



FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLIES

Connecting to Advance God's Kingdom

2016 FCA CANADA ENVISIONING MEETING
Bethel Pentecostal Church
La Glace, AB
May 3, 2016

MINUTES

The Annual Envisioning Meeting commenced at 9:10 AM.

Paul Vallee greeted the group and opened in prayer.

Glen Forsberg gave a brief history of Bethel Pentecostal Church and the region.

ENV 16-01 **FCA's Corporate Voice on Political/Ethical Issues:** Glenn Breitkreuz led the discussion on how the FCA and FCA members should respond to current-day political and ethical issues. What criteria would we use to measure our response? What impacts would differing geographical jurisdiction have on our response? How, what process, would be used to communicate our response? What would the timeline be? Are there legal implications and how do we regulate that? How do we release these statements and to whom? How do we catalogue our responses? What restrictions, if any, would members attach to our response?

By way of a show of hands, the majority of the group requested that there be a collective FCA response.

Mark Ramshaw suggested that we could invoke our Charter-rights of freedom of religion.

Glen Forsberg briefly outlined Alberta's Bill 10.

Trevor Scott suggested using our Regional Coordinator structure for ways of communication, and to discuss and respond quickly.

Paul Vallee recommended that the Elders appoint a subcommittee that could draft positions on behalf of the Fellowship.

Greg Fraser suggests having information such as printed documentations (like a resource package containing government bills/information and petitions) be available to all members of the Fellowship.

Steve Oboh asked if we have legal recourse. Wilson Kadavil asked if we are connecting with lawyers within our congregations. He has access within his congregation to lawyers.

It was agreed by a majority show of hands that a motion be brought to the Annual Business Meeting that a subcommittee be appointed by the Elders to address political and ethical issues, in conjunction with a resource package to be distributed, and ask the Fellowship if they have any legal connections. Glenn Breitkreuz encouraged everyone to read and respond to email communications.

- ENV 16-02 **New Church Plant:** Ron Disbrowe will present to the group on Thursday about a new church plant in Edmonton, Alberta. *[Note that Ron Disbrowe did not present on Thursday]*
- ENV 16-03 **Missions Day Promo:** Glen Forsberg gave a verbal promotion for the Missions Day on Friday.
- ENV 16-04 **Missions Coordinator Position Description:** Paul Vallee presented the Missions Coordinator position description. James Humphries suggests that we should have a closer relationship with the FCA U.S. Missions' Board.
- ENV 16-05 **Merged Canadian-U.S. Convention:** Paul Vallee presented the proposal and rationale for a merged convention. It would be once every four years in the U.S. and the changes would allow an appointed committee of Canadian and U.S. members to organize the Convention rather than the local church.

George Bradley wholeheartedly agreed with the proposal.

Greg Fraser suggested that we address the issue of church boards understanding the necessity of sending their pastor and spouse to all conventions.

Jim Reimer suggests that it can get very expensive for Canadians to attend US conventions. His concern is that we might lose the distinctive diversity of various regions. Ron Short's concerns are travel/legal issues for people going over the border.

Harold Stephan suggests that if we don't do it, we may lose our connection to U.S. fellowship.

Corey Rosenfeldt suggested that it would be good for people to be able to travel for vacation as well.

James Humphries suggested that collectively we can draw from each other's suggestions and experience.

Glen Forsberg reminded us of our common historical development, and the benefits of cross-border cross-pollination.

John Sprecher shared that in the U.S. they have developed more international relationships, particularly in Africa and it may be easier to invite international ministers to come to a Canadian location than in the U.S.

By a show of hands, the majority agreed that we will make a motion at the Business Meeting tomorrow to merge the Canadian-U.S. Conventions every four years.

- ENV 16-06 **Pastors and Local Churches' Current Challenges and FCA Members' Support & Expectations:** Paul Vallee asked the group to break into smaller groups of 4-5 people each to discuss their pastoral and local churches' challenges and be prepared to appoint one person to present their group's areas of concern.

Group 1

Church Concerns are adjustments, succession, Muslim saturation in some communities, compromised witness, a lack of biblical understanding in Christians, crisis of leadership, managing offense.

FCA Members' Support Concern are success of leadership, gender, dominance of one ethnic group, how we're recruiting younger leaders, what are we doing together as the FCA to promote the passing of the baton? Perhaps there should be another team other than the Elders who are being mentored for succession, stronger support for the Bible college.

Group 2:

Church Concerns: Transitional communities (engaging people who are coming and going), balancing family, health, church and community, being too busy (creating boundaries), where to go for help, how to teach to spiritual complacent congregations.

Group 3

Multiculturalism and generational differences rolled in together; broken families in congregations and in the ministry.

Group 4

Lack of pastoral fellowship & connection, diversity of doctrine, being bi-vocational.

Group 5

Leadership that is listening to the needs of the church and developing trust, communicating what God is saying to them, reaching the younger generation – helping young people to see their need for Jesus when they've been told they're perfect, finding pastoral leaders.

Group 6

Mentoring future leaders, acquiring resources, not knowing who the resources are within the fellowship.

Group 7

Growth in the church such as space and building projects (keeping momentum), being counter-cultural (consumerism mindset), raising up a generation to understand how to live and share their Christian life with their peers.

Group 8

Needing leaders to share the load, training leaders, aging population in the church that needs younger people to step in, need for worship leaders, ministry teams needed, travel expenses from one community to another, needing a plan to win souls in a culture where there is very little evangelism happening.

Group 9

Physical health (teaching lifestyle disciplines), spiritual disciplines such as confessing sins, having a biblical world view (not interpreting the Bible to match our culture, but the other way around).

Group 10

Shifting the focus of the church to be able to embrace outside organizations like para-churches (finances), who is available to consult about changes in our churches. How to be an embracing community, but also a place of correction (E.g. The homosexual community).

Group 11

Cross-cultural communication, sharing best-practices with new Canadian pastors, mentorship & discipleship, does our model of how we're leading need to change (increased mentorship), reaching the community at large and getting to know people as they enter the doors of the church, using the Bible as our guide to teach, being able to reach youth with a model of having smaller groups, more prayer, family time amongst pastors' families, ensuring pastors' children have a place in the church, have a place for seniors in the church (the church is the church of today, not just tomorrow), establishing rapport with our political leaders, men not staying in leadership roles and more women having to step into these roles.

Group 12

How to stand up for righteousness in spite of changes within governmental policies, pastoral fatigue, are there more resources that can be gained within the FCA), blessing and a challenge that the FCA is so diverse (pastors and churches), needing real encounters with God.

Group 13

Reaching people in and around the physical location, reaching unchurched Christians, setting followers on fire, meeting people where they're at, bringing the church from a place of just evangelism to discipleship, dealing with issues around addiction including addicts and their family members.

Group 14

A younger generation that is craving discipleship, perhaps better connection with older pastors in order for older pastors to impart their wisdom to younger pastors, it's a bit difficult to define the FCA (unclear), more emphasis on missions, there are many subcultures within our culture – how do we reach them?

Group 15

How do we adjust through the struggle of transitions within the church organization.

Group 16

How to assimilate people, and how to speak in truth and love without condemnation, fathers not fulfilling their calling

Glenn Breikreuz explained a bit about how Christian Fellowship Assembly, the Convention host church, arrived at the theme of 'Converge'. This is what we hope to do whenever we meet at Convention, to converge. He explained the coloured cards and how they have been designed to connect everyone. One of the legacies that he hopes will come out of this Convention is a catalogue of biographies.

Minutes submitted by Kara Dzikowski.