technologies Corp, 1979-2000

Pastor; Mason, Ohio, Family of Grace

Vice President, grace in ACTION usa

Jim Hocking, BA, Grace College; MDiv, Grace Seminary

Missionary; Central African Republic, 20 years

Founder & Director, Integrated Community Development, Int'l. (ICDI)