

## 1 FELLOWSHIP OF GRACE BRETHREN CHURCHES

2 **Fellowship Council Minutes**

3 Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Adam's Mark Hotel

4 July 25, 2002 Presidents Board Room

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6 ❖ **Thursday, July 25, 2002**

- 7 ➤ PRESENT: Jeff Gill (Moderator), Bob Combs (Moderator-elect), John Teevan (Second-Moderator-elect), Joel Richards, Mark Saunders, Jesus Muños, Ron Manahan, John McIntosh, Terry Taylor, Tad Hobert, Jerry Young, Ron Boehm, Tom Avey (Fellowship Coordinator), Greg Howell (Acting Secretary),
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12 ➤ Jeff shared from 2 Chronicles 16 about King Asa, that he noticed again that when Asa was following God everything went well, but when he ignored God, things fell apart. He equated the conference with all of the planning and details, but emphasized the reason that Conference is in Philly is so we can see our needy world. Maybe the tours to Metro Grace and Urban Hope as well as our contact with hotel personnel will give encouragement.

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18 **072502-01 PRESENTATION OF NEW CHURCHES**

- 19 ➤ NEW CHURCHES APPLYING FOR MEMBERSHIP
- 20 ▪ Grace chapel—Bryantown, MD—Carl Snyder
  - 21 ▪ Crossroads GBC of Wissinoming, PA—Bob Pearson
  - 22 ▪ New Hope GBC—Morgantown, WV—Ron Thorn
  - 23 ▪ Grace Brethren Church of Christiansburg, VA—John Townsend
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25 **072502-02 A MOTION PREVAILED to recommend to the delegates of this year's conference the admission of these two churches: Bryantown, MD and Christiansburg, VA into the FGBC.**

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28 ➤ QUESTION about late applications:—Bryantown and Christiansburg applications were received after January, but we received information from their Districts within the three month deadline. However, a letter from John Townsend's former church (Riner, VA) was sent to Tom Avey requesting that we not admit them, but Lester Kennedy replied to Tom Avey that it was normal inter-church problems that caused John to leave and some Riner folks went with him. Also the District unanimously recommended Christiansburg's admission.
- 32 ▪ It was recommended that a question for the pastor be added to the admission application about any unresolved past problems.
  - 33 ▪ Also it was suggested that the form be answered in typewritten form rather than handwritten. Application changes were referred to the Membership committee. The Committee should review the whole application and the process.
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40 **072502-03 A MOTION PREVAILED TO RE-INSTATE THE GAINESVILLE CHURCH**

- 41 ➤ RE-INSTATE GAINESVILLE CHURCH based on receipt of past fees as per January action (minute 020202-10).
- 42 ▪ Tom will contact before business meeting to remind.
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45 **072502-04 DELINQUENT CHURCHES**

- 46 ➤ Delinquent church report for past four years ATTACHED
- 47 ▪ LaVerne, CA—no calls returned. Ted Ruiz may be affected because it is his home church.
  - 48 ▪ Discussion about applying delinquent rule to all three, not just LaVerne. Tom read the Manual of Procedure which indicates Fellowship Council needs to investigate and recommend, leaving the results up to the conference.
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52 **072502-05 A MOTION PREVAILED to recommend to the delegates that the following churches be dismissed for non compliance of the submission of statistical reports and/or membership fees for a period of four years: Grace Church of LaVerne—LaVerne, CA ; Red Lake GBC--Tonalea, AZ and Grace Cambodian Church—Long Beach, CA.**

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## 072502-06 2003 BUDGET PRESENTATION

### ➤ 072502-06 2003 BUDGET

- Tom distributed a financial review and mentioned that it is not a full audit, but more complete than the internal audit we have been conducting. The 2003 budget is built off of the review so it allocates portions of salaries to specific tasks.
- This budget is based on \$.25 increase in membership fees.
- Also, the auditor recommends that we move fiscal year to November 1 so he has time to prepare it for our January meeting.
- The itemized budget totals \$268,250.

#### Revenues:

Membership Fees (1)	\$120,000
Conference Income (3)	85,000
Focus Retreats	36,000
Donations (2)	26,250
Other Income	<u>1,000</u>
Total Revenues	268,250

#### Expenses

Program Services	
Conference	120,000
Focus Retreats	63,000
Supporting Services	
Fellowship Council	20,000
General Administration	<u>65,250</u>
Total Expenses	268,250

#### Footnotes:

General Format is based on the format of the accountants financial review.

(1) Based on \$4.50 per member membership fee. An additional \$1 per member for Promise of Honor brings the total to \$5.50 per member discounted to \$5.25 per member if paid by May 15 (effective increase is 5%). Promise of Honor receipts and disbursements are treated as liabilities and are not included in the Statement of Activities.

(2) National Organizations have agreed to contribute to the costs of a National Office. Nation Organization contributions are voluntary. Amounts to be requested in 2003 are:

Grace College	5,250
GBIM	5,250
CE National	1,750
GBNAM	5,250
AGBM	1,750
Grace Village	<u>1,750</u>
Total	26,250

(3) Based on Accountants report for 2001 plus projections for fee increases.

(4) Conference Program expense includes allocated staff expenses previously report as office expense.

(5) Focus Retreat Program expense includes allocated staff expenses previously reported as office expense.

(6) Total Office staff and administration costs allocated to Conference, Focus Retreats and General Administration is \$130,000.

## 072502-07 A MOTION PREVAILED TO recommend the proposed 2003 budget to delegates.

**072502-08 ALTERNATING CONFERENCES IDEA--JOHN TEEVAN**

- ALTERNATING CONFERENCES IDEA--JOHN TEEVAN
- John summarized his written proposal as presented at January Mid-Year meeting that he was unable to attend. Even years would have a vacation style conference (as we are currently doing). The alternating years would emphasize a continuing education style conference, probably at the Grace campus in Winona Lake. He stated that the reason is that we need it and we don't have it. It used to be that all GBC pastors attended Grace Seminary and thus they knew each other. We need to get to know each other and need consistent on-going training. If the workers in the FGBC are going to do this, we need to utilize the resources already at hand.
  - We already have the time set aside and the finances are already designated by our churches for time in July. Attendance at National Conference is declining, especially among the younger men (many are at BNYC).
  - The vacation style conference was a positive move that we need to preserve. John observed that we are spending way too much of Tom's time on national conference, and losing money primarily on national conference.
  - He recommends to the Fellowship Council that we go to Alternate Purpose Conferences with the first one in 2005 in Winona Lake as a continuing education conference.
- QUESTIONS: Does the training concept take into account wives/women? Yes, church workers, no child-care. Tend to eat meals together—so get to know one another. Share rooms (cut costs) but also sharing learning. BNYC may still cause a conflict for youth pastors. Will we redefine the purpose of conference? NO, just split and alternate when we concentrate on differing purposes. How are we going to be proactive in training leaders? The idea is to split the purpose—Relationship at both styles (Mission & celebration at the vacation style), Training and Relationship at Training Conference. This would save some expenses especially for the NAT/ORGS. If BNYC is not at same time, it may save some of the conflicts and encourage the youth pastors and younger men to be able to be at the training conference also. Mark: If they can only go to one, and have to go to BNYC how are we going to get them to a training conference? Tom suggested that there is whole other market of young leaders who are not involved in BNYC. This might be a case of doing something or doing nothing at all. Do we try anything at all or nothing at all? We need to really work on packaging. Are we talking about Seminary level? Three levels: seminar level, continuing education for credit, and seminar/workshops. John wants a decision to veto or continue for 2005. Worthy of continued conversation in January.

**072502-09 FELLOWSHIP COUNCIL REORGANIZATON—TOM AVEY**

- FELLOWSHIP COUNCIL REORGANIZATON—TOM AVEY
- Tom commented on the high rotation of members on the Fellowship Council and that it is time to allow them to be re-electable.
  - We need to consider Moderator be a 2 year term, (still on leadership team 4 years) with Fellowship Council able to elect 2 additional members to the leadership team. Each moderator would have oversight of each kind of conference (less involved in training style, except evening sessions, etc.)
  - Jerry stated he has high regard for continuing education and was concerned about lack in the Fellowship at large.
  - Questions about how it will impact others in FGBC like co-operative and auxiliary organizations. Things change fast and we always seem behind the curve. We are constantly reacting instead of acting. Remembered the exciting time of combined BNYC and adult conference. Dividing it up caused some changes—key leaders and youth pastors have to attend BNYC because can't be in two places at the same time.

**072502-10 MEMBERSHIP FEE PROPOSAL—RON BOEHM**

- MEMBERSHIP FEE PROPOSAL—RON BOEHM

- 1       ▪ Membership is declining and we have to keep increasing our fees. Our membership fee is
- 2       tied to the wrong horse. There seem to be three answers: Change nothing (but work harder
- 3       at getting members), Flat fee (\$500), Proportionate \$.30% (about same as this year). Ron
- 4       suggests proportionate rate.
- 5       ▪ How would churches be affected? 82% of churches would pay \$300 more or less than
- 6       currently. Change compared to offerings: 113 churches would pay .1 to .3% more of their
- 7       budget than under current system. This new system ties fees to income: a standard that is
- 8       more connected with growth.
- 9       ▪ Proposal for action by the Fellowship Council
- 10       • Approve in 2002
- 11       • Present for conference Vote in 2003
- 12       • Make final adjustments to the plan in Jan 2004
- 13       • Spring 2004 collect membership offerings for conference 2004
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- 15       ➤ DISCUSSION: This is the greatest act that will increase membership (churches will no longer be
- 16       taxes for increasing). What do we get for our delegate fees? Brochure needs to be produced
- 17       that sells benefits of belonging even before we present idea of fee change.
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19       **072502-11 A MOTION PREVAILED to accept the proposal for the change in fee assessment.**

21       **072502-12 FUTURE CELEBRATIONS—LOCATION, THEME AND PLAN**

- 22       ➤ CELEBRATION 2003 —BOB COMBS
- 23       ▪ *Bringing Hope to a Wounded World*
- 24       ▪ Knute Larson—Guest Speaker
- 25       ▪ Maybe Steve Brown will be worship leader
- 26       ▪ Location—Innisbrook Golf Resort, Tampa, FL
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- 28       ➤ CELEBRATION 2004 —JOHN TEEVAN
- 29       ▪ Johnson City, TN—near Fountain of Life church
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- 31       ➤ CELEBRATION 2005—NEW SECOND MODERATOR-ELECT
- 32       ▪ Winona Lake, IN ?
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- 34       ➤ CELEBRATION 2006 LOCATION
- 35       ▪ West Coast?
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37       **072502-13 CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE IDEA—TOM AVEY**

- 38       ➤ CONFERENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE IDEA—TOM AVEY
- 39       ▪ Will comment at Tuesday meeting
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41       **072502-14 VISION—UPDATE**

- 42       ➤ VISION—UPDATE
- 43       ▪ Logo Update—designed by developers from Nat/Orgs. Use for a year, see how it goes.
- 44       ▪ Jeff will update Tuesday.
- 45       ▪ Tom suggests that we keep advancing the current vision statements.
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47       **072502-15 FOCUS RETREAT DATES AND LOCATION AND PLAN—TOM AVEY**

- 48       ➤ FOCUS RETREAT DATES AND LOCATION AND PLAN—TOM AVEY
- 49       ▪ Central—October 7-8, 2002—Winona Lake, special connect w/Seminary students
- 50       ▪ East—October 21-23, 2002—Sandy Cove
- 51       ▪ Southwest—January 27-29, 2003—Rancho Capistrano
- 52       ▪ Southeast—February 24-26, 2003—Haines City
- 53       ▪ Focus for Women in Ministry—March 31-April 2
- 54       ▪ Northwest—May 19-20, 2003—Camp Clear Lake

- Alaska—March 28-30, 2003, Solid Rock Retreat Center

❖ **Tuesday, July 30, 2002 7:00am**

- PRESENT: Bob Combs (Mod), John McIntosh, Jesus Muñoz, Ron Manahan, Mark Saunders, Keith Shearer, Ron Boehm, Joel Richards, Jeff Gill, Terry Taylor, Jerry Young, Tad Hobert, Tom Avey (Fellowship Coordinator), and Greg Howell (Acting Secretary)
- 073002-01 Sharing about conf. The Fellowship Council spent considerable time reflecting on the strengths and weakness of Celebration 2002.
- 073002-02 Evaluation of Celebrate 2002
  - The balance of Leith Anderson on Friday McClain Day with our own speakers the other nights was good.
  - Worship music balance was very good.
  - We need to evaluate seminars and workshops.
    - There was nothing for lay people.
    - Committee of FC to plan, evaluate purposes, Value is to presenters more than the audience—surface gifts and leadership.
    - Some would be addressed by alternative conferences Idea.
    - We need to be careful how we promote seminars (so description matches what it is).
- 073002-03 Feedback towards Celebration 2003
  - Need for time for “hallway” interaction.
  - Form a FC committee to plan the seminars, since they get the feedback.
  - There is a tremendous value to including districts in planning seminars, etc.
  - The council feels strongly about continuing the theme “talking the lead” involving young men.
  - For 2003, we should be proactive about golf, making 4-somes meaningful interaction.
  - Sponsored luncheons from 12:30—3:00 is too long (2hrs is max for any session) “Too much of a good thing”
  - There is a lingering question. Is this a conference of churches or a conference of cooperating organizations.
- 073002-04 Dismissal Motion
  - The council decided to take Cambodian church off dismissal list.
  - John McIntosh will contact the English-church connected to the Cambodian church.

**073002-04 A MOTION PREVAILED: that we remove the Cambodian church from the dismissal list.**

- 073002-05 Funding Plan
  - Ron will begin to talk to pastors that are most affected.
  - Ron will begin to work on promotional material that teaches the value of the FGBC.
  - Ron and Tom will work on the amendments that are needed.
- Location for Celebration 2004—Motion needed to authorize John Teevan and Tom Avey to negotiate and sign a contract after legal review.

**072002-05 A MOTION Prevailed to authorize Tom and John to investigate and sign a contract for Celebration 2002 after legal review.**

- Winter Meeting—Simi Valley, Jan 30 (dinner) until Feb 3 (travel 4<sup>th</sup>—Tuesday) We love going there. (Thurs night—Tuesday night)
- Just visit, not preach in CA churches—take pastors to lunch—assign each to a church.
- Fiscal Year change

**072002-06 A MOTION PREVAILED that fiscal year be changed to end Oct 31, starting 2002**

- Goodbye and thanks to members going off FC: Ron Manahan, Jesus Muñoz, and Tad Hobert.(David Mitchell)
- Closed in prayer by Terry Taylor.

**072502-16 Next meeting: January 30, - February 2, 2003 in Simi Valley**

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory M. Howell  
Recording Secretary