

State of the Union

Fellowship Council Meetings • January 29-31, 2013 • Seal Beach, CA

1. Building energy.
2. Very positive Vision2020South Conference.
 - much appreciation to Bob Fetterhoff and Dave Guiles
3. Positive response to general directions for the future (Executive Director's address).
4. Bartley continuing to grow in understanding of the FGBC and challenges.
 - have spoken with numerous key organization leaders
 - have spoken with many pastors
5. Very positive Central and Eastern Focus retreats (Identity Initiative).
6. Very positive Conference Planning Team meeting in DC (Oct. 28-29).
 - Team consists of: Bartley Sawatsky, Tom Avey, Scott Avey, Dan O'Deens, Mike Jentes, Mark Artrip, Jereamy Byng, Sarah Knepper
7. Interest growing in Fellowship Forums.
8. GoNet meeting December 10 in Akron produced some clarity over vision and direction.
9. National Ministry Leaders meeting (January 13-14).
10. Fellowship Council meetings (actual) in Seal Beach, CA.
11. Feelings trending in the FGBC right now:
 - a) general optimism
 - b) growing optimism among 20-35 year old leaders
 - c) cautious optimism about Identity Initiative
 - d) mixed feelings and opinions over our cooperative efforts as a fellowship
 - i) Success rests on greater structure and cooperation.
 - ii) Success rests on key visionary leaders and ministries.
 - iii) Success rests on a combination of i) and ii).

The Original Plan

- work with our top leaders (EVLC, GoNet, National Ministry Leaders) to develop some visionary goals for the FGBC
- begin by having the EVLC set some metrics – things we wanted to start to measure
- this resulted in the following:

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| a) Church Start | The conception phase of a church. There are a number of ingredients present: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Person• Place• Plan• Prayer |
| b) Church | A group of believers commit to Christ and to one another as a church. |
| c) Member Church | A church decides to become a member for the FGBC. A formal application process is followed (currently under revision). |

What We Discovered

1. The fellowship structure of our organization continues to be a large factor. There are differences in opinion on how a fellowship is supposed to operate.
2. The EVLC has tried to make progress on the 3 pillars from the Commitment to Common Mission, namely “church planting,” “leadership development,” and “integrated ministry.” This progress has been limited, mostly because
 - a) there are no paid staff to advance the agendas
 - b) our fellowship structure is not top-down, so buy-in takes longer
3. The EVLC’s major accomplishments to this point are:
 - a) E-Net (Leadership Development Team)
 - b) Annual Young Leaders’ Meeting (Church Planting Team)
4. The Integrated Ministry Committee almost completely dissolved.
5. After some discussion, we decided to keep the EVLC going for at least another year. The initiatives under #3 (above) would continue regardless of the EVLC’s continuation.
6. Bartley’s goal was to have the EVLC identify what we should measure (accomplished) and to have GoNet form a visionary statement and goals.

7. GoNet does not believe that the FGBC (office) can really set a vision or goals for the fellowship. Attempts in the past have failed. This is because there is no way to implement or enforce a vision without a top-down structure. The Executive Director and Fellowship Council really only have relational authority and no more. Up until now, even that relational authority has been limited to one-year terms; not even close to enough time to rally any grassroots movement. Vision statements are formed and forgotten. When they are mentioned, no one really listens because there are no tracks in place for participating in that vision.

While GoNet verbalized this at the December 10 meeting, it is not the first place I have heard it. Many of our leaders share the same thinking.

8. Rather than try to set a vision and goals for the FGBC, GoNet has suggested that the FGBC (office) clarify what the FGBC does (both as a family and office). Here is what the group landed on:

FGBC Purpose Statement

We exist to **celebrate, collaborate, catalyze** and **commemorate** a Gospel movement, led by the local church and supported by a national network.

Celebrate

We cheer one another on and recognize the achievements of our peers.

Collaborate

We share our best ideas and resources with one another and commit to active communication.

Catalyze

We direct resources to the people and groups that are bringing about transformation.

Commemorate

We give honor to our tribe, history, beliefs and practices.

Motto

Creating a culture for movement.

9. The GoNet leaders showed resistance to developing fellowship-wide visionary goals, citing past failures with such an approach because of the inability of the FGBC office to get churches to participate (due to lack of resources or a top-down authority structure). Their concept of the fellowship is very “starfish” in nature (something we ought to continue to discuss). Either way, I did feel that the language they developed was very useful.
10. This language was taken to the National Ministry Leaders Meeting (January 13-14). The leaders present approved of the language developed by the GoNet

group, but expressed the importance of leadership within our movement and the need for the Executive Director and Fellowship Council to give direction to the entire FGBC, even if there were not many resources to back it up. The national conference was one place where the FGBC office and leaders should challenge the entire fellowship.

11. Moving forward, my intent is to begin to use this language that was developed and also to find more specific challenges that can be used to incentivize the FGBC toward growth and effectiveness. Expect to see this language in print, online and at the national conference in DC.
12. Overall, I feel that I am gaining a much better feel for people's expectations for the FGBC, the FGBC office, and my role as Executive Director. I have held a lot of extra meetings (in person and over phone/internet) these first 7 months of my tenure in order to get this grasp. I feel that I will be able to reduce my time allotment to such issues for the rest of my tenure and start making decisions that represent the common interests of our entire FGBC family. Of course, I will continue to listen to what people are saying, recognizing that our movement is never static, but ever-evolving.