



FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLIES

Connecting to Advance God's Kingdom

2017 FCA CANADA ENVISIONING MEETING

NAV Centre
Cornwall, ON
May 2, 2017

MINUTES

The Annual Envisioning Meeting commenced at 9:04 AM.

Chairman, Glenn Breitkreuz, greeted the group and opened in prayer.

ENV 17-01 **Uniform FCA License/Ordination Certificates:** Glenn Breitkreuz identified the issue where the local church is licensing and ordaining ministers, but not necessarily following through with registering them with the FCA. Often these ministers assume they have FCA credentials and are members in good standing, but in reality, they are not; therefore, the FCA office has no record of them, and are not able to follow their ministry and perhaps connect them with other Kingdom endeavours. The suggested solution is that the FCA office would issue all license and ordination certificates going forward, noting that any previously issued certificates by the local church will be honoured. The question about possibly having the FCA logo on the certificate was raised. James Humphries noted that missionaries have had an issue with this as well. Robert Parmenter asked if churches could also receive a certificate when they are newly registered. We will continue to look into this further. It was Moved and Seconded to forward this item to the Annual Business Meeting tomorrow.

Moved: Jim Reimer

Seconded: Richard Dannhauer

CARRIED

ENV 17-02 **Missions/Para-Church Organizations Endorsing New Churches/Ministers:** The issue of the FCA not currently having enough endorsing churches was shared. A possible solution would be to give missions and para-church organizations the authority to endorse churches and ministers. These missions and para-churches would need to meet the standards of an endorsing organization as outlined in the FCA Canadian Handbook. George Bradley raised concerns that perhaps not every organization would have the same commitment and relationship as a local church would. Paul Vallee raised concerns that we are not prepared, that para-church organizations may not have experience the same way local churches do, and that we should have a biblical and theological basis for this that should be properly vetted by a subcommittee over the next year. Glen Forsberg reminded the group of the pressing issue; the relational model that we currently have has its limitations, but we need to make more of an effort to educate our local churches about the endorsing qualifications. He encouraged us to keep working through this. It was Moved and Seconded that the Elders form a sub-committee to examine this issue further.

Moved: Paul Vallee

Seconded: George Bradley

CARRIED

ENV 17-03 **International Convention Schedule & Notice of Annual Business Meeting:** It is not FCA Canada's intention to force the churches to choose between attending either the US Convention or the Canadian Convention. It is proposed that an International Convention be held on alternating even-numbered years. Earl Toews was in favour, but reminded the group that we may not then have attendance at Regional gatherings. Jules Mclette spoke in favour of this as it will greatly increase our connectedness and our understanding of a different culture

in the US. John Sprecher, the US FCA Lead Elder, said that when FCA Canada moved to having a Canadian spring convention, the American delegates really missed the Canadian attendance; they are moving farther into International circles in other countries. George Bradley suggested that Regional Coordinators make sure not to plan any regional gatherings within two months of the International Convention, particularly the US International Convention, so as not to take away from attendance at the Convention. It was Moved and Seconded to forward this item to the Annual Business Meeting tomorrow.

Moved: Robert Parmenter

Seconded: Paul Vallee

CARRIED

It was agreed to remove reference to the Convention being in a Canadian city in the FCA Canadian Handbook. It was Moved and Seconded to forward this item to the Annual Business Meeting tomorrow.

Moved: Jim Reimer

Seconded: Lovelace St. John

CARRIED

The Chairman announced a 25-minute break.

It was agreed to remove from the FCA Canadian Handbook that notice of the FCA Annual Business Meeting must be made via mailed hard copy, and instead that it may be delivered electronically by email and posted to the FCA website. It was Moved and Seconded to forward this item to the Annual Business Meeting tomorrow.

Moved: Robert Parmenter

Seconded: Ralph Girard

CARRIED

ENV 17-04 Introduction of New & Future Regions: Glen Forsberg reviewed the current Canadian regions noting that we are currently searching for a new Coordinator to head the BC Lower Mainland area, as well as the Peace Region in Alberta, as well as the 'GTA Central' and '905 West' areas. Fabian Reid and Sedrick Brown are being considered for the '905 East' area. Our vision is that no one be left behind and greater connections will be made. Glen noted that Regional Coordinators are chosen amongst their regional membership, not by the FCA Elders. Glen encouraged the members to thoroughly review the description of a Regional Coordinator as outlined in the FCA Canadian Handbook when vetting a potential new Coordinator so that the full expectations are known. Glenn Breikreuz encouraged Regional Coordinators to continually update the office with any changes.

ENV 17-05 Change to Statement of Common Beliefs to add "the Great Commission": Missions' Coordinator James Humphries, had requested that mention of the Great Commission be added to our Statement of Common Beliefs. It was Moved and Seconded that the Great Commission statement will be forwarded to the Annual Business Meeting tomorrow to be added to the FCA Canadian Handbook.

Moved: Glen Forsberg

Seconded: Corey Rosenfeldt

CARRIED

ENV 17-06 Addition of Statement of Ethics to Handbook: It was agreed that the Statement of Ethics should be added to the FCA Canadian Handbook. It was Moved and Seconded that this item be forwarded to the Annual Business Meeting tomorrow. It was also suggested that a point about agreeing to the Statement of Common Beliefs by new ministers be added to the vetting process.

Moved: Jim Reimer

Seconded: Patrick Rimple

CARRIED

ENV 17-07 **Report on 2016 Envisioning Meeting's Top Topics:**

Duane Siemens led a discussion about connecting within the FCA, mentoring leaders and succession planning. He gave a brief description of his history and distributed a list of discussion questions, and had everyone break into groups. He asked for the notes from the discussion group, and requested that if anyone has any further thoughts to forward them on to him, and he will compile the notes and send them out to the Fellowship at a later date.

Glen Forsberg led a discussion on effective regional connections. He asked the delegates to break into their regional groups to discuss how their specific regions can better connect.

James Humphries asked the group to discuss where missions is today and in the future, what the future is of long-term missions is, how we can connect and build stronger relationships with our missionaries, how we can involve and prepare youth for missions (the idea of succession), and how we define missions.

ENV 17-08 **Missions Day Discussion (length, cost, and where Missions Day should fit in at future Conventions):**

Corey Rosenfeldt suggested that tagging on the missions day at the end of the Convention makes it nothing more than a tag-on. He would rather see it somewhere in the middle. Earl Toews suggested that instead of having a specific missions day, perhaps it could be intertwined throughout. Matthew Sampson liked the thought of having a regional missions meetings for those who can't attend Convention. Glen Forsberg says that in the past we've had entire missions' conferences. Last year was the first year that we had a day devoted to missions, so perhaps we should not make any changes just yet. Jim Reimer liked having a dedicated missions day because it allows people who aren't really into missions to leave, but those who just want to attend the missions day only can attend only that, and perhaps it could even be opened up to other non-members. Paul Vallee suggests that the people who should be asked are the ones who aren't here, and that missions is a part of our everyday existence, not necessarily just overseas; an extra day is like an addendum, whereas integrated sessions will allow everyone to understand both sides of the dialogue. Robert Parmenter encouraged the group to remember the importance of missions and missionaries and would like the day to be more integrated. Roger Armbruster would like to see more integration, and noted that within Canada there has been great success with the First Nations churches being missionally integrated.

Glenn Breitreuz shared that if long-term cross-cultural missions are not a part of our local churches, it will be difficult to implement this within the FCA. Everything in the FCA begins with the local church. Conference-planning cannot be formulized and structured; each Convention should have its own flavour, its own creativity. There is a big difference between traditional long-term cross-cultural missions and short-term missions' experiences that can sometimes create more trouble than help. We need to define what we're talking about when we refer to missionary endeavour.

Jules Miclette shared that he has been a part of his missions' board and they have made great strides in raising funds for their missionaries. Churches must make it an administrative and financial priority; it can still be done even in this day.

Glenn Breitreuz asked the delegates to work on bringing at least one other younger minister with them to the next Convention.

Beverly Fawcett closed in prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10 pm.

Minutes submitted by Kara Dzikowski, Recording Secretary.