

Bible  
Fellowship  
Church  
Yearbook  
2008



Bible  
Fellowship  
Church

*"An Expanding Fellowship of Churches  
United to Make Disciples of Jesus Christ"*

**ONE HUNDRED  
TWENTY FIFTH  
ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
OF THE  
BIBLE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH  
2008**

**[www.bfc.org](http://www.bfc.org) / 1.877.795.1212**

**Announcing:  
126<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

**Convenes: 10:00 AM, April 27, 2009**

**Place: Pinebrook Bible Conference**

**Officers:**

**William G. Schlonecker - Chairman  
Randall A. Grossman - Vice Chairman  
David A. Thomann - Secretary**

**Reports Due: March 1, 2009  
12 Pinebrook Road  
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301**

**Convened at Pinebrook Bible Conference**

**Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania**

**April 28 - 30, 2008**

**Published by Order of Annual Conference**

**David A. Thomann, Editor**

**Price \$9.00**

**Officers of the 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference:**

**Chairman, William A. Schlonecker**

**Vice Chairman, Calvin T. Reed**

**Secretary, David A. Thomann**

**Assistant Secretary, David T. Allen**

**Publisher, Daniel P. Allen**

Corporate and Denominational Address:  
*3000 Fellowship Drive*  
*Whitehall, PA 18052*

# Regions for 2008

## **Berks PA Region:**

*Robert A. Sloan, Jr., Leader*  
Blandon, Fleetwood, Kutztown, La  
Roca de Reading, Oley, Reading,  
Sinking Spring

## **BucksMont PA Region:**

*Andrew Crossgrove, Leader*  
Graterford, Harleysville, Hatfield,  
Quakertown, Red Hill, Royersford,  
Spring City

## **Capital PA Region:**

*David A. Thomann, Leader*  
Ephrata, Adams County, Harrisburg,  
Lancaster, Lebanon, Paradise, Terre  
Hill, York

## **Lehigh Valley Region:**

*Byron Widger, Leader*  
Bethlehem, Cedar Crest,  
Coopersburg, El Faro, Emmaus,  
Fellowship Community, Finesville,  
NJ; Hellertown, Nazareth,  
Walnutport, Whitehall, Zionsville

## **City Concerns:**

*G. Wayne Clapier, Leader*  
Brooklyn, NY, Newark, NJ,  
Wissinoming, PA

## **Metro Region:**

*Dennis M. Cahill, Leader*  
Brooklyn, NY, Denville, NJ,

Howell, NJ, Newark, NJ, Old  
Bridge, NJ, Piscataway, NJ, Toms  
River, NJ

## **Mid Hudson, NY Region:**

*James A. Wickstead, Leader*  
Clinton Corners, NY; Carmel, NY;  
Lagrangeville, NY; Thompson, CT

## **New J & Del. Region:**

*Timothy J. Schmoyer, Leader*  
Camden, DE; Long Neck, DE;  
Newark, DE; Cape May, NJ

## **Philly-Area Region:**

*Richard E. Taylor, Leader*  
Maple Glen, Wallingford,  
Wissinoming, Woodbury Heights,  
NJ

## **Pocono PA Region:**

*Daniel P. Allen, Leader*  
Lehighton, Mt. Pocono,  
Stroudsburg

## **South West Region:**

*Thomas H. Morrison, Leader*  
Las Cruces, NM; Mérida Yucatá,  
Mexico

## **Upper Susquehanna:**

*Charles E. Cole, Leader*  
Mt. Carmel, Shamokin, Sunbury

## **Easter Dates - 21st Century**

12 April 2009	17 April 2022	25 March 2035	5 April 2048
4 April 2010	9 April 2023	13 April 2036	18 April 2049
24 April 2011	31 March 2024	5 April 2037	10 April 2050
8 April 2012	20 April 2025	25 April 2038	2nd April 2051
31 March 2013	5 April 2026	10 April 2039	21 April 2052
20 April 2014	28 March 2027	1 April 2040	6 April 2053
5 April 2015	16 April 2028	21 April 2041	29 March 2054
27 March 2016	1 April 2029	6 April 2042	18 April 2055
16 April 2017	21 April 2030	29 March 2043	2nd April 2056
1 April 2018	13 April 2031	17 April 2044	22nd April 2057
21 April 2019	28 March 2032	9 April 2045	14 April 2058
12 April 2020	17 April 2033	25 March 2046	30 March 2059
4 April 2021	9 April 2034	14 April 2047	18 April 2060

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# *Ordination Photos*

April 28, 2008, Pinebrook Bible Conference



*Shan, Kimberly & Caleb Cleck*



*Thomas, Paula & Joy Morrison*



*Robert Kramer*



*Ferdie & Susan Madara*



*Dennis Cahill presenting the charge to the ordinands.*

# *Directory of Boards and Committees*

## **Directory of Boards**

### **BFC Executive Board** (Elected for 1 year)

Ministers: David T. Allen, Dennis M. Cahill, Carl C. Cassel,  
Randall A. Grossman, Robert A. Sloan, Jr., David A. Thomann  
Elders: Robert Evans, Jay Fasnacht, Steve Kauffman, Charles  
Lavigna, L. James Roberts, Robert Zentz  
President - Randall A. Grossman

### **Board of Christian Education**

- (2009) Carol A. Gearhart, Eric R. North, Scott G. Ott, John C.  
Studenroth  
(2010) Nancy A. Mertus, Louis Prontnicki, J. Richard Vroman, James  
A. Wickstead.  
(2011) David W. Eisenhower, Kevin W. Kirkpatrick, Rachel Norris,  
Michael J. Tannous  
Chairman - Michael J. Tannous

### **Board of Church Extension**

- (2009) Kenneth D. Keeler, Alfred G. Roberts, William G. Schlonecker,  
William R. Singletary  
(2010) Robert W. Davies, Carl K. Spackman, Richard E. Taylor,  
Robert H. Zentz  
(2011) Robert A. Sloan, Jr., Clyde W. Snyder  
Executive Director - David E. Gundrum (2009)  
Chairman - Richard E. Taylor  
Vice Chairman - Carl K. Spackman  
Secretary - William G. Schlonecker  
Treasurer - William R. Singletary

### **Board of Church Health**

- (2009) Richard T. Paashaus, Ronald W. Reed, Carl K. Spackman  
(2010) Robert A. Sloan, Jr., Clyde W. Snyder  
(2011) Robert A. Kaatz, Jerry Rasmus, Byron Widger

### **Board of Communications**

- (2009) Allan R. Vivona  
(2010) Daniel P. Allen, Byron G. Barnshaw  
(2011) Clyde W. Snyder, Ralph E. Ritter  
Chairman - Daniel P. Allen  
Secretary - Allan R. Vivona  
*Fellowship News* Editor - Carol Snyder (2011)  
Webservant - Scott G. Ott (2009)  
*FN* Business Manager - Rachel Anderson (2010)



**Board of Directors of the Bible Fellowship Church**

- (2009) David T. Allen, Charles A. Lavigna, David J. Watkins  
(2010) Carl C. Cassel, Raymond R. Dotts, Robert W. Gehret  
(2011) Randall A. Grossman, Horace A. Kauffman, L. James Roberts  
President of Corporation - Randall A. Grossman  
Vice President of Corporation - Carl C. Cassel  
Secretary of Corporation - David J. Watkins  
Financial Secretary - Horace A. Kauffman  
Hospitalization Secretary - Charles A. Lavigna  
Treasurer - Robert W. Gehret

**Board of Directors of Bible Fellowship Church Homes, Inc.  
(Affiliate Agency)**

- (2009) Bruce A. Ellingson, Glenn D. Ruoss  
(2010) C. Larry Bennett  
(2011) LeRoy S. Heller, Robin A. Musselman  
President - Robert H. Zentz  
Chairman - LeRoy S. Heller

**Board of Directors of Pinebrook Bible Conference**

- (2009) Jonathon W. Arnold, Sr., Charles E. Cole, Gerald L. Schlonecker, Hans R. Waldvogel, Robert H. Zentz  
(2010) Carl Ackerman, Alva C. Cassel, Brian H. Cooper, Jay H. Fasnacht, Kermit K. Gehman  
(2011) Charles D. Bomgardner, Clyde D. Bomgardner, LeRoy O. Herb  
Director - Daniel P. Allen  
President & Chairman - Alva C. Cassel  
Vice President & Vice Chairman - Charles E. Cole  
Treasurer - Jay H. Fasnacht  
Secretary - Charles D. Bomgardner

**Board of Higher Education**

- (2009) Ralph E. Ritter, Alan H. Russell  
(2010) Charles A. Bloomfield, David Bossard, Raymond R. Dotts  
(2011) David T. Allen, Stephen C. Cassel

**Board of Missions**

- (2009) Susanne R. Rigard, Thomas P. Shorb, Philip E. Yerrington  
(2010) Robert W. Davies, Donald S. Faust, Kevin W. Kirkpatrick  
(2011) Ralph M. Soper, Craig Tress  
Director - Dana E. Weller (2009)  
Financial Secretary - Daniel G. Oswald (2011)  
Chairman - Ralph M. Soper  
Secretary - Robert W. Davies

**Board of Pensions**

- (2009) Jay H. Fasnacht, Robert Gaugler, David N. Schoen  
(2010) Ellis Lee Hostetter, Keith E. Plows, Thomas P. Shorb  
(2011) Clyde D. Bomgardner, Jr., L. James Roberts, David J. Watkins  
Chairman - David J. Watkins; Secretary - Keith E. Plows

**Board of Victory Valley Camp**

- (2009) Timothy J. Bertolet, Rachel E. Norris, Rodney P. Plows  
 (2010) Jason J. Englehart, Douglas J. Manwiller, Timothy D. Weaber  
 (2011) Bruce A. Ellingson, Timothy J. Schmoyer, Gregory A. Uhrich  
 Director - Scott G. Ott

**Board of Youth and Young Adults**

- (2009) Mark E. Barninger, Clyde D. Bomgardner, Jr., Regina S. Gotchel, Dorothy L. Ruch  
 (2010) Andrew T. Crossgrove, Mark Evans, John C. Vandegriff, Jr.  
 (2011) Ronald L. Kohl, Lisa F. Kellerman  
 Chairman - Clyde D. Bomgardner, Jr.  
 Vice Chairman - Ronald L. Kohl  
 Secretary - John C. Vandegriff, Jr.

<b>Directory of Committees</b>
--------------------------------

**Committee on Credentials**

- (2009) Ralph M. Soper  
 (2010) Dennis M. Cahill, LeRoy S. Heller  
 (2011) Carl J. Fisher, Jr., Keith E. Plows  
 Chairman - Dennis M. Cahill  
 Vice Chairman - Keith E. Plows  
 Secretary - Carl J. Fisher, Jr.

**Committee on Ministerial Candidates**

- (2009) Clyde D. Bomgardner, Jr., David E. Gundrum  
 (2010) Howard N. Wells  
 (2011) Calvin T. Reed, Richard E. Taylor  
 Chairman - Calvin T. Reed  
 Secretary - Richard E. Taylor  
 Test Administrator - Howard N. Wells  
 Seminar Coordinator - David E. Gundrum

**Committee on Nominations**

- (2009) Charles D. Bomgardner, David R. Way  
 (2010) Richard T. Paashaus, Nell Ruch  
 (2011) Raymond R. Bertolet, Betty Herb, Robert A. Johnson, II

**Conference Judicatory**

- (2009) Ronald W. Reed, L. James Roberts, Dean A. Stortz, Gregory A. Uhrich  
 (2010) Douglas D. Bowne, Calvin T. Reed, Clyde W. Snyder  
 (2011) James A. Beil, Carl C. Cassel, S. Lester Moyer, Rodney P. Plows  
 Secretary - Gregory A. Uhrich

**Special Appellate Judicatory**

- (2009) Charles Lavigna, John C. Studenroth  
(2010) Randall A. Grossman, Richard G. Matthews, Harold Schoonover  
(2011) Raymond R. Dotts, Hans R. Waldvogel  
Secretary - David J. Watkins

**Historical Committee**

- (2009) Carl C. Cassel, Jill A. Davidson  
(2010) Ronald W. Hoyle, Harold P. Shelly  
(2011) Ronald L. Kohl  
Archivist - Richard E. Taylor  
Chairperson - Jill A. Davidson  
Secretary - Richard E. Taylor

**Ministerial Relations Committee**

- (2009) Steven J. Kauffman, William G. Schlonecker  
(2010) Randall A. Grossman, Ronald W. Reed  
(2011) L. James Roberts, Jacob J. Susek, Jr., Byron Widger  
Chairman - Randall A. Grossman  
Secretary - William G. Schlonecker

**Directory of Other Committees**

**Beneficiary Society**

Philip G. Norris, Chairman; R. C. Reichenbach, Secretary;  
LeRoy S. Heller, Treasurer

**Joint Committee on Ethnic Church Planting**

From Church Extension: David E. Gundrum, Alfred G. Roberts  
From Board of Missions: Dana E. Weller, Donald S. Faust  
Consultants: Elliot H. Ramos, David K. Schlonecker  
Chairman - David E. Gundrum

**Ministerial Convention Committee**

- (2009) Raymond R. Bertolet, Philip E. Yerrington  
(2010) Steven J. DelDuco, John C. Vandegriff, Jr.  
(2011) Timothy J. Schmoyer  
Chairman - Raymond R. Bertolet  
Secretary - Steven J. DelDuco  
Treasurer - Timothy J. Schmoyer  
Advisor - Ronald C. Mahurin

**Pinebrook Educational Foundation**

- (2009) Gary E. Karch, Karen Stull  
(2010) Raymon R. Dotts, Jay H. Fasnacht  
(2011) Stephen C. Cassel, David T. Allen  
Chairman - Raymond R. Dotts  
Vice Chairman - Stephen C. Cassel  
Secretary - Jay H. Fasnacht

## Directory of Study Committees

### Study Committee on the Millennium

Albert J. Dommel, Robert C. Kaatz, Kevin W. Kirkpatrick, John C. Studenroth, Jacob J. Susek, Jr.

Chairman - Jacob J. Susek, Jr.

Secretary - Kevin W. Kirkpatrick

## Directory of Annual Conference Committees

### Agenda and Program Committee for the 126<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

Three officers for 2009, Timothy S. Cowen, Ronald L. Kohl, Thomas P. Shorb

### Committee on Arrangements for the 126<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

David A. Thomann, Chairman; Daniel P. Allen, Jonathon W. Arnold, Sr., Thomas P. Shorb, Daniel L. Williams, Chairman for 2009

### Committee on Statistics

LeRoy S. Heller, Chairman; C. Larry Bennett, Hugh C. Coulbourn, Jr., David A. Thomann, Gregory A. Uhrich

### Committee on Examination of the Minutes of Particular Churches

Allan R. Vivona, Chairman, Clyde D. Bomgardner, Jr., Louis S. Curcio, C. Larry Bennett, Ronald C. Erb, Ralph M. Soper, Jacob J. Susek, Jr.

### Committee to Examine the Minutes of 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

Philip G. Norris, Chairman; Dean A. Stortz, Byron Widger

### Officers of 126<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

Chairman - William G. Schlonecker

Vice Chairman - Randall A. Grossman

Secretary - David A. Thomann

### Registrars for the 126<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

Jonathon W. Arnold, Sr., Registrar

Davis E. Duggins, Assistant Registrar



*Laying-on of hands.*



*Missionary Phil greets newly ordained brother, Tom*

## *Table of Ordained Ministers*

<u>Pastor</u>	<u>Year of BFC License</u>	<u>Year of Ordination</u>	<u>Year of Present Status</u>
Allen, Daniel P.	1982	1979	2005
Allen, David T.	2000	2003	1997
Arnold, Jonathon W., Sr.	1994	1997	2007
Baker, Delbert, R. II	1976	1979	1975
Barninger, Mark E.	2006	2007	2006
Bennett, C. Larry	2001	1982	2001
Bertolet, Raymond R.	2005	2007	2005
Bertolet, Timothy J.	2004	2007	2006
Bomgardner, Clyde D., Jr.	1997	2000	2006
Boone, Clifford B.	1989	1992	2002
Brush, R. Jerome	1988	1992	1991
Cahill, Dennis M.	1986	1984	1986
Clapier, G. Wayne	1980	1981	1980
Clark, Gerald D.	2002	2006	2003
Cleck, Shan D.	2006	1998	2006
Clineff, Kevin W.	2001	2004	1999
Cole, Charles E	1996	1970	1996
Cooper, Brian H.	1996	1998	1996
Cowen, Timothy S.	1997	2000	1997
Crossgrove, Andrew T.	1999	2002	2002
Curcio, Louis S	2002	2004	2002
Dommel, Albert J.	1982	1984	2005
Dowling, Willis I.	1999	1983	2002
Duggins, Davis E.	2005	1997	2005
Erb, Ronald C.	1981	1983	2005
Felty, Glenn R.	2006	1966	2003
Fields, Robert K.	2004	1997	2000
Fischer, Carl J., Jr.	1990	1985	2007
Grossman, Randall A.	1981	1983	1990
Gundrum, David E.	1986	1988	2000
Harris, Richard D.	1976	1978	1988
Heller, LeRoy S.	1955	1958	1995
Johnson, Robert A, II	2002	1990	2002
Keeler, Kenneth D.	1982	1985	2000
Kirkpatrick, Kevin W.	2001	2004	2001
Kohl, Ronald L.	2004	2007	2004
Kramer, Robert B.	2006	1993	2006
Kuntzman, Donald E.	2003	2006	1996
Madara, Ferdie R.	2006	1995	2006
Mahurin, Ronald C.	1960	1959	2001
Miller, Alan G.	2003	1981	2007
Morrison, Mark L.	1996	1999	2006
Morrison, Thomas H.	2005	2008	2004
Norris, Philip G.	2004	2007	2004
North, Eric R	2003	1992	2003
Paashaus, Richard T.	1988	1990	1976
Prontnicki, Louis	1983	1985	1990
Ramos, Elliot H.	1998	2001	1999
Ravis, Richard B.	1990	1985	2001
Reed, Calvin T.	1982	1984	1983
Ritter, Ralph E.	1991	1994	2000
Schlonecker, William G.	1985	1988	1984

<u>Pastor</u>	<u>Year of BFC License</u>	<u>Year of Ordination</u>	<u>Year of Present Status</u>
Schmoyer, Timothy J.	2004	2007	2004
Schoen, David N.	1982	1987	1987
Shorb, Thomas P.	1977	1979	2001
Simpson, Arthur J., Jr.	2000	1988	2000
Sloan, Robert A., Jr.	1988	1986	1988
Soper, Ralph M.	1985	1987	1995
Spackman, Carl K.	1969	1971	2000
Spinney, Dennis W.	1984	1993	2006
Stortz, Dean A.	1983	1986	1988
Susek, Jacob J., Jr.	1994	1983	1993
Tannous, Michael J.	2001	2004	2001
Taylor, Richard E.	1973	1975	1982
Thomann, David A.	1978	1977	1987
Uhrich, Gregory A.	1989	1983	2001
Vandegriff, John C., Jr.	1974	1972	2007
Vivona, Allan R.	1992	1971	2000
Weller, Dana E.	1972	1974	1995
Wells, Howard N.	1990	1992	1990
Wickstead, James A.	1976	1981	1976
Widger, Byron	1985	1988	1995
Yerrington, Philip E.	1978	1981	2004

**Ordained Ministers under the Direction of the Board of Missions**

Aukamp, William C.	1985	1988	1986
Denlinger, Ronald K.	1994	1997	2000
Head, Jim D.	1994	1996	1998
Johnston, Walter M.	1987	1987	1991
Manney, David L.	1961	1976	1999
Morrison, Philip E.	1980	1982	1993
Moyer, Duane E.	1998	2001	2001
Moyer, Jerry L.	1992	1994	1997
Pollock, Thomas A.	1996	1999	1990
Riddell, David W.	1985	1987	1987
Studenroth, John C.	1991	1976	2000

**Ordained Ministers Working in the Chaplaincy under the Sponsorship of the BFC**

Heineman, David N. (Hosp)	1996	1993	2004
Hurst, Kenneth J. (Military)	1998	2000	2000
Jones, David H. (Military)	1978	1983	2004
Moyer, Richard A. (Prison)	1995	2000	1999

**Ordained Ministers Working in Other Christian Ministries**

Commerford, Robert S.	1984	1986	2008
Dunn, William J.	1999	2002	2008
Evans, Scot B.	2005	2007	2008
Hagy, Ronald C.	1986	1988	2008
Harding, W. Neil, Jr.	1983	1993	2004
Lawrence, Dennis J.	1993	1996	2005
Lea, Herbert K.	1980	1982	1994
Martin, Carl T.	1983	1986	2004
Ruhl, Jeffrey L.	1997	2000	2008

Pastor	Year of BFC License	Year of Ordination	Year of Present Status
<b><u>Ordained Ministers Between Calls</u></b>			
McCreary, J. Mark	1993	1996	2005
Reitz, Roger L.	1972	1974	2004
Way, David R.	1989	1993	2008
<b><u>Ordained Ministers on Leave of Absence</u></b>			
Frable, Arthur H., Jr.	1969	1971	1999
Trommler, Steven L.	1984	1986	2006
Tait, Jonathan P.	1994	1996	2004
<b><u>Ordained Ministers in Retirement</u></b>			
Barber, Kenneth F.	1985	1971	2006
Batchler, James R., Jr.	1976	1979	2006
Beil, James A.	1959	1962	1998
Bigley, T. James, Jr.	1962	1966	2002
Brosius, Bert N.	1958	1961	1998
Buck, Leonard E.	1958	1970	1997
Byrd, Terris L.	1969	1972	2006
Cassel, Alva C.	1958	1962	2002
Cassel, Carl C.	1956	1959	1993
Coulbourn, Hugh C., Jr.	1977	1970	2001
Dotts, Raymond R.	1960	1965	1999
Draper, Robert L.	1972	1973	1994
Dunn, John	1941	1950	1979
Ellingson, Bruce A.	1963	1966	2005
Frank, Walter H.	1939	1961	1989
Fritz, Harvey J., Jr.	1959	1962	1995
Gehman, Richard J.	1964	1971	2002
Harley, J. Barclay	1956	1960	1997
Herb, Frank L., Jr.	1954	1957	1991
Herb, George E.	1957	1960	1989
Herb, John H.	1962	1966	2005
Hertzog, Roy A.	1959	1968	1997
Hoyle, Ronald W.	1978	1954	1998
Minsky, Barry J.	1980	1966	2004
Moyer, Edward K.		1970	2000
Munyan, Edgar H.	1989	1955	1993
Phillips, D. Thomas	1971	1976	2003
Plows, Keith E.	1966	1968	2000
Reichenbach, R. C.	1937	1941	1982
Riggall, John H.	1945	1948	1982
Seifert, A. L.	1950	1953	1990
Shelly, Austin G.	1956	1961	1995
Smith, Gene W.	1991	1978	2008
Smock, Robert W.	1950	1953	1993
Thomann, David E.	1943	1946	1982
Watkins, David J.	1962	1965	1989
Weaber, Harold C.	1963	1967	1998
Ziegler, Daniel G.	1960	1963	2000
Zimmerman, Paul G.	1966	1971	2006

***Conference Reporter***  
**125<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**  
 Carol Z. Snyder

*Come, people of the risen King who delight  
 to bring Him praise . . .  
 Rejoice, rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!  
 One heart, one voice! Church of Christ, rejoice!* (K.Getty)

With this call to worship, the 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the BFC was convened April 28, 2008 at Pinebrook Bible Conference in East Stroudsburg, PA. Without question, the highlight of the Conference was the reception of two churches into the fellowship of churches.

Grace Bible Church of Las Cruces, NM, is the first Particular Church of the BFC to be established in the Southwest region of our country. The church was represented by Pastor Thomas Morrison and Delegate M. E. Brown, both of whom were seated at the conference bar.

The second church received into conference membership was *Iglesia Biblica La Roca de Merida*, the first BFC located outside the borders of the United States. What a joy it was to welcome these Spanish-speaking brothers and sisters! “This is a special day for us because God has answered our prayer,” said Pastor Ramirez to the conference body. “We didn’t want to be an independent church anymore. . . I want to thank you for accepting and receiving us into your fellowship.”

The theme of this conference was “A Mandate to Godly Leadership.” The message of each morning was in the context of this theme, with conference chairman, William G. Schlonecker addressing “The Man,” Pastor David T. Allen, “The Mission;” and Pastor Richard B. Ravis, “The Motivation.” Pastor Richard T. Paashaus was worship leader.

Other highlights included:

**MONDAY**

Ten first-time members of Annual Conference were introduced, and the pastors and delegates from the two new churches were seated at the conference bar.

Four candidates for ordination or recognition of previous ordinations were also welcomed and seated at the bar. They were Thomas H. Morrison, (Grace Bible Church, Las Cruces, NM), and



the following whose previous ordinations were recognized: Shan D. Cleck (Paradise BFC, Paradise, PA), Robert B. Kramer (Ephrata BFC, Ephrata, PA) and Ferdie R. Madara (Calvary BFC, Shamokin, PA).

Thirty-three retired and active BFC missionaries and missionary candidates were introduced. Tanzania Project leaders reported that the Lord willing, they will be going to Tanzania this summer, and the first of several teams will be joining them beginning the summer of 2009.

In recognition of the historic significance of this conference, throughout the three days, pictures were taken of conference attenders, in regional groups.

## **TUESDAY**

Much time was given to the report of the Study Committee on the Process and Purpose of God's Calling People to Salvation. Changes in five articles were presented to bring greater clarity to *BFC Articles of Faith*. Each article was passed at Second Reading by a more than two-thirds vote.

Much time for discussion was given to the report of a Steering Committee which proposed a move toward a different leadership structure for the BFC, while being careful to maintain the autonomy of the Local Church. Action was taken to initiate the first steps toward this new administrative structure.

The ordination service at the close of the day brought many visitors to Pinebrook. After the meaningful and joyful ceremony, family and friends were invited to Pinebrook's dining hall for a reception.

## **WEDNESDAY**

There was extensive discussion on the report of the Study Committee on the Millennium. This group will continue its work in the coming year and will report to the 126<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference.

Elections were completed. About fifty-four individuals were selected to serve during the coming year on approximately twenty-eight committees and boards.

Conference attenders appreciated Pinebrook's comfortable accommodations and tasty and ample meals.

Please see the June issue of *Fellowship News* for a more extensive report of the 125<sup>th</sup> Conference, including many pictures.

Until the Lord returns, may He enable the BFC to be *an expanding fellowship of churches united to make disciples of Jesus Christ*.

## *In Memoriam:*

### **Jansen E. Hartman**

10/11/18 - 12/7/07

#### **(1918 – 1938)**

Jansen Hartman was born in Royersford to Ellsworth and Nora Hartman on October 11, 1918. He was the youngest of seven children. His three brothers entered the Christian ministry before him. Of his three sisters, one died in childhood and one (Elnora) has survived him.



From infancy he was carried to the Mennonite Brethren in Christ Church where at the age of 6 he responded to a public invitation to repent of his sin and put his trust in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. He vividly remembered this.

At age sixteen Jansen remembers singing “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” and being overwhelmed with his sin and turning again to the Lord in repentance and consecration. A little later, while painting on a scaffold with his father, he spoke of his desire to serve the Lord. He prayed that if Pastor W.G. Gehman talked with him about the ministry the next day that this would be a sign to him. Gehman did, and Jansen’s call was confirmed in his heart.

The year was 1938. Jansen had graduated from Royersford H.S. in 1936 and worked two years with his father in the family painting business. God’s call to salvation and service was upon him.

#### **1939-1970**

Jansen Hartman entered the Gospel Herald Society in 1939 which was like a spiritual boot-camp emphasizing obedience to authority and practical service. The Society stationed him in Brooklyn, NY where he met Ruth Wainwright who became his wife on August 28, 1943. Jansen led the opening of a new mission in Glendale, NY where he served until 1945. During that year their son, Douglas, was born and Jansen studied at the National Bible Institute, earning eighty-five credits toward his bachelor’s degree. The Gospel Herald years developed evangelistic gifts and displayed leadership potential in the young minister’s life.

In 1945 Hartman was assigned leadership of the mission church in Harrisburg, PA. Once again God's blessing was upon him as he brought the mission to growth and maturity and oversaw the construction of its first building. In those years, daughter Connie was born and Jansen completed work for his bachelor's degree at Elizabethtown College.

In 1950, the church took the bold step of founding its first school, and Hartman was chosen as President of Berean Bible School. For the next twenty years, he and Ruth gave themselves to the development of the institution and the training of young men and women for service in the church. A whole generation of Bible Fellowship pastors received their training at Berean.

In those years, the Hartman family lived in Allentown where the school was located, and worshiped at Bethel church in Allentown. Hartman continued his education, earning an M.A. in History from Lehigh University in 1957 and an M. Div. from Westminster Theological Seminary in 1966. Their second daughter, Janelle was born in Allentown in 1962.

At the same time Hartman assumed presidency of Berean, the church dissolved the Gospel Herald Society and opened the Home Mission Department. Hartman was the first Home Mission Director, serving part-time from 1950–1959. He initiated the modern method of church-planting in our denomination, and developed a close connection between the training of young pastors at Berean and then subsequently introducing them to church planting in Home Missions.

There was one other tremendously important influence which Hartman extended at this time in our midst. It was in the late 1950s and early 1960s that our doctrinal beliefs were closely examined and our present *Articles of Faith* were adopted. Hartman played a central role in shaping these doctrinal developments.

These were frantic but faithful years of service for Jansen Hartman as he pioneered the formal training of our leaders and directed in the extension of our churches.

### **(1970 – 1990)**

In 1968 Berean relocated from Allentown to Pinebrook Bible Conference in Stroudsburg, PA. The school changed its name and its organization in 1969 to Pinebrook Junior College. In 1970, Jansen Hartman resigned as president, having served the institution for twenty years. A new phase of his life and ministry was to begin.

After a short stay in Easton, the Hartmans moved to Reading, where Jansen accepted the appointment as pastor of Grace Bible Fellowship Church. There he exerted a wide influence for the

gospel, strengthening a vital urban church with his passion, prayers and preaching. Reading was one of the first churches to hire assistant pastors and Hartman used this means to develop the ministerial gifts of several young men who serve in our movement to this day. He developed its first board of elders in these years, and also oversaw a major building program.

It was in his years at Reading that Hartman exhibited his widest influence on the BFC as a whole, and this was exhibited through three main responsibilities:

In 1972 Hartman was chosen as President of the Board of Directors of the BFC. He was first elected to this Board in 1951, served as Secretary for twelve years from 1959-1971, and then served as president another twenty-three years until 1995. For forty-five years he provided leadership for our church in this way.

Beginning in 1972 Hartman served as Annual Conference chairman thirteen different times until 1990. This was another avenue of influence.

Also beginning in 1972 Hartman served as the chairman of the newly founded Ministerial Relations Committee. It was at this time that the old system of assigning pastors to churches was replaced by a new system of local churches calling pastors to serve them. From 1972 to 1991, Hartman assisted every Bible Fellowship Church at least one time in the new system of calling its pastor until his own retirement from Reading in 1990.

In all these ways, Hartman served the Lord and the church and yet viewed his chief calling as the pastor of the Reading church.

### **(1990 – 2007)**

Following his retirement in 1990 Jansen and Ruth bought a home a few blocks from the Reading church on Linden Street in Reading. They worshiped elsewhere for a year and then quietly returned to serve the Lord in the Reading church together. He was the best friend and supporter the new pastor could have ever desired.

In 2002 Ruth was diagnosed with cancer and on March 24, 2003 was called home by her Heavenly Father. The couple had been married for fifty-nine years. Two years later, in February 2005, it was no longer possible for Jansen to live on his own. He moved to an apartment at Fellowship Community where he continued in other service at Fellowship Community Church on the campus of Fellowship Community.

In recent months his strength failed and he died peacefully in the presence of his children on Friday, December 7, 2007 at age 89.

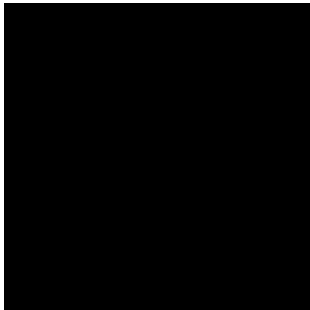
How do we measure this man that God used?

\* **Jansen Hartman loved the church** – From the time of his conversion and call he gave himself to the Lord’s people. He poured out his life for the church. What an astonishingly full life of service!

\* **Jansen Hartman loved people** – For all his work in the institutions of the church, they were not ends in themselves. They were only ways to love people made in God’s image. He took a remarkable interest in individuals and treated anyone as special. He learned names and remembered everyone’s history. He loved kids. He loved the lost.

\* **Jansen Hartman loved God** – The most outstanding quality of Jansen Hartman was his godliness. If I ever met a man of God, it was Jansen Hartman. And from this God-fearing Bible-believing, Christ-exalting center, everything else followed. I speak for thousands in saying, “Thank you Lord, for reflecting your glory in the life of Jansen Hartman.”

Randall A. Grossman



**Donald T. Kirkwood**

12/13/19 - 4/20/08

On December 13, 1919, Donald Taylor Kirkwood was born in Baltimore, Maryland; he died April 20, 2008, in Quarryville, PA. His father, George Henry Kirkwood, died when Donald was six years old, and his mother, Mrs. Mary Taylor Kirkwood, gave herself faithfully to provide and care for her six children. Her efforts brought her to Chester, PA, to the Mennonite Brethren in Christ, and to be born again. Donald and his older brother, C. E. Kirkwood, both became ministers in the BFC. After service in the U. S. Army during World War II, Donald and Johanna Peters, from our Philadelphia (Calvary) Church, were united in marriage in 1947. They have two sons, Donald and Gordon, and four grandchildren. Don completed work at Philadelphia School of the Bible and was granted degrees by Columbia Bible College and Faith Theological Seminary.

From 1951 to 1971 Don served as a minister in the Mennonite Brethren in Christ Church/Bible Fellowship Church. His service took him to five communities in Pennsylvania: Roxborough,

Scranton, Quakertown, North Philadelphia/Maple Glen and Blandon. After those years he was employed in the pharmaceutical industry for fifteen years and served as an elder in Grace Church, Quakertown, making a significant contribution to the life of that congregation during his service and beyond.

Although he had had ministerial credentials with his church for only five years, Brother Kirkwood's concern for the Word of God and his keen mind brought him to be elected to the Committee charged to write *Articles of Faith* for the Mennonite Brethren in Christ in 1956. He had a significant influence in the work of that committee. The work of those seven ministers has impacted the BFC and continues to do so. That impact contributed to this group of Mennonites becoming more creedal in its understanding of God's Word and adopting *Articles of Faith* which included an understanding that God initiated the redemption of his people before creation and assures the holiness and perseverance of his own. Don grieved often over the slowness with which these truths permeated the church, but trusted that the God who brought him to see these things in the Bible would continue his work.

Brother Kirkwood's hunger for truth and the keenness of his mind caused him to read and study all during his years of teaching and preaching. His teaching skills and methods left a mark on many in the churches he served and those he taught at Berean Bible School. Long after he ceased to be a preacher and teacher in a formal way, he continued to read and interact with those whose works he read. However, his focus on these truths was not just academic or doctrinal, but his humility and appreciation of his salvation were demonstrated clearly in his joy over what God had done to change a rebellious sinner into a man who was eager to hear the voice of his Savior and follow him. Brother Kirkwood's grasp of the importance of the church brought him to submit to the authority of the church even when it did differently from what he thought it should.

Lord, we thank you for the things we learned from our Brother Kirkwood and the example he left us. He being dead still speaks.



## **James G. Koch**

8/23/23 - 1/30/08

A faithful shepherd to the flocks entrusted to him, The Reverend James Geraint Koch, went home to be with his Lord on January 30, 2008. He was 84 years old. Born in Emmaus, PA, to James A. Koch and Rosa Gehman Koch, he was related to William Gehman, the father of our denomination. A graduate of Goshen College, Goshen, IN, with a bachelor's degree in liberal arts, Pastor Koch met his future wife there, the

former Beulah "Bea" Marie King, of Iowa. He and Bea celebrated 59 years of marriage in June 2007.

Pastor Koch began his 48 years of ministry with the BFC as a member of the Gospel Herald Society, serving in Trenton, NJ, and Roxboro, PA. He pastored four churches in Pennsylvania: Lancaster, York, Reading and Allentown (Bethel). The last 20 years of his ministry were spent in the Camden, Delaware, church, from where he retired in 1997. He loved the work he was called to do and enjoyed the various jobs associated with being a minister. His years of dedication and faithfulness were devoted to the Master Shepherd, whom he sought to please.

Words of remembrance by family and friends at his memorial service recalled him as an encourager, a helper, and one who showed warm hospitality, shared a quiet humor and had a knack for story telling. Also recalled was his booming bass voice, one that needed no amplification to be heard in a large room, and one that effectively sang such songs as "My Sheep Know My Voice," one of his favorite numbers.

In addition to his wife, Bea, Pastor Koch is survived by a sister-in-law, two nieces and two nephews, all of Pennsylvania, and a very close friend whom he and Bea regard as their daughter, Jill Perrin of Ohio, and her family: husband, Pat, and their children, Lorraine and James, Pastor Koch's namesake.

As part of the memorial service, the congregation sang one of Pastor Koch's favorite hymns, "No Other Plea", an apt expression of his genuine faith.

*My faith has found a resting place, not in device nor creed;  
I trust the Everlasting One, His wounds for me shall plead.*

*I need no other argument, I need no other plea,  
It is enough that Jesus died, and that He died for me.*



## **Robert N. Gordon**

9/5/23 - 4/30/07

Robert N. Gordon was born on September 5, 1923 in York, PA to Norman F. and Catherine M. Gordon. At the age of five, his parents were converted and began to attend the Mennonite Brethren in Christ Church in York. Robert, after hearing a message on the second coming of Christ, received the Savior at age six at the church.

At age 18, Robert was inducted into the Army. He served for almost three years, mainly as an Army medic in the European Theatre. Following discharge from the service, Robert enrolled at Bob Jones University, from which he received his high school diploma and Bachelor of Arts degree. During those years, he met his future wife, M. Frances Denton; upon graduation they were married in Oneonta, AL, in 1949. The next two years were spent at Summer Institute of Linguistics in Norman, OK and at the School of Missionary Medicine, Bible Institute of Los Angeles.

Robert and his wife served under the Evangelical Alliance Mission as missionaries in Venezuela and Colombia from 1951 to 1970. The next six years he was principal of Cherrydale Christian School in Arlington, VA. In 1976 he became Executive Director of the Braille Circulating Library, Richmond, VA, serving in that capacity until his retirement in 1999. Subsequent to retirement, he taught the Men's Bible Class at Immanuel Baptist Church.

On April 30, 2007 Robert entered into the Lord's presence. He is survived by his faithful wife of 57 years, Frances, and three sons, Robert, Jr., Stanley, and Jonathan; and a daughter-in-law, Jackie; and eleven grandchildren. A son, David, predeceased him in 2006.



## *Service of Recognition* April 27, 2008, Pinebrook Bible Conference

Two mission churches were welcomed into the Bible Fellowship Church as Particular Churches - Grace Bible, Las Cruces, NM, and Iglesia Biblica La Roca, Merida, Mexico



*Las Cruces - Dan & Concha Dunwell; Dr & Ruth Brown; Morrisons*



*Merida, Mexico - Daniel Hernández,  
Marcos Ramirez, Francisco García*

# MINUTES

<b><u>First Meeting (Monday Morning)</u></b> . . . . .	<b><u>3</u></b>
<b><u>Second Meeting (Monday Afternoon)</u></b> . . . . .	<b><u>13</u></b>
<b><u>Third Meeting (Monday Evening)</u></b> . . . . .	<b><u>23</u></b>
<b><u>Fourth Meeting (Tuesday Morning)</u></b> . . . . .	<b><u>27</u></b>
<b><u>Fifth Meeting (Tuesday Afternoon)</u></b> . . . . .	<b><u>33</u></b>
<b><u>Sixth Meeting (Wednesday Morning)</u></b> . . . . .	<b><u>51</u></b>
<b><u>124<sup>th</sup> Adjourned Session (3/8/08)</u></b> . . . . .	<b><u>75</u></b>



*Annual Conference Officers: (L to R)*

*Row 1: Daniel Allen (Assistant to Secretary), William Schlonecker (Chairman),  
Jonathon Arnold (Registrar), Calvin Reed (Vice Chairman);*

*Row 2: Davis Duggins (Asst. Registrar); David A. Thomann (Secretary)*

*Row 3: David Allen (Asst. Secretary); Donald Kuntzman and Robert Smock (Assistants  
to Secretary)*



*Chairman & Keynote Speaker  
William A. Schlonecker*



*Tuesday Morning Speaker  
David T. Allen*



*Wednesday Morning Speaker  
Richard B. Ravis*

## ***Annual Conference Proceedings - 2008*** **First Meeting**

**Monday Morning, April 28, 2008, 10:00 AM**

The 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Bible Fellowship Church was called to order at 10:02 a.m. by the Chairman, William G. Schlonecker, at Pinebrook Bible Conference. He read from the *Faith and Order* article 501-4 reminding us of the purpose of Annual Conference. He then led the conference in prayer.

Richard T. Paashaus, worship leader of the 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, led the men in singing *Rejoice, the Lord Is King*. He prayed and read Psalm 51. The conference sang *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*. He closed the worship time in prayer.

William G. Schlonecker, Chairman of the 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, spoke on the theme *A Mandate to Godly Leadership: The Man*. He emphasized the need for brokenness in the life of Godly leaders. Richard T. Paashaus led the men in singing *Search Me, Oh God*. William G. Schlonecker ended the worship time in prayer.

### **Report of the Registrar**

**Resolved**, that the tables with red tablecloths constitute the Conference Bar.

The following requested to be excused from part or all of the 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference: William C. Aukamp, Delbert R. Baker, II, T. James Bigley, Thomas J. Boose, Walter E. Bortree. Leonard E. Buck, Bud Burroughs, Alva C. Cassel, Wayne M. Chadwell, G. Wayne Clapier, Hugh C. Colbourn, Jr., Robert S. Commerford, Ronald K. Denlinger, Willis I. Dowling, William J. Dunn, Michael P. Emrick, Jr., Richard J. Gehman, Michael Giordano, J. Barclay Harley, Richard D. Harris, James D. Head, Frank L. Herb, George E. Herb, Roy A. Hertzog, Keith R. Howland, Ronald W. Hoyle, Ronald E. Miller, Barry J. Minsky, Duane E. Moyer, Jerry L. Moyer, Edgar H. Munyan, David W. Riddell, Roger L. Reitz, R. C. Reichenbach, David N. Schoen, A.L. Seifert, Austin G. Shelly, Arthur J. Simpson, Robert A. Sloan, Jr., Harold C. Weaber, Philip E. Yerrington

**Resolved**, that the requests for excuses be granted.

**Resolved**, that the following Alternate Delegates be seated:  
 Alan Russell, Emmaus; Kenneth P. Reif, Cedar Crest;  
 Robert L. Tomlinson, Pocono Mountain.

The roll of the Annual Conference was established as follows:

Allentown, PA. . . . .	Clifford B. Boone, David T. Allen, Ronald C. Erb, Glenn R.
(Cedar Crest)	Felty, Charles A. Bloomfield, Walter E. Bortree, William J. Walters
Bethlehem, PA. . . . .	Brian H. Cooper, Robert K. Fields, John Quigley, Keith Strunk
Blandon, PA. . . . .	Alan G. Miller, Thomas E. Rutt
Brooklyn, NY. . . . .	Ralph E. Ritter
Camden, DE. . . . .	Timothy J. Schmoyer, Keith Splawn
Carmel, NY. . . . .	Steven J. DelDuco (Probationer), Hans R. Waldvogel
Clinton Corners, NY.	Gerald D. Clark
Coopersburg, PA. . . .	Thomas P. Shorb, Richard T. Paashaus, Mark R. Evans (Probationer)*, Gary Sterner, David R. Vinson
Denville, NJ. . . . .	Richard D. Harris, Guy Warner
Emmaus, PA. . . . .	David N. Schoen, Ralph M. Soper, Robert W. Davies
Ephrata, PA. . . . .	Robert B. Kramer**, Robert W. Gehret
Finesville, NJ. . . . .	Byron Widger, Michael P. Emrick, Jr.
Fleetwood, PA. . . . .	Roger J. Brush, David Rothenberger
Graterford, PA. . . . .	Vacant, Douglas D. Bowne
Harleysville, PA. . . .	Andrew T. Crossgrove, Alfred G. Roberts
Harrisburg, PA. . . . .	Carl K. Spackman, Mark E. Barninger, Harold E. Snyder
Hatfield, PA. . . . .	Howard N. Wells, Louis S. Curcio, S. Lester Moyer
Howell, NJ. . . . .	Eric R. North, Alan R. Heinlein
Kutztown, PA. . . . .	Allan R. Vivona, Byron G. Barnshaw
LaGrangeville, NY. . .	James A. Wickstead, Thomas L. Ward
Lancaster, PA. . . . .	David A. Thomann, Gregory A. Uhrich, Horace A. Kauffman, Robert L. Yinger
Las Cruces, NM. . . . .	Thomas H. Morrison**, M. E. Brown
Lebanon, PA. . . . .	Calvin T. Reed, LeRoy S. Heller, David E. Brandt (Probationer)*, LeRoy O. Herb
Lehighton, PA. . . . .	Robert A. Johnson, II, Bruce A. Kellerman
Long Neck, DE. . . . .	Jonathon W. Arnold, Sr., James C. Hart
Maple Glen, PA. . . . .	Louis Prontnicki, Keith Howland

Merida, Mexico. . . .	Marcos G. Ramirez (Probationer), Daniel A. Hernandez
Mt. Carmel, PA. . . .	Philip G. Norris, Bryan L. Snyder
Mt. Pocono, PA. . . .	Timothy J. Bertolet, Ronald E. Miller
Nazareth, PA. . . . .	Carl J. Fischer, Jr., Rodney P. Plows
Newark, DE. . . . .	William G. Schlonecker, Robert C. Kaatz
Newark, NJ. . . . .	Delbert R. Baker, II, Thomas J. Boose, Jr.
Old Bridge, NJ. . . .	David J. Peters (Probationer), Steven L. Ziegler
Oley, PA. . . . .	Arthur J. Simpson, Jr., Robert Kohler
Paradise, PA. . . . .	Shan D. Cleck**, Amos F. Kinert
Philadelphia, PA. . . .	G. Wayne Clapier, Bud Burroughs
Piscataway, NJ. . . . .	Dennis M. Cahill, Richard B. Ravis, J. Richard Vroman
Quakertown, PA. . . .	Ronald L. Kohl, L. James Roberts
Reading, PA. . . . .	Randall A. Grossman, Ronald W. Reed, James A. Stapleton
Red Hill, PA. . . . .	Michael J. Tannous, Scott M. Tibbetts
Royersford, PA. . . . .	Jacob J. Susek, Jr., Aaron J. Susek (Probationer)*, Orville E. Gibson
Shamokin, PA. . . . .	Ferdie R. Madara**, Richard Nye
Sinking Spring, PA. . .	Robert A. Sloan, Jr., Donald D. McKinney, Harold P. Shelly
Spring City, PA. . . .	Kevin W. Clineff
Stroudsburg, PA. . . .	Davis E. Duggins, Ed Coover
Sunbury, PA. . . . .	Charles E. Cole, Kurt P. Francis (Probationer)*, Robert H. Cox
Terre Hill, PA. . . . .	Kevin W. Kirkpatrick, Robert L. Weaver, Sr.
Thompson, CT. . . . .	Dennis W. Spinney, Thomas W. Krans
Toms River, NJ. . . .	Dean A. Stortz, Allen Dorst
Wallingford, PA. . . .	Richard E. Taylor, Timothy S. Cowen, Daniel L. Williams (Probationer)* Steven L. Piasecki
Walnutport, PA. . . .	Clyde D. Bomgardner, Jr., Timothy D. Weaber
Whitehall, PA. . . . .	Vacant, Rob J. Hodge
Whitehall. . . . .	Harvey J. Fritz, Jr., Richard J. Drosnock (Fellowship Community)
York, PA. . . . .	Kenneth D. Keeler, Roger L. Shambough
Zionsville, PA. . . . .	C. Larry Bennett, Kevin D. Derr

\* pending approval of Second Reading - re. probationers

\*\* pending approval of ordination

#### Ordained Ministers Serving Bible Fellowship Ministries

Daniel P. Allen, Pinebrook Bible Conference; Raymond R. Bertolet , Church Extension; Albert J. Dommel, Church Extension; David E. Gundrum, Church Extension; Donald E. Kuntzman, Missions; Ronald C. Mahurin, Conference Pastor; Mark L.

Morrison, Church Extension; Elliot H. Ramos, Church Extension; Carlos G. Rodriguez, Church Extension; John C. Vandegriff, Jr., Pinebrook Bible Conference; Dana E. Weller, Missions.

Ordained Missionaries

William C. Aukamp, Ronald K. Denlinger, James D. Head, Walter M. Johnston, David L. Manney, Philip E. Morrison, Duane E. Moyer, Jerry L. Moyer, Thomas A. Pollock, John C. Studenroth

Ordained Ministers Working in the Chaplaincy Under the Sponsorship of the BFC

David N. Heineman (hospital), Kenneth J. Hurst (military), David H. Jones (military), Richard A. Moyer (prison)

Ordained Ministers in Retirement

Kenneth F. Barber, James R. Batchler Jr., James A. Beil, T. James Bigley Jr., Bert N. Brosius, Leonard E. Buck, Terris L. Byrd, Alva C. Cassel, Carl C. Cassel, Hugh C. Coulbourn, Raymond R. Dotts, Robert L. Draper, John Dunn, Bruce A. Ellingson, Walter H. Frank, Harvey J. Fritz Jr., Richard J. Gehman, J. Barclay Harley, Frank L. Herb Jr., George E. Herb, John H. Herb, Roy A. Hertzog, Ronald W. Hoyle, Barry J. Minsky, Edward K. Moyer, Edgar H. Munyan, D. Thomas Philips, Keith E. Plows, R.C. Reichenbach, John H. Riggall, A.L. Seifert, Austin G. Shelly, Gene W. Smith, Robert W. Smock, David E. Thomann, David J. Watkins, Harold C. Weaver, Daniel G. Ziegler, Paul G. Zimmerman

**Report of the Committee on Agenda and Program**

**Resolved**, that the report be accepted.

**Whereas**, both the Chairman and the Vice Chairman of the 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference are members of the Study Committee on the Process and Purpose of God's Calling People to Salvation and will be involved in the presentation and discussion of the consideration of legislation at Second Reading pending a positive vote by a sufficient number of churches, therefore be it

**Resolved**, that Randall A. Grossman, the Chairman of the 123<sup>rd</sup> and 124<sup>th</sup> Annual Conferences when this committee previously reported, assume the Chair during the discussion of the Second Reading of the Articles on Salvation.

**Report of the Committee on Arrangements** (see page 79)

**Resolved**, that the report be accepted.

**Resolved**, that all Study Committees, Committees and Agencies have their reports sent to the designated distribution point, 12 Pinebrook Road, E. Stroudsburg, PA 18301 or ebfc@ptd.net, by March 1, 2009.

Daniel P. Allen, Director of Pinebrook Bible Conference, welcomed the members of Annual Conference to Pinebrook for these meetings.

David A. Thomann, Secretary of Annual Conference, appointed David T. Allen as Assistant Secretary and Daniel P. Allen, Donald E. Kuntzman and Robert W. Smock as Assistants to the Secretary.

The Chairman appointed the following:

**Tellers**: Keith E. Plows, Chairman; Byron G. Barnshaw, Clyde D. Bomgardner, Jr., LeRoy S. Heller, LeRoy O. Herb, Robert A. Johnson, II, Bruce A. Kellerman, Kevin W. Kirkpatrick, Hans R. Waldvogel

**Resolutions**: Ralph E. Ritter, Chairman; Glenn R. Felty, Eric R. North, Robert C. Kaatz

**Auditing**: Robert W. Gehret, Chairman; Horace A. Kauffman, Carl K. Spackman



**Committee to Examine Annual Conference Minutes:**

Philip G. Norris, Chairman; Dean A. Stortz, Byron Widger

**Timekeeper:** David N. Schoen

**Parliamentarian:** Clifford B. Boone

**Reporter:** Carol Z. Snyder

The following new members were introduced to Annual Conference: Keith Splawn, Camden, DE, Amos F. Kinert, Paradise, PA, Dick Drosnock, Whitehall, PA (Fellowship Community), Keith A. Strunk, Bethlehem, PA, Richard Nye, Shamokin, PA, Thomas E. Rutt, Blandon, PA, Steven J. DelDuco, Holmes/Carmel, NY, Steven L. Ziegler and David J. Peters, Cottrell Corners, NJ, Scott M. Tibbetts, Red Hill, PA

**Report of the Nominating Committee**

**Resolved,** that the report be accepted.

Richard B. Ravis prayed asking for the Lord's blessing on those who will be serving on the various boards and committees.

**Report of the Credentials Committee** (see page 81)

**Resolved,** that the report be accepted.

**Whereas,** the Ministerial Candidate Committee has recommended ordination for Thomas H. Morrison, and

**Whereas,** the Ministerial Candidate Committee has recommended prior ordination recognition for Shan D. Cleck, Robert B. Kramer and Ferdie R. Madara, and

**Whereas,** these brethren have served acceptably as ministers of the Bible Fellowship Church for the required period of time or the equivalent thereof, and

**Whereas,** after examination, the Credentials Committee believes these men to be called of God to the gospel ministry and to be in accord with the *Faith & Order* of the Bible Fellowship Church, therefore be it

**Resolved,** that Thomas H. Morrison be ordained to the gospel ministry of the Bible Fellowship Church, and further

**Resolved** that the prior ordination of Shan D. Cleck, Robert B. Kramer and Ferdie R. Madara to the gospel ministry be recognized by the Bible Fellowship Church.

R. C. Reichenbach offered prayer for these men who are joining us in the gospel ministry.

**Resolved**, that the Grace Bible Church of Las Cruces, NM, Paradise, PA, Ephrata, PA and Shamokin, PA, BFC, be encouraged to have a service in recognition of the ordination of Thomas H. Morrison and prior ordination of Shan D. Cleck, Robert B. Kramer and Ferdie R. Madara, respectively, and that they be encouraged to invite the Credentials Committee to send representation to be present at the service.

The new ordinands were welcomed by the members of Annual Conference.

**Report of the Ministerial Candidate Committee** (see page 87)

**Resolved**, that the report be accepted.

**Resolved**, that the following list of men under the direction of the Ministerial Candidate Committee be approved:

Probationers

[Year of licensure is within parentheses.]

Brandt, David E. (2006). . . . . Lebanon, PA  
 Cleck, Shan D. (2006). . . . . Lancaster, PA  
 DelDuco, Steven J. (2007). . . . . Mahopac, NY  
 Evans, Mark R. (2008). . . . . Coopersburg, PA  
 Forsythe, Jonathan D. . . . . Brigantine, NJ  
 Francis, Kurt P. (2008). . . . . Northumberland, PA  
 Kramer, Robert B. (2006). . . . . Ephrata, PA  
 Lenahan, Frank E. (2005). . . . . Cape May Court House, NJ  
 Madara, Ferdie R. (2006). . . . . Benton, PA  
 Miller, Joshua P. (2007). . . . . Quakertown, PA  
 Morrison, Thomas H. (2005). . . . . Las Cruces, NM  
 Peters, David J. (2008). . . . . Chambersburg, PA  
 Peters, David W. (2004). . . . . Steilacoom, WA  
 Ramirez, Marcos G. (2008). . . . . Merida, Mexico  
 Rodriguez, Carlos G. (2008). . . . . Reading, PA  
 Susek, Aaron J. . . . . Royersford, PA  
 Weinhofer, Colby A. (2007). . . . . Akron, PA  
 Williams, Daniel L.(2006). . . . . Aston, PA  
 Zaspel, Fred G. . . . . Lansdale, PA

## Candidates

MacArthur, James D... Oley, PA  
 Schlonecker, David K... Emmaus, PA  
 Stoltzfus, Alphaus D... Downingtown, PA

## Applicants

Allen, Jason M... East Stroudsburg, PA  
 Allen, Joshua M... East Stroudsburg, PA  
 Clark, Timothy G... Sinking Spring, PA  
 Claudio, Samuel, Jr.. Bethlehem, PA  
 Cole, Raymond L... Newark, DE  
 Edwards, Joshua D... Old Zionsville, PA  
 Elias, John C... Bethlehem, PA  
 Gibson, Joshua P.. Northumberland, PA  
 Gilbert, Shad A... Stockertown, PA  
 Graham, Daniel J.. Dallas, TX  
 Green, Robert W... Newark, DE  
 Kappes, W. Scott.. Catasqua, PA  
 King, Jonathan H.. Schnecksville, PA  
 LoRusso, John R... Alburtis, PA  
 Stapleton, Andrew J.. Jenkintown, PA  
 Zuck, Timothy M... Telford, PA

**Resolved**, that the following amendment to Article 505-1 of the *F&O* be approved at second reading:

505-1. Voting Members.

(5) probationers who have been licensed by the Ministerial Candidate Committee [SECOND READING]

Yes - 134; No - 2

The men under the care of the Ministerial Candidate Committee who were present introduced themselves to the conference: Mark R. Evans, Joshua P. Miller, Kurt P. Francis, David E. Brandt, Colby A. Weinhofer, Carlos G. Rodriguez, Marcos G. Ramirez, Daniel L. Williams.

David A. Thomann gave an update on his sister Beverly who had a fall at his home and sustained multiple fractures. She is healing and hopefully will be home from the hospital shortly.

**Resolved**, that we adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned 11:58 a.m. L. James Roberts prayed specifically for Beverly Thomann in her recuperation.



*Bucks-Mont Region (LtoR)*

*Row 1: Alfred Roberts, \_\_\_\_\_, David Watkins  
Row 2: Douglas Bowne, Orville Gibson, Aaron Susek  
Row 3: Thomas Phillips, Jake Susek, Louis Curcio, Kevin Clineff  
Row 4: Michael Tannous, L. James Roberts, Andy Crossgrove, Howard Wells, Row 5:  
Scott Tibbitts, Ronald Kohl, Lester Moyer*



*Berks County Region (LtoR)*

*Row 1: Alan Miller, Robert Sloan, Randy Grossman  
Row 2: Don McKinney, Bob Kohler  
Row 3: David Rothenberger, Byron Barnshaw, Ronald Reed  
Row 4: Jerry Brush, Carlos Rodriguez, Harold Shelly  
Row 5: James Stapleton, Allan Vivona, Tom Rutt*





*City Concerns Region (LtoR)  
Delbert Baker, Ralph Ritter, Wayne Clapier*

## **Second Meeting**

### **Monday Afternoon, 1:30 PM**

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 1:30 p.m. leading the men in prayer.

**Report of the Board of Directors** (see page 91)

**Resolved**, that the report be accepted.

**Resolved**, that the rate of mileage reimbursement for conference business conducted in 2008 be 27¢ per mile.

**Report of the Ministerial Relations Committee** (see page 99)

**Resolved**, that the report be accepted.

**Report of the Conference Pastor** (see page 101)

**Resolved**, that the report be accepted.

Ronald W. Reed prayed for Ronald C. Mahurin, Conference Pastor, and for those churches looking for pastors to fill their pastoral needs.

**Whereas**, the Ministerial Relations Committee reported the establishment of Aaron J. Susek's pastorate, making him a licensed probationer and,

**Whereas**, the Ministerial Candidate Committee has voted to issue Aaron J. Susek a license, be it therefore

**Resolved**, that Aaron J. Susek be seated in the conference bar.

**Report of the Board of Church Health** (see page 105)

**Resolved**, that the report be accepted.

**Report of the Board of Church Extension** (see page 107)

**Resolved**, that the report be accepted.

**Report of the Director of Church Extension** (see page 115)

**Resolved**, that the report be accepted.

Mark E. Barninger and Daniel L. Williams reported on their future activities in church planting. Daniel L. Williams is serving at the Woodbury Heights Mission Church, NJ and Mark E.



Barninger is working to plant a daughter church out of the Harrisburg, PA congregation.

**Whereas**, the Board of Church Extension is of the opinion that the Las Cruces, New Mexico, Mission Church meets the qualifications of a Particular Church as specified in Article 18 of the Articles of Faith of the Bible Fellowship Church, therefore, be it

**Resolved**, that the Las Cruces, New Mexico, Mission Church be recognized as a Particular Church, and that its delegate be received into membership of the 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Bible Fellowship Church.

**Whereas**, the elders currently serving at Iglesia Biblica La Roca Mission Church of Merida, Mexico, meet the qualifications for an elder in the Bible Fellowship Church, and

**Whereas**, more than twenty persons are committed participants in the La Roca Mission Church, and

**Whereas**, La Roca Mission Church has demonstrated that it can offer an adequate salary package for a pastor and is able to financially maintain its ministry outreach and facility costs, and

**Whereas**, the Board of Church Extension is of the opinion that the Iglesia Biblica La Roca Mission Church of Merida, Mexico, meets the qualifications of a Particular Church as specified in Article 18 of the *Articles of Faith* of the Bible Fellowship Church, therefore, be it

**Resolved**, that the Iglesia Biblica La Roca Mission Church of Merida, Mexico, be recognized as a Particular Church, and that its delegate be received into membership of the 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Bible Fellowship Church.

David E. Gundrum, prayed and thanked the Lord for His grace in bringing in the Las Cruces Mission Church and Iglesia Biblica La Roca Mission Church of Merida, Mexico into the fellowship of the BFC. Elliot H. Ramos also thanked the Lord for the two churches as he prayed in Spanish.

M. E. Brown, delegate of the Las Cruces Church and Daniel A. Hernandez, delegate, and Marcos G. Ramirez, Pastor, of Iglesia Biblica La Roca were seated in the conference bar.

**Report of the Joint Committee on Ethnic Church Planting** (see page 127)

**Resolved**, that the report be accepted.

**Report of the Board of Missions** (see page 130)

**Resolved**, that the report be accepted.

John LoRusso made a presentation to update the conference on the Tanzania Project. Eleven young people have committed themselves to this project for at least three years. Clifford B. Boone gave thanks for the progress of the project and asked the Lord's blessing on the work.

**Resolved**, that Daniel G. Oswald be ratified as Financial Secretary of the Board of Missions for a three year term.

**Affiliate Report of the Board of Directors of BFC Homes, Inc.**  
(See page 147)

**Resolved**, that the affiliate report be accepted.

Raymond R. Dotts prayed for the ministry of the BFC Homes, Inc.

**Report of the Board of Victory Valley** (see page 153)

**Resolved**, that the report be accepted.

Harold E. Snyder prayed for the ministry of Victory Valley Camp.

**Report of the Board of Communications** (see page 161)

**Resolved**, that the report be accepted.

**Resolved**, that the cost of the 2008 Yearbook be \$9.00 per copy.

**Resolved**, that a contribution of three hundred fifty dollars (\$350) for the conference year 2008 be given the Board of Communications from each agency to help underwrite the cost of printing and distributing the Fellowship News.

Payments are to be made to the Board of Communications by December 31, 2008

**Resolved**, that \$1.85 per member of the Bible Fellowship Church for 2008 be forwarded to the Board of Communications from each church to help underwrite the cost of printing and distributing the Fellowship News.

Payments are to be made to the Board of Communications at the 125th Annual Conference.

**Resolved**, that Carol Z. Snyder be ratified as the Editor of Fellowship News for a three year term.

**Report of the Board of Christian Education** (see page 167)

**Resolved**, that the report be accepted.

**Report of the Board of Youth and Young Adults** (see page 169)

**Resolved**, that the report be accepted.

**Report of the Board of Higher Education** (see page 171)

**Resolved**, that the report be accepted.

**Resolved**, that the Annual Conference ratify the election to the Pinebrook Educational Foundation of Stephen C. Cassel and Judith Rychnovsky for terms to end in 2011.

**Report of the Strategic Planning Committee** (see page 175)

**Resolved**, that the report be accepted.

**Report of the Board of Pensions** (see page 177)

**Resolved**, that the report be accepted.

**Whereas**, the MRF annuity rate for 2008 is \$217 per year of service, and

**Whereas**, partial cost-of-living adjustments are part of the long-term phase out strategy of the MRF, therefore be it

**Resolved**, that the MRF annuity rate for calendar year 2009 be \$218 per year of service.

**Whereas**, the religious denomination known as The Bible Fellowship Church has and functions through Ministers of the Gospel who are duly ordained or licensed; and

**Whereas**, the practice of The Bible Fellowship Church is to provide a parsonage or a rental allowance as part of the

gross compensation for each of its active ordained or licensed ministers; and

**Whereas**, pensions paid to retired and disabled ordained or licensed ministers of The Bible Fellowship Church are considered as deferred compensation and are paid to said retired and disabled ordained or licensed ministers in consideration of previous, active service; and

**Whereas**, the Internal Revenue Service has recognized that The Bible Fellowship Church is the appropriate organization to designate a housing/rental allowance for retired and disabled ordained or licensed ministers who are members of this Conference;

**Resolved**,

1. An amount equal to 100% of the pension payments received during the year of **2009** be and is hereby designated as a rental/housing allowance for each retired and disabled ordained or licensed minister of The Bible Fellowship Church who is or was a member of the Bible Fellowship Church Minister's Retirement Fund.

2. This rental/housing allowance shall apply to each retired and disabled ordained or licensed minister who has been granted the retired relationship or placed on disability leave by the Bible Fellowship Annual Conference and whose name and relationship to the conference is recorded in the *Yearbook* of the Annual Conference of the Bible Fellowship Church and in other appropriate records maintained by the conference.

3. The pension payment to which this rental/housing allowance applies shall be the pension payment resulting from all service of such retired or disabled ordained or licensed minister from all employment by any local church, Annual Conference or institution of The Bible Fellowship Church or of any former denomination that is now a part of The Bible Fellowship Church, or from any other employer who employed the minister to perform services related to the ministry and who elected to make contributions to the pension funds of The Bible Fellowship Church for such retired minister's pension.

Note: The rental/housing allowance which may be excluded from a minister's gross income is limited to the lesser of (1) the amount of the rental/housing allowance designated by the minister's employer or other appropriate body, (2) the amount actually expended by the minister to provide his or her

housing, or (3) the legally-determined fair rental value of the parsonage or other housing provided. As specified in Rev. Rul. 71-290 C.B. 92, “the only amount that will qualify for exclusion under section 107(2) of the Code as a ‘rental allowance’ is an amount equal to the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances such as a garage, plus the cost of utilities.”

**Report of the Historical Committee** (see page 185)

**Resolved**, that the report be accepted.

**Whereas**, during this conference year we will celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the meeting which launched the Bible Fellowship Church, and

**Whereas**, this anniversary should be a time of joy and gratitude for what God has done for us and through us, therefore, be it

**Resolved**, that all Bible Fellowship Churches be encouraged to hold a service of worship to celebrate this 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and further

**Resolved**, that all Bible Fellowship Churches be encouraged to show the video, “According to the Holy Spirit,” to their congregations to promote an understanding of our heritage and an appreciation of our values, and further

**Resolved**, that the theme of the 126<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference be a celebration of this 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

**Report of the Conference Judiciary** (see page 188)

**Resolved**, that the report be accepted.

**Report of the Beneficiary Society** (see page 189)

**Resolved**, that the report be accepted.

**Report of the Committee on Examination of 124<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference Minutes** (see page 196)

**Resolved**, that the report be adopted.

**Report of the Committee on Examination of Minutes of Particular Churches** (see page 199)

**Resolved**, that the report be accepted.

**Report of the Ministerial Convention Committee** (see page 200)

**Resolved**, that the report be accepted.

Howard N. Wells expressed his gratitude to all who prayed and showed support to him and his family in the loss of their daughter, Nina, who passed away on New Year's Eve 2007. Ronald C. Mahurin prayed and asked the Lord for His continual comfort and strength for the Wells family.

The following were elected:

**Board of Christian Education**

Kevin W. Kirkpatrick (3 years)

Michael J. Tannous (3 years)

**Board of Church Extension**

Clyde W. Snyder (3 years)

**Board of Church Health**

Robert C. Kaatz (3 years)

Jerry Rasmus (3 years)

**Board of Communications**

Ralph E. Ritter (3 years)

Clyde W. Snyder (3 years)

**Board of Directors, BFC**

Randall A. Grossman (3 years)

Horace A. Kauffman (3 years)

L. James Roberts (3 years)

**Board of Directors, BFC Homes**

LeRoy S. Heller (3 years)

Robin A. Musselman (3 years)

**Board of Higher Education**

Stephen C. Cassel (3 years)

**Board of Missions**

Ralph M. Soper (3 years)

Craig Tress (3 years)

**Board of Pensions**

Clyde D. Bomgardner, Jr. (3 years)

David J. Watkins (3 years)

L. James Roberts (3 years)

**Board of Victory Valley**

Bruce A. Ellingson (3 years)

Timothy J. Schmoyer (3 years)

Gregory A. Uhrich (3 years)

**Board of Youth and Young Adults**

Lisa Kellerman (3 years)

**Committee on Credentials**

Carl J. Fischer, Jr. (3 years)

Keith E. Plows (3 years)

**Committee on Ministerial Candidates**

Calvin T. Reed (3 years)

Richard E. Taylor (3 years)

Clyde D. Bomgardner, Jr. (2 years)

**Committee on Nominations**

Raymond R. Bertolet (3 years)

Robert A. Johnson II (3 years)

Betty Herb (3 years)

**Conference Judiciary**

James A. Beil (3 years)

Carl C. Cassel (3 years)

S. Lester Moyer (3 years)

Rodney P. Plows (3 years)

**Special Appellate Judiciary**

Raymond R. Dotts (3 years)

Hans R. Waldvogel (3 years)

**Ministerial Relations Committee**

Jacob J. Susek, Jr. (3 years)

Byron Widger (3 years)

L. James Roberts (3 years)

**Strategic Planning Committee**

Elliot H. Ramos (3 years)

J. Robert Vaughn (3 years)

**Secretary for the 126<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

David A. Thomann (1 year)

Colonel David H. Jones, the senior member of the BFC chaplaincy ministry, addressed the conference. He spoke of the opportunities he has had in sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ freely among the military personnel.

Leroy O. Herb, a veteran, offered prayer for those serving in the military services. He asked that God's grace would be shown in their lives as they serve the Lord by serving the United States in its military.

**Resolved**, that we adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:54 p.m. with Dana E. Weller closing in prayer.





*Capital Region (LtoR)*

- Row 1: Horace Kauffman, R.C.Reichenback, Robert Smock*
- Row 2: Keith Long, Greg Uhrich, Harold Snyder, Robert Gehret*
- Row 3: Calvin Reed, Robert Yinger, Kevin Kirkpatrick, Shan Cleck*
- Row 4: Roger Shambough, Ken Keeler, Leroy Herb, Amos Kinert Mark Barninger*
- Row 5: Robert Weaver, David Heineman, David Brandt*
- Row 6: Robert Kramer, Carl Spackman, LeRoy Heller, David A. Thomann*



*Philly-Area Region (LtoR)*

- Row 1: Louis Prontnicki, Richard Taylor, Daniel Williams*
- Row 2: Timothy Cowen, Steven Piasecki*

## **Third Meeting Monday Evening, 6:30 PM**

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman at 6:30 p.m. with Louis Curcio leading in prayer.

**Resolved**, that the minutes of the first meeting of the 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference be approved.

Those serving under the direction of the Board of Missions, who were present, introduced themselves to the Annual Conference. Those introduced were: Philip E. Morrison, Lynnette Dallmann, Craig Miller, Scott Tibbetts, Francisco de Souza, David & Georgina Solt, Bob Sloma, Sandy Mitchell, David J. Kelly, Scott Evans, Chris & Becky Merrick, Tom & Becky Pollock, R. Glenn & Ruth Blauser, John & Nancy LoRusso, Jason Raines, Kimberly Knaub, Byron Barnshaw, Colby A. Weinhofer, William Early, John C. Studenroth, Walter Johnston, David L. Manney, Paul G. Zimmerman, Ronald W. Hoyle, Robert L. & Lois Draper.

Dana E. Weller offered prayer for the missionaries and their ministries around the world.

### **The following legislation was adopted at Second Reading:**

Paragraphs 409-1.1 - 409-1.13 refer to the calling of a Senior Pastor in a church with more than one pastor, or the only Pastor in a church with one pastor. In churches with more than one pastor, the elders may choose to adopt the procedure in paragraph 409-1.14

409-1.14 In churches with more than one pastor, the elders may choose to call a pastor other than the Senior Pastor as follows: The Board of Elders shall serve as the Pastoral Search Committee and shall issue a call without a congregational vote.

The Ministerial Relations Committee shall approve the name, the terms and the call of the candidate. The form of the call shall be modeled after the call in paragraph 409-1.11. The call shall be communicated to the congregation.

[SECOND READING]

### **The following legislation was adopted at Second Reading:**

Paragraph 409-2.1 - 409-2.3 refer to the resignation of a Senior Pastor in a church with more than one pastor, or the only pastor in a church with one pastor. For pastors called under the procedures 409-1.14, the resignation shall be according to the procedure of 409-2.4.

**409-2.4 Resignation or Removal of Pastors called by Boards of Elders.**

In the case of a pastor called under the procedure of 409-1.14, resignation or removal is as follows:

Resignation - The pastor submits his resignation to the Board of Elders. He shall submit a copy to the chairman of the Ministerial Relations Committee. The Board of Elders shall act on the resignation, including special provisions such as in 409-2.1

The Board of Elders shall inform the congregation of the effective date and terms of the resignation.

Removal - Boards of Elders shall adopt the procedure of 409-2.3 except that following the due process of 409-2.3 (1)(2.1-5) the Ministerial Relations Committee may approve the request of the Board of Elders to terminate the pastorate. The effective date and terms of the termination shall be communicated to the congregation. Paragraph 409-2.3 (2.12) is in effect in this situation.

[SECOND READING]

A special service of recognition of two new churches was conducted for the church at Las Cruces, New Mexico and Iglesia Biblica La Roca, Merida, Mexico. Richard T. Paashaus led the conference in singing *I Love Thy Kingdom Lord*. Secretary David A. Thomann introduced the ceremony. Chairman William G. Schlonecker read the recommendation by the Board of Church Extension to the 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference to recognize Grace Bible Church, Las Cruces, New Mexico as a Particular Church of the Bible Fellowship Church.

Daniel P. Allen and Kenneth D. Keeler, organizing elders, introduced Thomas H. Morrison, organizing pastor and others attending from the Las Cruces church. After some testimonies, Dr.

Michael Brown, delegate from the BFC of Las Cruces, New Mexico, showed a visual presentation of the church.

Chairman William G. Schlonecker read the recommendation by the Board of Church Extension to the 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference to recognize the Iglesia Biblica La Roca, Merida, Mexico as a Particular Church of the Bible Fellowship Church.

Alfred G. Roberts, David K. Schlonecker, Elliot H. Ramos, Dana E. Weller, Carlos G. Rodriguez and David E. Gundrum were instrumental in connecting with Iglesia Biblica La Roca, Merida, Mexico. A DVD presentation was given to introduce us to the work in Merida.

Randall A. Grossman led the conference in prayer giving the praise to God for the inclusion of our brothers and sisters in Christ from the churches in Las Cruces, New Mexico and Merida, Mexico. The conference rose and sang the Doxology – Praise to our great Lord and Savior.

**Resolved**, that we adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m. The men of Annual Conference had the opportunity to personally welcome those representing these two new Particular Churches of the BFC.



*Lehigh Valley Region (LtoR)*

*Row 1: Robert Hodge, Keith Strunk, Rodney Plows*

*Row 2: John Quigley, Michael Emrick, Byron Widger*

*Row 3: Carl Fischer, Harvey Fritz, Robert Fields*

*Row 4: Brian Cooper, Albert Dommel, Richard Drosnock*



*Pocono Region (LtoR)*

*Row 1: Ed Cover, Ronald Miller, Robert Johnson*

*Row 2: Davis Duggins, Timothy Bertolet, Bruce Kellerman*

## **Fourth Meeting**

### **Tuesday Morning, 9:00 AM**

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, William G. Schlonecker at 9:00 a.m. Richard T. Paashaus read from Psalm 111:1-2 and led the conference in singing *O for a Thousand Tongues*. He then read various verses from Psalm 86 and Jeremiah 3:15. The conference sang, *My Heart is Filled, Purify My Heart* and *Create in Me a Clean Heart*. Mark Evans (guitar) and Eric North (piano) accompanied the men as they sang. Romans 12:1-8 was read and Richard T. Paashaus closed in prayer.

David T. Allen addressed the conference with a message entitled, *A Mandate to Godly Leadership: The Mission.*” He noted that our mission should be guided by our core values and grows by having Godly leaders who develop Godly leaders who develop Godly leaders. David T. Allen closed in prayer.

#### **Report of the Registrar:**

The following have requested to be excused from part or all of the 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference: Timothy J. Bertolet, M. E. Brown, Allen Dorst, Ferdie R. Madara, David H. Jones, J. Mark McCreary, John C. Vandegriff, Jr., J. Richard Vroman, Thomas L. Ward, and Guy Warner.

**Resolved**, that the excuses be granted.

**Resolved**, that the following Alternate Delegates be seated:  
John C. Crouch, Denville, NJ; Dan Dunwell, Las Cruces, NM; Peter Everett, Cedar Crest; Charles Webb, Lagrangeville, NY.

The following were elected:

#### **Board of Christian Education**

David W. Eisenhower (3 years)  
Rachel Norris (3 years)

**Board of Church Extension**

Robert A. Sloan (3 years)

**Board of Church Health**

Byron Widger (3 years)

**Board of Directors, Pinebrook Bible Conference**

Clyde D. Bomgardner, Jr. (3 years)

Leroy O. Herb (3 years)

Charles D. Bomgardner (3 years)

**Board of Youth and Young Adults**

Ronald L. Kohl (3 years)

**Historical Committee**

Ronald L. Kohl (3 years)

**Chairman for the 126<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

William G. Schlonecker (1 year)

**Report of the Board of Directors of Pinebrook Bible Conference** (see page 202)

**Resolved**, that the report be accepted.

Charles Cole led the conference in prayer remembering the ministry of Pinebrook Bible Conference and its needs to fulfill its mission for the cause of Christ.

**Resolved**, that the 126<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference be held at Pinebrook Bible Conference, Stroudsburg, PA, April 27-29, 2009 beginning at 10:00 AM on Monday.

**Resolved**, that an Ordination Service be held Tuesday, April 28, 2009, at the 126<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference.

Randall A. Grossman assumed the role of Chairman of Annual Conference due to both the Chairman (William G. Schlonecker) and Vice Chairman (Calvin T. Reed) serving on the Study Committee on the Process and Purpose of God's Calling People to Salvation.

**Report of the Study Committee on the Process and Purpose of God's Calling People to Salvation** (see page 210)

**Resolved**, that the report be accepted.

David A. Thomann, Secretary of the 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference reported on the results of the vote taken on the Second Reading

material by the Boards of Elders of the Bible Fellowship Churches. All five resolutions received the necessary affirmative votes from the churches to be presented as Second Reading material.

Article 9 – Sin – Yes - 43, No - 9, Abstain - 1

Article 10 – Human Ability & Responsibility – Yes - 40, No - 13

Article 11 – Election – Yes 36, No - 17

Article 12 – Salvation – Yes 38, No - 15

Article 13 – Repentance – Yes - 41, No - 12

**Resolved**, that the following legislation be adopted at Second Reading:

**§9-1 Sin, (2006 Yearbook, p. 32).**

**9-1.** “Sin is any lack of conformity to the will of God<sup>1</sup> or any transgression of the law of God.<sup>2</sup> Sin separates man from God, incurring His wrath and judgment, and is manifest in the selfishness, rebellion, **unbelief** and total depravity of man’s **being**.<sup>3</sup> Sin is the cause of the curse on and defilement of the created universe.”<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> All wrongdoing is sin (1Jo.5:17a). Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins (James 4:17).

<sup>2</sup> Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness (1Jo.3:4). For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it (James 2:10).

<sup>3</sup> “**As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, (2) in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air. (3) All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.**” (Eph. 2:1-3). “**The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, (19) since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. (20) For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities – His eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. (21) For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.**” (Rom.1:18-21). Also Rom. 3:10-12, Rom. 8:7-8.



<sup>4</sup> We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time (Rom.8:22). (See also Gen.3:17,18).

[SECOND READING]

Yes - 135, No - 22

**Resolved**, that the following legislation be adopted at Second Reading:

### **§10-1 Human Ability and Responsibility**

**10-1** In his original creation man was endowed with the ability to will and do good or evil and was accountable for his willing and doing.<sup>1</sup> But **through** the fall of Adam man lost his ability, apart from God's grace,<sup>2</sup> to will and to do those things necessary for a right relationship with God;<sup>3</sup> however, he is still accountable to God for obedience to all of His commands.<sup>4</sup> Man has not lost his ability to make decisions,<sup>5</sup> but left to himself, he acts only in accordance with his fallen, sinful nature.<sup>6</sup>

**10-2** "Only by God's infinite grace can man will or do anything necessary to his salvation.<sup>7</sup> By that grace, God saves **those** men whom He causes to will and to do good;<sup>8</sup> however, He does this without nullifying man's ability to act responsibly.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die" (Gen.2:16,17).

<sup>2</sup> As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath (Eph.2:1-3).

<sup>3</sup> There is no one who understands, no one who seeks God (Rom.3:11). Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God (Rom.8:8).

<sup>4</sup> God "will give to each person according to what he has done." To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile (Rom.2:6-10). In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent (Acts 17:30).

<sup>5</sup> Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach. This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live (Deu.30:11,19).

<sup>6</sup> As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one" (Rom.3:10,12). Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Neither can you do good who are accustomed to doing evil (Jer.13:23). (See also footnote 2).

<sup>7</sup> It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy (Rom.9:16).

<sup>8</sup> He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created. (James 1:18) *Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God – (13) children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. (John 1:12-13)*

<sup>9</sup> Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed--not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence--continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose (Phil.2:12,13).

[SECOND READING]

Yes - 137, No - 24

**Resolved**, that the following legislation be adopted at Second Reading:

### **§11-1 Election**

**11-1** Election is a free act of the sovereign God in which from eternity, <sup>1</sup> for reasons known only to Himself, <sup>2</sup> and apart from any **foreseen faith and/or** goodness **found** in man, <sup>3</sup> He graciously chose from among the fallen mankind a people unto salvation, <sup>4</sup> that they might be conformed to Christ's image. <sup>4</sup>

Those so chosen He redeemed by His Son<sup>5</sup> and seals by His Spirit.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will (Eph.1:4,11).

<sup>2</sup> "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him" (Mat.11:27).

<sup>3</sup> **Who has saved us and called us to a holy life--not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time (2 Tim.1:9). For those whom He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, in order that He might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom He predestined He also called, and those whom He called He also justified, and those whom He justified He also glorified. (Romans 8:29-30)**

<sup>4</sup> Until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ (Eph.4:13).

<sup>5</sup> But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth (2 Thes.2:13).

<sup>6</sup> And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit (Eph.1:13).

[SECOND READING]

Yes - 119, No - 42, Abstain - 1

**Resolved**, that we adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m. as Thomas P. Shorb closed in prayer.

## Fifth Meeting

### Tuesday Afternoon, 1:30 PM

Randall A. Grossman, Acting Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m. Bryan L. Snyder led the conference in prayer.

**Resolved**, that the following legislation be adopted at Second Reading:

#### §12-1, 12-2 Salvation

- 12-1. Salvation is the work of God<sup>1</sup> in which He reconciles fallen men to Himself,<sup>2</sup> ultimately removes the consequences of the curse,<sup>3</sup> and bestows upon His redeemed Creation<sup>4</sup> the riches of His grace, all to His glory.<sup>5</sup>**
- 12-2. Salvation is offered in the gospel to all men<sup>6</sup> and is accomplished in all the elect.<sup>7</sup> It is received by grace through faith and the instrumentality of the Holy Spirit,<sup>8</sup> apart from works or human merit.<sup>9</sup> Salvation centers in a person, Jesus Christ, and receiving Him<sup>10</sup> includes the remission of sins on the grounds of His shed blood on the cross,<sup>11</sup> the imputation of His perfect righteousness,<sup>12</sup> the reception of the Holy Spirit,<sup>13</sup> and the impartation of eternal life.<sup>14</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Therefore He is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. (Heb. 7:25) Also Eph. 2:4-5, 8-9.

<sup>2</sup> “Through Him to reconcile all things to Himself...” (Col. 1:20) For if, when we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to Him through the death of His Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through His life! (Rom. 5:10)

<sup>3</sup>No longer will there be any curse. (Rev. 22:3)

<sup>4</sup> I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who

have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. (Rom. 8:18-25)

<sup>5</sup> I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions, for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more. (Isaiah 43:25)

<sup>6</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).

<sup>7</sup> All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. (John 6:37) No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day. (John 6:44) For you granted him authority over all people that He might give eternal life to all those you have given him. (John 17:2) When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all those who were appointed for eternal life believed. (Acts 13:48)

<sup>8</sup> When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment (John 16:8).

<sup>9</sup> For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--not by works, so that no one can boast (Eph.2:8,9).

<sup>10</sup> Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God (John 1:12).

<sup>11</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace (Eph.1:7).

<sup>12</sup> It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God--that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption (1 Cor.1:30).

<sup>13</sup> And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ (Rom.8:9b).

<sup>14</sup> And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. (1 John 5:11, 12).

[SECOND READING]

Yes - 123; No - 26

**Resolved**, that the following legislation be adopted at Second Reading:

### §13-1 Repentance

**13-1.** Repentance unto life is a gift of God<sup>1</sup> and a voluntary act of man,<sup>2</sup> accomplished by the convicting power of the Holy

Spirit through the Word of God. Repentance consists in a knowledge of sin,<sup>3</sup> a sense of guilt and corruption that results in the confession and forsaking of sin and a turning to God<sup>4</sup> **that results in loving, obedient service.**<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> **Or do you show contempt for the riches of His kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God's kindness leads you toward repentance? (Rom. 2:4) When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, "So then, God has granted even the Gentiles repentance unto life." (Acts 11:18) "correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of truth . . ." (2 Tim. 2:25)**

<sup>2</sup> And repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem (Luke 24:47). In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent (Acts 17:30).

<sup>3</sup> When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment (John 16:8).

<sup>4</sup> For they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God (1 Thess.1:9).

<sup>5</sup> **For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Eph. 2:10) We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thess. 1:3)**

[SECOND READING]

Yes - 131; No - 19

**Whereas**, the Study Committee on the Process and Purpose of God's Calling People to Salvation has completed its work, therefore be it

**Resolved**, that the committee be disbanded.

William G. Schlonecker resumed his role as Chairman of the 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference.

David A. Thomann, Secretary of Annual Conference, reported that there were sufficient affirmative votes on the First Reading of Article 18-4 for it to stand for Second Reading.

Yes - 53; No - 0

**Resolved**, that the following legislation be adopted at Second Reading:

**Article 18 – The Church**

Article 18-4.

A properly constituted local Church must include the ministry of God’s Word, the observance of the ordinances, the oversight by **elders** and the exercise of discipline. The overseers of the Church are to be prayed for, obeyed and honored.

[SECOND READING]

Yes - 147, No - 3

**Report of the Study Committee on Women Serving As Deacons**

The Committee presented the following:

**Resolved**, that the following be adopted at Second Reading:

**§201-5, 201-6 Preliminary Principles**

**Whereas**, the 122nd Annual Conference (2005) approved the possibility of women serving as deacons at first reading (2005 Yearbook, p. 34); and

**Whereas**, the Conference asked that study be made of the Principles of Order "to provide legislation covering the entire Article 204 making clear distinction between the qualifications for the offices of elders and deacons and a clarification of the word "minister" (2005 Yearbook, p. 34); and

**Whereas**, in doing that work the Committee identified other needed changes in Sections 201, 202, 204, 401-1, 401-2; therefore be it

**Resolved**, that “officers” and “church officers” be changed to “elders” in sections 201-5 and 201-6 of the *Faith & Order*.

[SECOND READING]

Yes - 148, No - 5, Abstain - 1

**Resolved**, that the following be adopted at Second Reading:

**§202-3.2(5) Qualifications & Duties of Church Membership**

**Resolved**, that “pastor” be changed to “elders” in section 202-3.2 (5) of the *Faith & Order*.

[SECOND READING]

Yes - 148, No - 4

**Resolved**, that the following be adopted at Second Reading:

**§204 Elders, Deacons, Staff**

**Resolved**, that the new title and introduction “Article 204 - Elders, Deacons, Staff” be adopted as a Second Reading revision to the *Faith & Order*.

**Article 204 - Elders, Deacons, Staff**

Having called and assembled His church, our Lord provides for the leadership and care of each Particular Church by providing elders and deacons and enabling them to do their work. Elders are responsible to rule the church and must be qualified men, and deacons are responsible to serve the church and may be qualified men or women. Elders and deacons are the only terms describing continuing positions in the New Testament church. Those who serve in these ways do not create their positions, nor do their positions clothe the individuals with power, but the Lord endows individuals with gifts and qualifications (1 Timothy 3; Titus 1; 1 Peter 5) that enable them to do their work as God Himself has designed.

[SECOND READING]

Yes - 130, No - 21

**Resolved**, that the following be adopted at Second Reading:

**§204-1 Elders**

**204-1 Elders**

**204-1.1** In the New Testament church Christ has provided men to hold the position of elder to oversee the life of His Church; those whom He commissions He enables to shepherd His Church.



**204-1.2** The position of elder is given broad responsibility and authority in the New Testament. Because they are to be examples to the flock in godliness and to govern well, they are called elders. Because they are responsible for oversight and administration of the life of the church, they are called overseers or bishops. Because they are to care for and feed God’s people, they are called pastors (shepherds). Because they serve the people of the church, they are called ministers.

**204-1.3** All elders together share the authority in and responsibility for the life of the church. Some elders are gifted and recognized as teaching elders; their primary authority and responsibility is in the Word and doctrine and secondarily in oversight. Other elders are gifted and recognized as ruling elders; their primary authority and responsibility is in oversight and secondarily in the Word and doctrine.

**204-1.4** The work of the elders is to shepherd the flock. This work includes: Guarding (Acts 20:28), Overseeing (1 Tim 5:17; 1 Pet 5:2), Discipling (1 Thes 5:12; 2 Tim 2:2), Preaching and Teaching (1 Tim 5:17; Titus 1:9; John 8:31-32), Evangelizing (2 Tim 4:5), Praying (Acts 6:4, John 17, John 14:12-14, Jas 5:13-16), Serving (1 Tim 4:14; 1 Pet 4:10-11) and Disciplining (Titus 1:9).

**204-1.5** Elders, as leaders of the people, are chosen by the membership of the church on the basis of Scriptural qualifications.

[SECOND READING]

Yes - 148, No - 6

**Resolved**, that the following be adopted at Second Reading:

### **§204-1.6 Elders**

**Resolved**, that the word “office” be changed to “position” in Article 204-1.6 as a Second Reading revision to the *Faith & Order*.  
[SECOND READING]

Yes - 147, No - 8

**Resolved**, that the following be adopted at Second Reading:

### **§204-2 Ministers**

**Resolved**, that the new Article 204-2.1 and Article-204-2.2 be approved as Second Reading to the *Faith & Order* to replace the former Article 204-1.1 through 204-1.3.

### **204-2 Ministers**

**204-2.1** The Lord of the Church has given gifts to men called ministers in His church. This position is the first in the church in both dignity and usefulness. Although all elders are to be able to teach, some elders are specially gifted for teaching and preaching. The Lord of the Church has given those gifts to men we call ministers.

**204-2.2 Terminology.** The term “minister” is not used in Scripture to identify the specific position of elder, but to indicate the service to Christ and His people given by those who hold this position. “Pastor” is used as a gift to the church. Although neither “minister” nor “pastor” is used in Scripture as a specific position, these titles are used and are interchangeable in practice for those men we call ministers.

Moreover, though the English word “deacon” has its roots in the Greek word “diakonos,” which is translated “minister” or “servant”; this gives no basis for women being elders, ministers or pastors.

A minister or pastor in the BFC must hold or be seeking credentials in the BFC.

[SECOND READING]

Yes - 154, No - 6, Abstain - 1

**Resolved**, that the following be adopted at Second Reading:

### **§204-4.1, 204-4.4**

**Resolved**, that Article 204-4.1 and 204-4.4 be adopted as a Second Reading revision to the *Faith & Order* at second reading with additional word changes for “office” to become “position.”

**204-4.1** The position of deacon is presented in the Scriptures as a position not of ruling, but of service. A deacon should be a person of deep spiritual life, exemplary conduct, and sound judgment (1Tim 3; Acts 6:1-8). This position is one of sympathetic service to the church and to the distressed, friendless, or sick, after the example of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**204-4.4** Because of the qualifications and dignity of the position of Deacon, each Particular Church shall give careful consideration to ensure that a person who has been divorced or who has married a divorced person is presently characterized as above reproach, and if married, faithful to and exclusively committed to their spouse.

[SECOND READING]

Yes - 142, No - 14, Abstain - 2

**Resolved**, that the following be adopted at Second Reading:

**§204-4.2, 204-4.3 Deacons**

**Resolved**, that the new Article 204-4.2 and Article 204-4.3 be adopted at Second Reading.

**204-4.2** Those who serve in this position should be known for their trustworthiness, their temperance, their faith, and their blameless life.

**204-4.3** Deacons, as servants of the church, are chosen by the membership of the church on the basis of Scriptural qualifications.

[SECOND READING]

Yes - 146, No - 7

**Resolved**, that the following be adopted at Second Reading:

**§401-1.1, 401-1.8, 401.1-9 The Board of Elders**

**Resolved**, that “lay elder” be changed simply to “elder,” that “office” be changed to “position,” and “exercise” be changed to “hold” in Articles 401-1.1, 401-1.8 and 401-1.9

to be adopted as a Second Reading revision to the *Faith & Order*.

[SECOND READING]

Yes - 153, No - 6

**Resolved**, that the following be adopted at Second Reading:

**§401-2, The Board of Deacons; § 404 Choosing Leaders  
Other Than Elders and Deacons**

**Resolved**, that “office” be changed to “position” and “exercise” be changed to “hold” in 401-2 as a Second Reading revision to the *Faith & Order*, and be it further

**Resolved**, that “office” be changed to “position” in 404 as a Second Reading revision to the *Faith & Order*.

[SECOND READING]

Yes - 147, No - 8, Abstain - 2

**Report of the Steering Committee** (see page 239)

**Resolved**, that the report be accepted.

**Resolved**, that the following legislation be adopted as First Reading: §512-1: “Board of Directors of the Bible Fellowship Church” be replaced with :

**512-1: Bible Fellowship Church Executive Board**

The Bible Fellowship Church Executive Board (BFC Executive Board) performs the executive functions of our denomination. It shall provide leadership for the BFC by proposing strategic direction to the BFC Conference, implementing direction through the oversight of the BFC agencies, and monitoring progress in the direction approved by the BFC Conference. It shall have the authority between the meetings of the BFC Conference to execute the decisions made by that body.

[FIRST READING]

Yes - 130, No - 17, Abstain - 1

**Resolved**, that the following be adopted at First Reading:

**512-1.1: Composition, Election, and Terms of Office:**

- (1) The BFC Executive Board shall have thirteen voting members: A President (who is elected directly by the BFC Conference), The Executive Director (by virtue of his office), and eleven members (five ordained ministers and six elders.)
- (2) The elected Classes shall be as follows:
  - Class I President, one ordained minister and two elders.
  - Class II Two ordained ministers and two elders
  - Class III Two ordained ministers and two elders
- (3) Each member shall be elected for a term of three years.
- (4) Each agency shall be represented by one non-voting member selected by the agency board.

**512-1.2: Meetings and Quorum:**

- (a) *Meetings:* The BFC Executive Board shall establish a schedule of stated meetings, at which any business of the board may be conducted. Special meetings may be convened by the President on his own initiative , or at the call of the Secretary when requested by five members. Any special meetings must be held with at least a seven day notice, and business must be limited to the announced purpose unless all thirteen members of the board are present and consent to transact other business.
- (b) *Quorum:* Nine voting members must be present to transact business of the BFC Executive Board. If unanimous consent is required by our rules, no action may be taken until every absent member records his vote on the matter in writing.

**512-1.3: Organization:**

- (1) *President:* The President shall be elected by the BFC Conference for a term of three years. He may be an ordained pastor or an elder. The Executive Director is ineligible to serve as President.
- (2) *Other Officers:* The BFC Executive Board shall elect annually from their number a Vice President, Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer and any other officers as the business of the board may require. The Executive Director is ineligible to serve in these offices.
- (3) *Vacancies:* Vacancies in these offices shall be filled as soon as possible. In the event that the office of President is vacant, the Vice President shall serve until the next meeting of the BFC Conference.

- (4) *Removal from Office:* The President may be removed from office at any time by a majority vote of the BFC Conference. The other officers elected by the BFC Executive Board may be removed from office at any time by the majority of the whole BFC Executive Board.

**512-1.4 Duties of Officers:**

*President:*

- (1) He shall chair the meetings of the BFC Executive Board.
- (2) He shall serve as legal representation for the corporation, empowered to execute all contracts, deeds, mortgages, and other documents, as the business of the corporation may require. He may designate another officer of the BFC Executive Board to exercise this power in his place. He shall report all such executions to the board.
- (3) He shall carry out all other responsibilities as are usually conducted by the president of the corporation.

*Vice President:*

- (1) He shall chair the meetings of the BFC Executive Board in the absence of the President.
- (2) If the President is unable to serve, he shall serve as President until the next meeting of the BFC Conference.

*Secretary:*

- (1) He shall record and maintain minutes of the BFC Executive Board.
- (2) He shall provide for the safe preservation of the records and legal documents of the corporation.

*Financial Secretary:*

- (1) He shall maintain accurate records of all assets held by the corporation and all financial transactions of the corporation.
- (2) He shall issue payment of all duly authorized financial obligations.

*Treasurer:*

- (1) He shall deposit all funds for which the BFC Executive Board is responsible in depositories approved by the Board.
- (2) He shall provide for an annual audit of all funds held by the BFC Executive Board.

**512-1.5: Duties of the BFC Executive Board**

- (1) It shall provide leadership for the BFC by presenting strategic direction to the BFC Conference. It shall seek approval of the BFC Conference to pursue this direction through the implementation of strategic plans.
- (2) It shall appoint the Executive Director, subject to ratification of the BFC Conference, and oversee his performance in carrying out the work of the BFC Executive Board.
- (3) It shall appoint the directors of the agencies and establish the terms of their employment, with the advice and consent of the agency boards.
- (4) It shall offer counsel, advice and direction, oversee the work of the agencies in furthering the overall ministry of the BFC and shall ratify the elections of each agency board.
- (5) It shall administrate the BFC Annual Budget, and make annual recommendations to the BFC Conference concerning the Budget and Church Assessment Rate.
- (6) It shall provide for and oversee the administrative aspects of the BFC including (but not limited to education, accounting, auditing, pensions, publications, publicity, stewardship, and development).
- (7) It shall hold title to and have charge of all property, both real and personal, belonging to the corporation. It shall buy or sell property for the corporation only by the approval of all members of the board or by direction of the BFC Conference. It shall have the authority to borrow money, contract mortgages, or make loans against any property of the corporation by approval of all members of the board or by direction of the BFC Conference.
- (8) It shall have oversight over all funds entrusted to it by the BFC Conference.
- (9) It shall have oversight of all insurance programs offered by the BFC.
- (10) It shall act as the legal representative in the name of and on behalf of the corporation known as the Bible Fellowship Church (a non profit corporation in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania ). It shall have all the rights and privileges, as well as responsibilities and

liabilities, conferred by the charter creating the corporation.

- (11) It shall report annually to the BFC Conference.

[FIRST READING]

Yes - 136, No - 15

**Resolved**, that we recess for dinner.

The meeting was recessed at 5:08 p.m. with Delbert R. Baker, II, closing in prayer.

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by the Chairman as Carl J. Fischer, Jr. led in prayer.

**Resolved**, that the following legislation be adopted as First Reading:

**512-1.6: Executive Director of the Bible Fellowship Church:**

The Executive Director shall be an ordained pastor or elder appointed by the BFC Executive Board to carry out the direction approved by the BFC Conference. He shall be appointed, with the terms of employment, for a term of three years, subject to ratification by the BFC Conference. He shall serve as a voting member of the BFC Executive Board.

**Duties:**

- (1) He shall implement the direction and strategic plans of the BFC Conference.
- (2) He shall represent the BFC in public ministry.
- (3) He shall encourage churches and pastors toward achieving the plans of the BFC Conference.
- (4) He shall encourage and coordinate BFC committees in achieving the plans of the BFC Conference.
- (5) He shall encourage and coordinate BFC agency directors in achieving the plans of the BFC Conference.
- (6) He shall oversee the daily operations of the BFC administration.
- (7) He shall report to the BFC Executive Board and the BFC Conference.

[FIRST READING]

Yes - 140, No - 15, Abstain - 1



**Resolved**, that the following legislation be adopted as First Reading:

Replace current **501-2**, **501-3**, **501-4**, and **501-5** with:

**501-2** The BFC Conference performs the legislative function of our denomination. As such it alone has the power to amend and authoritatively interpret the *F&O*. By this means it governs the affairs of the Particular Churches on a denominational level, serves the health of the Particular Churches, and receives requests and petitions from the Particular Churches. Although it has these powers, it shall not subvert the autonomy of the Particular Churches.

**501-3** The BFC Conference also exercises final oversight of the judicial function of our denomination. In this capacity, it examines, licenses and ordains candidates for pastoral ministry, provides counsel in the calling of pastors to Particular Churches, supervises the resignation and removal of pastors, examines and approves or censures the records of Particular Churches, elects judicatories and serves as a final court of appeal in matters of discipline.

**501-4** The BFC Conference also provides for the executive function of our denomination. As such it elects a President and BFC Executive Board, ratifies the Executive Director, and approves the direction and planning proposed by the BFC Executive Board. To provide for this executive and administrative leadership, the BFC Conference has the authority to assess the Particular Churches a percentage of their offerings.

**501-5** The BFC Conference shall meet annually in performance of its responsibilities outlined above. Officers and committees shall be elected and appointed each year in order to conduct its business in an efficient manner. The purpose of the annual gathering is to govern the BFC through the *F&O*, promote unity and fellowship between the churches, and to focus our vision on unified goals for our churches and their joint endeavors.

**501-6** The proceedings of the BFC Conference shall be conducted according to the Business Rules of BFC Conference (see **508**). It shall keep and publish a record of its proceedings and make it available to the membership of the churches

[FIRST READING]

Yes - 142, No - 12

**Resolved**, that the following be adopted as First Reading

Replace **407-5** “Board of Directors of BFC” with “BFC Executive Board”

Replace **203-6** “Annual Conference of the Bible Fellowship Church” with “Bible Fellowship Church Conference.”

Replace “Annual Conference” with BFC Conference”.

**302-3.2, 302-4.1, 302-4.2, 401-1.7, 403-1.4, 403-1.5, 405, 405-1, 405-2, 407-4, 500, 501, 501-1, 501-2, 501-3, 501-4, 501-5, 502-3.5, 502-4.1, 504, 504-1, 504-2.2, 504-2.3, 504-3.1, 504-3.3, 504-3.4, 505, 505-1, 505-2, 506, 506-1, 506-2, 506-3, 506-4, 506-5, 506-6, 506-8, 507, 507-1, 507-2, 507-3, 508, 508-4, 508-6, 508-7, 508-8, 510-2, 510-4, 510-5, 510-6, 510-7, 511-1, 511-1.1, 511-1.2, 511-1.3, 511-1.4, 511-2, 511-2.1, 511-2.2, 511-2.3, 511-2.4, 511-2.5, 511-2.6, 513, 513-1, 513-3, 801-1, 801-4, 802-1, 802-3, 802-4.**

[FIRST READING]

Yes - 139, No - 6, Abstain - 3

**Resolved**, that the following legislation be adopted as First Reading:

The officers of the BFC Conference are to be viewed as servants of the business meeting, not leaders of the denomination. The Chairman and Vice Chairman will be changed to the Moderator and Vice Moderator.

Replace **506-1** “Chairman of Annual Conference” with “Conference Moderator.” **405-2, 505-2, 506-1, 506-2, 506-5, 507-1, 508-4, 508-6, 511, 511-2.4, 511-2.6.**

**507-1** Duties – omit Duties (4) (5) (6) & add to election (3)  
The BFC Executive Director is ineligible to serve as the  
Conference Moderator.

**507-2** replace “ Vice Chairman” with “Vice Moderator”  
[FIRST READING]

Yes - 143, No - 6, Abstain - 1

**Resolved**, that the following legislation be adopted as First  
Reading:

The new structure also involves a major change in the way we  
fund our denominational administration. The following  
legislation provides for this:

- a. Omit **407-2** offering (6) Administrative Budget
- b. **New 502** “ BFC Annual Budget”

*Administration*

**502-1** The BFC Annual Budget is administered by the BFC  
Executive Board. The Board prepares the budget and presents  
it to the BFC Conference for adoption. The budget provides  
for the executive administration of the BFC and includes (but  
is not limited to) salaries of the Executive Director and other  
employees, expenses of committees, pension obligations,  
administrative departments, and any other obligations or  
projects approved by the BFC Conference.

**502-2** *Funding*: The BFC Annual Budget is funded by the  
Church Assessment Rate. At the time that the BFC Executive  
Board presents the budget, a rate shall be recommended which  
provides for the funding of the budget. The rate shall be a  
percentage of the regular offerings received by the particular  
churches in the previous calendar year. The BFC Executive  
Board must present a balanced budget which is adequately  
funded by the assessment.

**502-3** *Adoption*: The BFC Annual Budget shall be adopted  
by a two-thirds majority of the BFC Conference. The budget  
shall include the Church Assessment Rate necessary to fund  
it, so that a vote for the budget is also a vote for the  
assessment. The BFC Conference shall not adopt an Annual

Budget without approving the Church Assessment Rate which balances it.

Move the current Article **502** – *Procedure for the Resignation of a Minister* and Article **503** – *Retirement from the Ministry* to a new Article **509** – “*Ministry in the Bible Fellowship Church*”

**407-2: Church Assessment** The Particular Churches through their representatives to the BFC Conference adopt the BFC Annual Budget with a Church Assessment Rate each year. This rate is a percentage of the regular offering from the previous calendar year. (For instance, The BFC Annual Budget for 2006 is adopted at the BFC Conference in 2005. It includes the adoption of a Church Assessment Rate of % of the regular offerings reported for 2004. The amount is provided in the Particular Church budget for 2006 to fund the BFC Annual Budget for that year.)

**407-3: Offerings**, renumber subsequent articles.

[FIRST READING]

Yes - 127, No - 20, Abstain - 3

**Resolved**, that the following legislation be adopted as First Reading

BFC Conference business rules will be updated.

Replace **508-1, 508-2, 508-3, 508-5** with

**508-1 Regular Order of Business** Each meeting of the BFC Conference shall be opened and closed with prayer. Times for worship shall be provided in each day’s agenda. The parliamentary procedure shall follow the rules of the BFC and Robert’s Rules of Order. Business shall generally proceed according to an approved agenda. Minutes shall be recorded and approved for each meeting. (subsequent articles in **508** shall be numbered accordingly)

[FIRST READING]

Yes - 139, No - 5, Abstain - 1

**Resolved**, that the following legislation be adopted as First Reading:

Substitute the following for **203-5** as it now stands:

The church consists of many particular churches needing counsel and assistance. Because this counsel and assistance is needed on occasion by each particular church, each particular church is responsible for and accountable to the others and to the denominatoin body as a whole. However this counsel and assistance must neither violate the autonomy of particular churches in the body nor negate the accountability of each to all other churches. The goals of this mutual counsel and assistance are to encourage and maintain spiritual health, to preserve soundness of doctrine and discipline, to enter into joint effort for the advancement of the work of Christ, and to guard against doctrinal error and immorality. From these arises the importance and usefulness of assemblies of particular churches.

[FIRST READING]

Yes - 145, No - 4, Abstain - 1

Byron Widger prayed for the offering received for the Darlene Mahurin Memorial Fund.

The meeting concluded with an ordination service. Thomas H. Morrison was ordained into the Gospel Ministry and Shan D. Cleck, Robert B. Kramer and Ferdie R. Madara had previous ordinations recognized by the Bible Fellowship Church. Ralph M. Soper issued a challenge to the ordinands.

After a time of greeting by the rest of the ordained men, a time of refreshment and fellowship followed.

## **Sixth Meeting**

### **Wednesday Morning, 9:00 AM**

The Chairman, William G. Schlonecker, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Richard T. Paashaus read Psalm 145:1-3 and led the conference in singing *All Hail the Power*. He prayed and led the men in singing *We Are God's People* and *I'm Forever Grateful*. Richard T. Paashaus read Luke 10:1, 17-24 and closed this part of the worship time in prayer.

Richard B. Ravis delivered a message on *A Mandate to Godly Leadership: The Motivation*. We are motivated by our joy which is found in what the Lord has done for us and our relationship with Him. We sang *My Heart Is Filled* in closing.

#### **Report of the Registrar**

The following requested to be excused from part or all of the 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference: W. Neil Harding, Jr., James Hart, Robert A. Johnson II, Robert W. Kohler, Alan G. Miller, Richard A. Moyer and Carlos G. Rodriguez.

**Resolved**, that the requests for excuses be granted.

**Resolved**, that the following Alternate Delegate be seated: Kenneth P. Reif, Cedar Crest.

**Whereas**, the creation of the Executive Board of the Bible Fellowship Church has been approved as First Reading, and

**Whereas**, the work of the Executive Board will include accepting the full legal responsibility for Bible Fellowship Church when it is fully approved by Annual Conference, and

**Whereas**, the Executive Board will have responsibility, should be ready to enter into its work as soon as it is fully approved by Annual Conference and, therefore, needs to prepare for that responsibility, and

**Whereas**, these reasons make it important for the Executive Board to begin its work now, therefore be it

**Resolved**, that by our rule of exceptions (*F&O* §508-8) we elect the President and Executive Board for a term of one year now and that the rotating classes be elected (§512-1.1) when the

establishment of the Executive Board has been approved at Second Reading by the Annual Conference.

The following was elected:

**Board of Higher Education**

David T. Allen (3 years)

**Report of the Study Committee on the Millennium** (see page 260)

**Resolved**, that the report be accepted.

The Study Committee presented a revision to the *Articles of Faith* called “The Kingdom of God.”

**Resolved**, that we table the motion to adopt the article on the Kingdom of God as First Reading.

**Resolved**, that we recess.

We recessed at 12:11 p.m. as John H. Riggall, who retired as an officer of the Beneficiary Society after 49-years of service, closed in prayer.

The meeting reconvened at 1:30 p.m. Albert J. Dommel opened this segment of the meeting in prayer.

The following were elected

**Vice Chairman for the 126<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**

Randall A. Grossman (1 Year)

**President of the Executive Board**

Randall A. Grossman (1 Year)

**Report of the Registrar**

The following requested to be absent from the remainder of the 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference: Dana E. Weller and Gregory A. Uhrich.

**Resolved**, that the excuses be granted.

**Resolved**, that we lift the article on the Kingdom of God off the table.

The following resolution was defeated as First Reading:

**Resolved**, that we delete Article 27 - *The Millennium* from the Articles of Faith.

Yes - 16, No - 128

**Resolved**, that the following legislation be adopted as First Reading:

### **Article - The Kingdom of God**

The kingdom of God is His sovereign rule over all things (1Chr. 29:10-11; Psa.103:19; 145:11-13). It is powerfully active in human history through Jesus Christ and is a present reality experienced by believers through their being united with Him and His resurrection in the New Birth (John 3:3,5; Eph.2:6; Col.1:13; 3:1). The kingdom of God is also a longed for and confident hope that awaits its fullness with the return of Jesus Christ, (Mat.6:10; 25:31-46; Rev.20-22). While believers live in this present evil age (Gal.1:4), through their union with Christ they also experience a foretaste of the powers of the age to come (Heb.6:5). The moment a believer is regenerated he possesses eternal life (John 6:47) and having been made alive spiritually he is a new creation (2Cor. 5:17). However, he is still in a mortal body, living in a fallen world, awaiting the resurrection of the body (John 6:39,40) and Christ's final victory. Thus, a believer in Jesus Christ experiences the tension between already sharing in the glories of the Kingdom of God while yet awaiting Christ's millennial reign and the Kingdom's final and complete realization. (Rom.8:17-25 ; 2Thes.1:3-10; Heb.2:5-9).

[FIRST READING]

Yes - 130, No - 13

**Resolved**, that the remainder of the report (see page 260) by the Study Committee on the Millennium be referred back to the committee to be brought back to the 126<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference.



**Resolved**, that the following legislation be adopted at Second Reading:

**§504-1.1, 504-1.2 Membership of Congregations in Annual Conference**

**504-1.1** All new Particular Churches are to be evaluated by the Board of Church Health for two years.

**504-1.2** Any congregation that reports any one of the following criteria will allow the Board of Church Health to initiate discussion with that Particular Church:

- (1) Three consecutive years where attendance declined more than 5% per year.
- (2) Three consecutive years of declining offerings.
- (3) An Elder Board that has declined to fewer than two lay elders.

[SECOND READING]

Yes - 133, No - 5

**Resolved**, that the following legislation be adopted at Second Reading:

**§512-17 Strategic Planning Committee**

**Whereas**, the work of the Strategic Planning Committee as established by the Annual Conference and outlined in the *Faith & Order* of the Bible Fellowship Church will no longer be necessary when the Executive Board and Executive Director are in place, therefore, be it

**Resolved**, that the Strategic Planning Committee as described in Article 512-17 of the *Faith & Order* of the Bible Fellowship Church be dissolved, and further

**Resolved**, that the responsibilities for strategic planning now be cared for by the Executive Board and Executive Director of the BFC, and further

**Resolved**, that Article 512-17 as well as other references to the Strategic Planning Committee be deleted from the *Faith & Order*.

[SECOND READING]

**Whereas**, the Annual Conference has elected a President and BFC Executive Board for a one-year transitional term of office, therefore be it

**Resolved**, that the Steering Committee continue in existence as a resource for the President and the BFC Executive Board until they are approved at second reading by Annual Conference.

**Resolved**, that the following amendment to Article 204-2.3 of the *Faith & Order* be adopted as First Reading:

Physical Qualifications. The pastor must be a mature man who is physically and mentally fit, being free from impairments that would undermine his ability to minister. His physical and mental fitness should give promise that he will be able to bear the demands of the ministry.

[FIRST READING]

**Resolved**, that the following be adopted at one reading:

### **701-1 Beneficiary Society**

**701-1.1 Preamble** The Beneficiary Society of the Bible Fellowship Church is a mutual aid society of all the ordained and/or licensed ministers engaged in the ministries of the *BFC*.

We seek to aid one another in the time of death or when disability may cause one of our brethren to be laid aside. This aid is not only for the minister but extends to his family as well. We suggest that every minister and his wife read the rules and regulations and become aware of their responsibilities and benefits.

### **701-1.2 Organization**

(1) The Beneficiary Society shall meet at least once a year to transact business relative to the Society. This meeting shall be held at the time of Ministerial Convention.

(2) The secretary's annual report and the financial report shall be submitted at this meeting.

(3) At this annual meeting officers shall be elected by and from the members of the Society. They shall be elected for

terms of three years. These terms shall be staggered so normally one officer is elected each year. The elected officers shall be privileged to organize as chairman, secretary and treasurer.

(4) The accounts of the secretary and treasurer shall be audited prior to Annual Conference and reported to the Committee on Auditing of the Annual Conference.

(5) The officers of the Beneficiary Society shall be authorized to invest the funds of the Beneficiary Society and shall report all investments at the Annual Meeting.

(6) The officers shall be authorized to conduct all necessary business of the Society throughout the year.

(7) All three officers' names shall be on record at the financial institutions chosen by the officers. The secretary is authorized to carry out investments and arrange with financial institutions for financial transactions when benefits for members of the society are necessary. If the secretary is unable to carry out his duties, the two remaining officers together are authorized to engage in financial transactions with the financial institutions. Benefits for members are paid by check, signed by two officers.

### **701-1.3 Rules and Regulations**

**Membership.** On becoming licensed as a probationer in the ministry of the *BFC*, one shall become a member of the Beneficiary Society beginning at the succeeding Annual Conference and shall be responsible to pay into the fund. Every probationer/ordained man licensed or ordained by the BFC must be a member of the Beneficiary Society of the BFC, except those designated in the next paragraph.

Only active and retired ministers of the *BFC* can continue to be part of the Society. Ministers of the *BFC* who are working with other Christian ministries are not members of the Beneficiary Society and are not eligible for benefits from the fund; the same applies to ministers on leave of absence.

Ministers receiving Ministers' Retirement Fund benefits, ministers on disability, and ministers under the Ministers' Annuity Fund, who have retired at age 65 or later, are members of the Society but are exempt from dues. Those who

continue or choose to continue serving as Pastors under agencies of the BFC must pay dues. Ministers who continue on active service are exempt from dues after reaching forty years of licensed ministry in the *BFC*.

**Dues.** The dues of all members of the Beneficiary Society shall be set at the annual meeting and shall be paid at Annual Conference. After a Pastor reaches the age of 72 he no longer is expected to pay into the fund of the society. Non-payment by the end of Annual Conference automatically cancels any claims to benefits until payment is received by the secretary.

**Benefits.** Each member of the Society is entitled to death benefits for himself, his wife and his children. Each child is insured until he or she reaches the age of nineteen. These benefits, as recommended by the officers of the Society, are determined by the members of the Society at their annual meeting. Information concerning benefits may be secured from the secretary at any time during the year. Benefits are subject to annual review.

Current benefits are as follows:

Ministers holding credentials with BFC - \$6,000\*

When the assets of the Society fall below \$110,000, death benefits for the minister revert to \$5,500.

Wives and widows of BFC ministers - \$5,000\*

Children of BFC ministers:

Birth through 3 years of age - \$1,000\*

Age 4-9 - \$1,500\*

Age 10 through 19<sup>th</sup> birth date - \$2,500\*

\*A member must pay into the Beneficiary Society Fund for at least 10 years to receive full benefits. If a member pays into the fund less than 10 years the benefits are as follows:

1-4 years - 1/4 of the prescribed benefits

5-9 years - 1/2 of the prescribed benefits

### **Aid Grants**

(1) Widows. Widows of deceased ministers who have complied with the provisions of the Beneficiary Society (membership, dues) shall receive aid grants beginning at the

time of the death of the husband and continuing until she is 65 years of age or until the time of her death or remarriage.

Widows of ministers who were retired and receiving annuities under the MRF benefits or under the MAF at the time of marriage shall not receive aid grants under this legislation.

Widow's aid grants shall be compiled at the rate of \$12.50 for each year that she was the wife of a minister who was in active service, giving his whole time to the ministry in the *BFC*, but such payments shall not exceed \$500.00 per year. A widow of a minister not receiving aid from MRF or MAF shall not receive less than \$100 per year. These benefits are subject to annual review.

(2) Ministers. A minister who, because of physical illness or disability, finds it necessary to leave the active ministry under the terms of a leave of absence and who has complied with the provisions of the Beneficiary Society (membership, dues) shall receive aid grants beginning at the time of the severance from the active ministry and continuing until he reaches the age of 65 years, or until the time of his death or severance from membership in a Bible Fellowship Church.

Minister's aid grants shall be compiled at the rate of \$25.00 for each year of active service and shall not exceed \$1,000.00 per year. Benefits are subject to annual review.

No minister shall be eligible for disability benefits from the Beneficiary Society unless he has fulfilled a full-time ministry in the *BFC* for ten years or if he has a gainful occupation. Appeals of exception can be made to the officers of the Beneficiary Society.

**Miscellaneous Rules.** The term of office for officers elected or appointed to this Society shall be for the term designated by our rules for that office or until successors are elected.

Once a member leaves the active ministry of the *BFC* (except for retirement or disability under the Annual Conference rules and regulations), he forfeits all claims upon the fund. This is a mutual aid society and there are no refunds.

If a man has paid into the Beneficiary Society Fund for 30 or more years and leaves the ministry of the *BFC* to labor

in a full-time ministry with some other Christian organization, he may, if he desires, continue as a member of the Society by making the regular yearly payments to the fund.

Each probationer/ordained man upon re-entering the membership of the Society must pay an equal amount of money equivalent to the number of years he was licensed up to the present year. This amount will be the total amount that was to be paid for the years that he was not a paying members of the Society. [ONE READING]

**Resolved**, that the following legislation be adopted as First Reading:

**Whereas**, legislation is deficient regarding the timing of the convening of Annual Conference and the procedure for calling an Adjourned Session of Annual Conference, therefore be it

**Resolved**, that the following be approved at First Reading and that the present §501-5 become §501-7.

§501-5 Annual Conference convenes by precedent on the Monday following the fourth Sunday in April. The starting time and place of the Conference shall be recommended by the Committee on Arrangements and ratified by Annual Conference. The length of the Conference shall be determined by the Committee on Agenda and Program.

§501-6 An Adjourned Session of Annual Conference may be scheduled by action of Annual Conference or called by the Chairman by giving the members of Annual Conference a four-week written notification. The call for the meeting shall communicate the time, place, and purpose of the Adjourned Session of Annual Conference.

and be it further

**Resolved**, that §507-1 Chairman, Duties (3) be changed to read:

(3) After the close of Annual Conference, the Chairman shall have the power to convene Annual Conference

by circulating a written call for such a session,  
giving the members a four-week written notification.  
[FIRST READING]

Yes - 124, No - 1, Abstain - 1

**Resolved**, that the following legislation be adopted at Second Reading:

**§406-2 Mission Organizations**

406-2 Mission Organizations: **(proposed changes are underlined and bold)**

406-2.1 Each Particular Church is encouraged to establish organizations that will promote and assist in carrying out its task of world evangelization. Organizations so established are encouraged to inform the Board of Missions **and Church Extension Ministries** of their officers in order that information can be circulated to and coordinated with similar organizations from other Particular Churches. Suggested bylaws for such organizations are available in the Appendix.  
406-2.2 Regional Mission Organization Programs. The Board of Missions **and Church Extension Ministries may** coordinate regional programs as deemed advisable.

[SECOND READING]

**Resolved**, that the following legislation be adopted at Second Reading:

**§504 Membership of Congregations in Annual Conference**

Article 504 - Membership of Congregations in Annual Conference

504-1 Particular Church.

Any congregation meeting the standards of Article 18 of the Articles of Faith and committed to the F&O, may be admitted to membership in Annual Conference and shall be known as a Particular Church. This admission must follow upon a positive

assessment and recommendation by the Board of Church Extension. Assessment includes an evaluation of elders, committed participants and financial stability.

#### 504-2 Mission Churches

504-2.1 Any congregation that is under the supervision of the Board of Church Extension of the BFC but has not yet met the standard for recognition as a Particular Church shall be called a mission church. The term mission church is used in a technical sense, but this does not preclude the use of the term church in any of the congregation's public relations activities.

504-2.2 The Board of Church Extension has the responsibility of assessing the preparedness of the mission church for admission to Annual Conference.

504-2.3 Upon recommendation by the Board of Church Extension, the mission church may be recognized as a church and admitted to Annual Conference by a majority vote of Annual Conference.

#### 504-3 Other Congregations

##### 504-3.1 Daughter churches of Bible Fellowship Churches

- (1) A Bible Fellowship Church desiring to plant a daughter church shall contact the Board of Church Extension and seek its counsel and assistance in the development and preparation of the daughter church for recognition at the Annual Conference.
- (2) When the parent church determines that the daughter church is ready to pursue membership in the Annual Conference, the parent church shall request an assessment from the Board of Church Extension. The daughter church shall be assessed by the Board of Church Extension.



- (3) The daughter church shall be recommended for membership in the Annual Conference by the parenting church and the Board of Church Extension and admitted to Annual Conference upon majority vote of Annual Conference.

#### 504-3.2 Pre-existing Congregations

- (1) An independent congregation or an established congregation of another denomination desiring membership in Annual Conference shall contact the Board of Church Extension.
- (2) This church shall be evaluated by the Board of Church Extension on the basis of its agreement with the F&O, particularly as to its compliance with Article 18 of the Articles of Faith. This church shall meet the standards of Article 18 of the Articles of Faith and be committed to the F & O.
- (3) This church may be recommended for membership in Annual Conference by the Board of Church Extension upon satisfactory completion of an assessment.
- (4) A majority vote of Annual Conference shall be required for membership in Annual Conference.

[SECOND READING]

Yes - 125, No - 3

**Resolved**, that the following legislation be adopted at Second Reading:

#### **§512-4 Board of Church Extension**

##### Board of Church Extension

The Board of Church Extension governs Church Extension Ministries which consists of the Board of Church Extension, the Executive Director of Church Extension Ministries, church planters serving under the direction of the Board, all other employees of the Board, and mission churches under jurisdiction of the Board.

#### 512-4.1 Purpose

Church Extension Ministries exists to plant churches in order to build the Body of Christ through extending the Bible Fellowship Church.

It does this by evangelizing in areas, communities, and neighborhoods as well as among people, where Bible Fellowship Churches do not exist, by forming and nurturing to maturity new congregations.

#### 512-4.2 Composition and Election

- (1) The Board of Church Extension will be composed of the Executive Director of Church Extension Ministries, five ministers and five elders. Classes shall be formed as follows:
 

Class I	Two ministers and two elders
Class II	Two ministers and two elders
Class III	One minister and one elder
- (2) The Executive Director shall be called by the Board of Church Extension.
- (3) Each class of the Board of Church Extension shall be elected in turn annually by ballot by the Board of Church Extension, subject to ratification by the Annual Conference.
- (4) The term for each class shall be for three years.

#### 512-4.3 Duties

- (1) It shall have authority to establish and oversee the development of mission churches.
- (2) It shall issue calls to church planters credentialed by the BFC.
- (3) It shall have authority to hire church planters not credentialed by the BFC, but they must be under the care of the Ministerial Candidate Committee and be seeking credentials in the BFC. In such cases, a contract for ministry shall be established.
- (4) It shall function as a board of Elders in behalf of mission churches.

- (5) It shall receive applications for admission to Annual Conference from daughter churches or congregations outside the Bible Fellowship Church.
- (6) It shall require all mission churches to adhere to the Faith and Order.
- (7) It shall receive and disburse monies designated for Church Extension Ministries.
- (8) It shall make recommendations to the Board of Directors of the Bible Fellowship Church on the approval and consummation of legal transactions for the purchase of real estate and/or the erection of buildings for purposes of Church Extension Ministries.
- (9) It shall make recommendations to Annual Conference on the admission of mission churches and daughter churches to membership in Annual Conference.
- (10) It shall make a written report of its activities to Annual Conference.
- (11) It shall promote the program of Church Extension Ministries and develop a broadening financial base for its ministry.

#### 512-4.4 Executive Director of Church Extension Ministries

The Executive Director of Church Extension Ministries shall be an ordained minister of the Bible Fellowship Church. He shall, by virtue of his office, be a member of the Board of Church Extension and shall be accountable to the Board of Church Extension for his ministry.

#### 512-4.5 Rules Relative to the Recognition of Churches.

- (1) Any congregation that has a relationship with the Bible Fellowship Church but has not yet met the standards for recognition as a particular church shall be called a mission church. (See 504-2)
- (2) When, in the opinion of the Board of Church Extension, a mission church is prepared for recognition, the Board shall recommend to Annual Conference that this mission church be recognized as a Particular Church and that it be admitted to the membership of Annual Conference.

This recognition will be by a majority vote of Annual Conference.

- (3) Churches which have been recognized by the Annual Conference are no longer under the jurisdiction of the Board of Church Extension and are no longer eligible for financial aid from the Board. Churches recognized by the Annual Conference shall not again come under the jurisdiction of the Board of Church Extension but may seek counsel from the Ministerial Relations Committee and assistance from the Board of Church Health.

[SECOND READING]

Yes - 119, No - 13

**Resolved**, that the Administrative Budget for January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008 be adopted.

### **Administrative Budget**

	2008 <u>Budget</u>
1. Beneficiary Fund	500
2. Ministers' Assistance Fund	100
3. Ministerial Convention	1,000
4. Ministers' Retirement Fund	66,000
5. Annual Conference	
a. Conference Entertainment	7,500
b. Conference Expense	4,150
6. Fund to Assist Churches	100
7. Board of Communications	5,000
8. Expenses of Committees	
a. Chaplaincy Expenses	700
b. All other Expenses	8,000
9. Expenses, Board of Directors	3,000
10. M.C.C. Internship Fund	250
11. Historical Committee	1,000
12. Conference Pastor	42,500
13. ONE Voice	<u>2,750</u>
Total Budget	142,550
% of previous budget	103.1

**Resolved**, that the Administrative Budget for January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009 (see page 98) be approved for submission to the churches for their pledges. Pledges for the 2009 Administrative Budget shall be received by the Financial Secretary by September 1, 2008.

**Whereas**, starting in calendar year 2006, the per church and per member contribution rates to the MRF have been \$900 / \$9.00 respectively, and

**Whereas**, periodic inflation and mortality adjustments to the contribution rates have been part of the long-term MRF strategy, therefore be it

**Resolved**, that beginning in calendar year 2009, the per church and per member contribution rates to the MRF be \$1,000 / \$10.00 respectively.

**Whereas**, the Department of Church Extension Ministries is investigating church plant affiliations outside of the United States, and

**Whereas**, some of these affiliations may be with established churches that could become recognized churches of the BFC as early as 2008, and

**Whereas**, for the first 5 years after their admission to the BFC, newly recognized churches are required to support the MRF at 50% of the normal contribution rate, and

**Whereas**, the assessment could be an undue and disproportionate burden on these non-American churches,

**Resolved**, that these churches be exempt from supporting the MRF until the Board of Pensions, in conjunction with Church Extension Ministries, investigate an appropriate contribution rate for presentation to the 126<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in 2009.

**Resolved**, that the recommended minimum salary for a pastor serving in the BFC be \$32,000.00. In addition to his salary, the church must provide half of the pastor's Social Security Tax, parsonage and/or housing allowance (which would include utilities, repair costs, etc.), health insurance, and provision should be made for reimbursement for allowable car and professional expenses. The church must also contribute a minimum of 3% of the pastor's salary for retirement to the

Ministers' Annuity Fund, plus an additional 1% match if the pastor is voluntarily contributing 1%.

Note:

The above recommendation is considered the minimum. In establishing a fair and equitable salary and benefits package for the minister, consideration should be given to experience, education and the cost of living as per one's location. In some areas, a higher figure would be more equitable.

Additional information for the Pastoral Relations Committee can be found in the *Yearbook*. You can also contact the Reading BFC for added information.

**Resolved**, that the salary for the Conference Pastor be \$26,000.00, and in addition we provide \$7,200.00 for health insurance and \$9,300.00 for car and professional expenses.

**Resolved**, that the minutes of the second meeting be approved.

**Resolved**, that the minutes of the third meeting be approved.

**Resolved**, that the minutes of the fourth meeting be approved.

**Resolved**, that the minutes of the fifth meeting be approved.

**Resolved**, that the minutes of the Adjourned Session of the 124<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference be approved.

**Resolved**, that we recess.

The meeting was recessed at 5:06 p.m. as Clifford B. Boone closed in prayer. The meeting reconvened at 5:55 p.m.

The following were elected:

**Executive Board**

David T. Allen (1 year)  
 Dennis M. Cahill (1 year)  
 Carl C. Cassel (1 year)  
 Robert A. Sloan (1 year)  
 David A. Thomann (1 year)

Robert T. Evans (1 year)  
 Jay H. Fasnacht (1 year)  
 Steven Kauffman (1 year)  
 Charles A. Lavigna (1 year)  
 L. James Roberts (1 year)  
 Robert H. Zentz (1 year)

**Report of the Committee on Statistics** (see page 275)

**Resolved**, that the report be accepted.

**Report of the Committee on Auditing**

The committee on auditing has reviewed the financial reports of conference agencies and boards. All were found to be in compliance with article 511-2.1 of the Faith and Order of the Bible Fellowship Church.

**Resolved**, that the report be accepted.

**Report of the Committee on Resolutions**

**Resolved**, that the report be accepted.

**Whereas**, the Annual Conference was requested to pray for visas needed to enable Craig Miller and his family to leave together for their new field of service in the Canary Islands, and

**Whereas**, it was later reported that the visas had been received, be it

**Resolved**, that we praise God for His sovereign intervention on behalf of the Miller family.

**Whereas**, in the past year, our ministering brothers, Robert W. Green and Ronald C. Erb, experienced serious medical challenges, and

**Whereas**, testimony was given to Annual Conference of their divine preservation and restoration, therefore be it

**Resolved**, that we praise God for His mercies to our brothers, praying for continued divine blessing on their health and ministries.

**Whereas**, a recent serious fall involving David E. Thomann's daughter, sister of David A. Thomann, and its aftermath were reported to Annual Conference, therefore be it

**Resolved**, that we continue to pray for the recuperation of Beverly Thomann who sustained multiple fractures in the fall.

**Whereas**, it has pleased God to call to Himself our dear brothers and long term pastors, Robert N. Gordon, Jansen E. Hartman, Donald T. Kirkwood, and James G. Koch, and

**Whereas**, the Lord has seen fit to call our sister, Judy Pello, to join her husband, our dear brother John Pello, in glory, therefore be it

**Resolved**, that we give deepest thanks to the Lord of the Church for these precious saints whose godly lives and service to the kingdom of God through the Bible Fellowship Church have provided and will continue to provide an example by which we each should live.

**Whereas**, we desire to share in the grief of our ministering families, and

**Whereas**, our brother Howard N. Wells and his wife, Meta, have suffered the loss of their daughter, Nina Johnson, therefore be it

**Resolved**, that we be faithful in prayer on behalf of those whose loved one has been called to the Lord's presence and that we continue to assist them practically wherever possible.

**Whereas**, Thomas H. Morrison was approved for ordination, and

**Whereas**, Shan D. Cleck, Robert B. Kramer and Ferdie R. Madara were approved to have their prior ordination recognized by the BFC, therefore be it

**Resolved**, that we thank God for the calling and gifts of these men and that we be steadfast in prayer for them.

**Whereas**, the 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference enthusiastically and unanimously received two mission churches in the Conference as particular churches, and

**Whereas**, God has providentially supplied the human and practical resources necessary to bring these churches into fellowship, therefore be it

**Resolved**, that we thank and praise God for brother Jack Becker and his vision to plant the church in Las Cruces, NM, and to connect it with the BFC, and further



**Resolved**, that we thank and praise God for Pastor Thomas H. Morrison with the organizing elders and the Las Cruces Administrative-Team who worked and served with great diligence in developing and presenting Grace Bible Church for reception into Annual Conference, and further

**Resolved**, that we thank and praise God for Pastor Marcos G. Ramirez, the elders of Iglesia Biblia La Roca whom He has led to this connection, and further

**Resolved**, that we thank and praise God for the vision given to Iglesia Biblia La Roca to plant churches in the Yucatan and train men to be church planters, and further

**Resolved**, that we commit to regular prayer on behalf of Grace Bible Church and Iglesia Biblia La Roca de Mérida for God's blessing and wisdom as they continue to develop to His glory.

**Whereas**, the Joint Committee on Ethnic Church Planting and others have worked concertedly to accomplish the extension of the BFC beyond our national borders, therefore be it

**Resolved**, that we give thanks for their efforts and give praise to God for His leading in this historic forward move.

**Whereas**, the Boards, Committees and Study Committees of the BFC have served with diligence during this past year, and

**Whereas**, they have reported faithfully to the 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, therefore be it

**Resolved**, that we recognize their service and ask God to give them strength for the coming year.

**Whereas**, the leaders of the Tanzania Project have reported God-sized progress in the development of their vision for this mission to unreached peoples, therefore be it

**Resolved**, that we praise the Great Commissioner of the Church and promise to persevere in prayer for the personnel and the resources to complete this task.

**Whereas**, our Agencies faithfully pursue the collective will of the BFC to serve our church and reach our world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, therefore be it

**Resolved**, that we offer prayer and practical assistance that their endeavors may be blessed with spiritual progress and glorify the cause of Christ.

**Whereas**, the Ministerial Relations Committee has reported the establishment of eleven pastorates, therefore be it

**Resolved**, that we offer praise to God for His gracious provision of pastors for our churches.

**Whereas**, the Graterford and Whitehall churches are in need of pastors, and

**Whereas**, several of our churches are seeking pastoral staff members to serve in the local church, and

**Whereas**, several of our mission churches are in need of church planters to lead in their development, therefore be it

**Resolved**, that we faithfully pray for God's wisdom and guidance for these pastoral searches and further

**Resolved**, that we pray that God would raise up new pastors and elders from our denomination who will be qualified to serve our churches.

**Whereas**, the staff and volunteers of Pinebrook Bible Conference, along with wives and family members of our pastors and delegates, have readily and cheerfully served the members of the 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, therefore be it

**Resolved**, that we express our appreciation for their special contribution in care of Conference Members.

**Whereas**, Head Page, Daniel L. Williams, Assistant Head Page, Raymond L. Cole, and Pages, Joshua M. Allen, Benjamin J. Armstrong, Mark A. Bickel, David E. Brandt, Joshua D. Edwards, Mark R. Evans, Sidney C. Fields, Kurt P. Francis, Timothy S. Hogan, Scott W. Kappes, Keith M. Long, John LoRusso, Joshua P. Miller, Steven J. Morton, David K. Schlonecker, Aaron J. Susek, Carlos G. Rodriguez, Colby A. Weinhofer, have humbly, readily and cheerfully enabled the work of the Annual Conference to function efficiently, therefore, be it

**Resolved**, that we acknowledge our appreciation for their service on behalf of the Conference with a round of applause.

**Whereas**, William G. Schlonecker, David T. Allen, Richard B. Ravis, have served Annual Conference as our devotional speakers, therefore be it

**Resolved**, that we give thanks to the Lord for their ministry in proclamation of God's Word, and be it further

**Resolved**, that each be presented \$50.00 for his ministry.

**Whereas**, Richard T. Paashaus has served Annual Conference as Worship Leader, ably assisted by several musicians, therefore be it

**Resolved**, that we give thanks to the Lord for their leading us in worship of our great God.

**Whereas**, the Annual Conference Secretary, David A. Thomann, and his Assistants, Daniel P. Allen, David T. Allen, Donald E. Kuntzman and Robert W. Smock, have served with individual distinction, therefore be it

**Resolved**, that we thank the Lord for their faithful service and be it further

**Resolved**, that each man be awarded \$50.00 for his labors.

**Whereas**, William G. Schlonecker has served exceptionally as Chairman of the 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Bible Fellowship Church, therefore be it

**Resolved**, that the members of the Annual Conference show their appreciation for Brother Schlonecker's service with a standing ovation.

**Whereas**, we have come this far by faith, therefore be it firmly

**Resolved**, that we won't turn back, and further

**Resolved**, that we will always glory in the manifold grace of our great and gracious God.

The Chairman made the following appointments:

**Registrar**: Jonathon W. Arnold, Sr.

**Assistant Registrar**: Davis E. Duggins

**Agenda & Program:** David A. Thomann, Chairman; William G. Schlonecker, Randall A. Grossman, Thomas P. Shorb, Timothy S. Cowen, Ronald L. Kohl

**Committee on Arrangements:** David A. Thomann, Chairman; Daniel P. Allen, Thomas P. Shorb, William G. Schlonecker, Jonathon W. Arnold, Sr., Daniel L. Williams

**Committee on Statistics:** LeRoy S. Heller, Chairman; David A. Thomann, Gregory A. Uhrich, Hugh C. Coulbourn, Jr., C. Larry Bennett

**Committee on Examination of Minutes of Particular Churches:** Allan R. Vivona, Chairman; Ronald C. Erb, C. Larry Bennett, Clyde D. Bomgardner, Jr., Ralph M. Soper, Louis S. Curcio, Jacob J. Susek, Jr.

The secretary of the Conference Judicatory is Gregory A. Uhrich. The secretary of the Special Appellate Judicatory is David J. Watkins. The address of the primary place of business of the corporation known as the Bible Fellowship Church is: 3000 Fellowship Drive, Whitehall, PA 18052.

**Resolved,** that the meeting be adjourned.

The 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference was adjourned at 6:15 p.m. as Calvin T. Reed, Vice Chairman of the 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, closed in prayer.



*Giving and Receiving Advice  
Pastor Taylor & Missionary Hoyle*



*Metro Region (L to R)*

*Row 1: Dean Stortz, Bert Baker, Alan Heinlean, David Peters, Richard Vroman  
Row 2: Allen Dorst, Dennis Cahill, Ralph Ritter, Eric North  
Row 3: Richard Ravis, Guy Warner, Richard Harris*



*Mid Hudson, NY Region (L to R)*

*Row 1: Charles Webb, Dennis Spinney, Wayne Chadwell, Thomas Krans  
Row 2: Hans Waldvogel, Steve DelDuco, Gerald Clark, James Wickstead*

***Minutes***  
***Adjourned Session of 124<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference***  
 Saturday, March 8, 2008  
 Cedar Crest Bible Fellowship Church  
 Allentown, PA

The Chairman, Randall A Grossman, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. by leading the Conference in prayer.

**Report of the Registrar**

**Resolved** that the two center sections of the sanctuary constitute the Conference Bar.

**Resolved**, that the following alternate delegates be seated: John Crouch (Denville, NJ); Michael Helfrich (Whitehall, PA); Donald D. McKinney (Sinking Spring, PA); John Quigley (Bethlehem, PA); Alan Russell (Emmaus, PA); Thomas E. Rutt (Blandon, PA); Keith Strunk (Bethlehem, PA); David Tress (Allentown, PA, Cedar Crest); J. Robert Vaughn (Red Hill, PA).

**Resolved**, that the following excuses for absence from this meeting be granted: James R. Batchler, Jr., Bert N. Brosius, Wayne M. Chadwell, Robert H. Cox, Robert L. Draper, Ronald C. Erb, Scott B. Evans, Carl J. Fischer, Jr., James C. Hart, LeRoy S. Heller, Horace A. Kauffman, Ferdie R. Madaro, Rodney P. Plows, Calvin T. Reed, R. C. Reichenbach, Arthur J. Simpson, Keith Splawn, Mark Twombly.

A time of worship was led by Timothy Schaeffer and Instruments of Praise. The Conference read Psalm 104:1-4 then sang, *O Worship the King, Meekness and Majesty, We Worship and Adore Thee, Here I Am To Worship, I Surrender All, and You Are God Alone*. Instruments of Praise ministered to the conference in special music by singing, *Blessed Assurance*.

Robert A. Sloan led in a time of devotional thought from Acts 6. He noted that changes were needed and brought about in the early church. He challenged us not to fear change but to make the changes that need to be made, always remembering to be true to the Word of God which is changeless.

The members of the Steering Committee presented their work and led a time of report and discussion. The members of the Committee are: Randall A. Grossman, Chairman; David T. Allen, Carl C. Cassel, Raymond R. Dotts, Robert T. Evans, Jay H. Fasnacht, Ronald W. Reed, Robert A. Sloan, Jr., Hans R. Waldvogel, J. Robert Vaughn, Timothy D. Weaver and Robert H. Zentz.

Since Randall A. Grossman, Chairman of the 124<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, is also the Chairman of the Steering Committee and illness caused the Vice Chairman, Calvin T. Reed, to miss this meeting, William G. Schlonecker, Chairman of the 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, was selected, to chair the proceedings.

**Resolved**, that William G. Schlonecker serve as Chairman of this Adjourned Session of the 124<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference.

The Conference recessed for lunch at 12:24 p.m. as Clifford B. Boone closed in prayer.

The Chairman reconvened the meeting at 1:15 p.m. Thomas P. Shorb led the Conference in prayer.

The Steering Committee continued with the presentation of its material.

**Resolved**, that we adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:23 p.m. with David A. Thomann, Secretary of the 124<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, closing in prayer.

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## *Report of the Committee on Arrangements*

The Committee on Arrangements for the 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference met three times during the Conference year in fulfillment of its mandate. The purpose of the committee continues to be to review the mechanics and efficiency of each conference as well as assisting in providing hospitality. Any suggestions on what can be done to accomplish the above in a better and more efficient manner are graciously received. The committee also took the leadership for the planning of the Adjourned Session held March 8, 2008 at the Cedar Crest church.

Orientation material has been placed in the beginning of the Report Book. This material should be reviewed by each member of Annual Conference.

The Overseer of the Pages for the 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference is Louis Curcio, Assistant Pastor, Hatfield, PA, and the Head Page is Daniel Williams, Pastor of Outreach & Evangelism, Wallingford, PA.

The Committee has taken it upon itself to remind the Chairman of Annual Conference to establish a committee to review the BPLs every seven years as was resolved by the 121<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference (*Yearbook*, 38).

Our Lord called home four faithful ministers during the conference year, Robert N. Gordon, Jansen E. Hartman, Donald T. Kirkwood and James G. Koch. Former Chairman of Annual Conference and pastor to brother Hartman, Randall A. Grossman, has been asked to write his obituary with Raymond R. Dotts and Keith E. Plows writing the obituaries for our brothers Koch and Koch, respectively. Carl C. Cassel has been asked to write about Donald T. Kirkwood.

### Recommendations

1. **Resolved**, that the 126<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference be held at Pinebrook Bible Conference, Stroudsburg, PA, April 27-29, 2009 beginning at 10:00 AM on Monday.
2. **Resolved**, that all Study Committees, Committees and Agencies have their reports sent to the designated

distribution point, 12 Pinebrook Road, E. Stroudsburg, PA 18301 or ebfc@ptd.net, by March 1, 2009.

3. **Whereas**, legislation is deficient regarding the timing of the convening of Annual Conference and the procedure for calling an Adjourned Session of Annual Conference, therefore be it

**Resolved**, that the following be approved at First Reading and that the present §501-5 become §501-7.

§501-5 Annual Conference convenes by precedent on the Monday following the fourth Sunday in April. The starting time and place of the Conference shall be recommended by the Committee on Arrangements and ratified by Annual Conference. The length of the Conference shall be determined by the Committee on Agenda and Program.

§501-6 An Adjourned Session of Annual Conference may be scheduled by action of Annual Conference or called by the Chairman by giving the members of Annual Conference a four-week written notification. The call for the meeting shall communicate the time, place, and purpose of the Adjourned Session of Annual Conference.

and be it further

**Resolved**, that §507-1 Chairman, Duties (3) be changed to read:

- (3) After the close of Annual Conference, the Chairman shall have the power to convene Annual Conference by circulating a written call for such a session, giving the members a four-week written notification.

Committee on Arrangements for 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference: David A. Thomann, Chairman; Daniel P. Allen, Secretary; Jonathon W Arnold, Thomas P. Shorb, William G. Schlonecker, Chairman of 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference

## ***Report of the Committee on Credentials***

The Committee on Credentials held three meetings during the year in the performance of its duties.

The *Faith & Order* questionnaire was sent to each of the ministers holding Ordination Credentials with the BFC. All of the brethren returned their questionnaires. Thank you. The Committee reviewed the responses of those who handed in their questionnaires and is taking into consideration those reservations noted.

The Lord, in His providence this year, has chosen to take home four of our retired ministering brethren: Robert N. Gordon (April 30, 2007), Jansen E. Hartman (December 7, 2007) James G. Koch (January 30, 2008) and Donald T. Kirkwood (April 20, 2008). We thank God for their many years of ministry among us, their commitment to our Savior and we look forward to the day we will be reunited with them in glory.

The Committee conducted a two-tiered approach to the ordination service that was approved at the 124<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. The first tier was on Tuesday evening, April 24, 2007 in which we introduced the men to be ordained or having their previous ordination recognized, had a charge to them, administered the vows, laying hands on them for prayer by the Committee and extended the right hand of fellowship.

The second tier was administered in a service where each man is serving by affirming his vows of ordination by repeating them, the elders of that church praying for him, asking the pastors of that region to be present to extend the right hand of fellowship and greet the man, someone preaching an appropriate ordination sermon and this would be introduced by a time of worship and praise. This is an important occasion to show love and support of those called of God to minister alongside us as brothers. We are grateful for those who were present. We strongly encourage all our credentialed men to make ordination services a priority. Please put these services on your calendars and affirm these brothers in the Lord's call on their lives.

For the year 2009, the Committee will be providing the *F&O* Questionnaire and information letter on the BFC website. Credentialed men can download these documents, fill them out and

send them, as an attachment, to the Secretary of the Credentials Committee.

The following changes in status were approved:

Jonathon W. Arnold was changed from Ordained Ministers Between Calls to Ordained Ministers Working Under the Direction of the BFC.

Robert S. Commerford was changed from Ordained Ministers Between Calls to Ordained Ministers Working in Other Christian Ministries.

William J. Dunn was changed from Ordained Ministers Under the Direction of the Board of Missions to Ordained Ministers in Other Christian Ministries.

Donald R. Ellwanger had his credentials removed due to not obtaining membership in a Bible Fellowship Church.

Scott B. Evans was changed from Ordained Ministers Working Under the Direction of the BFC to Ordained Ministers in Other Christian Ministries.

Ronald C. Hagy had his credentials re-instated as an ordained minister of the BFC who is eligible for a call and placed in Ordained Ministers in Other Christian Ministries.

Thomas S. MacMillan requested his credentials be removed due to the limited amount of time that a credentialed man can remain in the “Leave of Absence” and “Between Calls” categories.

Jeffrey L. Ruhl was changed from Ordained Ministers Between Calls to Ordained Ministers in Other Christian Ministries.

Gene W. Smith was changed from Ordained Ministers Working Under the Direction of the BFC to Ordained Ministers in Retirement.

David R. Way was changed from Ordained Ministers Working Under the Direction of the BFC to Ordained Ministers Between Calls.

The Committee met with four men for ordination examination. The Credentials Committee gives thanks to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, Who has given these gifted men for the ministry of the BFC.

1. **Whereas**, the Ministerial Candidate Committee has recommended ordination for Thomas H. Morrison, and

**Whereas**, the Ministerial Candidate Committee has recommended prior ordination recognition for Shan D. Cleck, Robert B. Kramer and Ferdie R. Madara, and

**Whereas**, these brethren have served acceptably as ministers of the Bible Fellowship Church for the required period of time or the equivalent thereof, and

**Whereas**, after examination, the Credentials Committee believes these men to be called of God to the gospel ministry and to be in accord with the *Faith & Order* of the Bible Fellowship Church, therefore be it

**Resolved**, that Thomas H. Morrison be ordained to the gospel ministry of the Bible Fellowship Church, and further

**Resolved** that the prior ordination of Shan D. Cleck, Robert B. Kramer and Ferdie R. Madara to the gospel ministry be recognized by the Bible Fellowship Church.

The Credentials Committee has placed our Ordained Ministers in the following categories. (These men are eligible to serve a Bible Fellowship Church):

### **I. Ordained Ministers Working Under the Direction of the BFC**

Allen, Daniel P.  
 Allen, David T.  
 Arnold, Jonathon W.  
 Baker, Delbert R. II.  
 Barninger, Mark E.  
 Bennett, C. Larry  
 Bertolet, Raymond R.  
 Bertolet, Timothy J.  
 Bomgardner, Clyde D., Jr.  
 Boone, Clifford B.  
 Brush, R. Jerome  
 Cahill, Dennis M.  
 Clapier, G. Wayne  
 Clark, Gerald D.

\*Cleck, Shan D.  
 Clineff, Kevin W.

Cole, Charles E.  
 Cooper, Brian H.  
 Cowen, Timothy S.  
 Crossgrove, Andrew T.  
 Curcio, Louis S.  
 Dommel, Albert J.  
 Dowling, Willis I.  
 Duggins, Davis E.  
 Erb, Ronald C.  
 Felty, Glenn R.  
 Fields, Robert K.  
 Fischer, Carl J., Jr.  
 Grossman, Randall A.  
 Gundrum, David E.  
 Harris, Richard D.  
 Heller, LeRoy S.

Johnson, Robert A., II	Schoen, David N.
Keeler, Kenneth D.	Shorb, Thomas P.
Kirkpatrick, Kevin W.	Simpson, Arthur J., Jr.
Kohl, Ronald L.	Sloan, Robert A., Jr.
*Kramer, Robert B.	Soper, Ralph M.
Kuntzman, Donald E.	Spackman, Carl K.
*Madara, Ferdie R.	Spinney, Dennis W.
Mahurin, Ronald C.	Stortz, Dean A.
Miller, Alan G.	Susek, Jacob, J., Jr.
Morrison, Mark L.	Tannous, Michael J.
*Morrison, Thomas H.	Taylor, Richard E.
Norris, Philip G.	Thomann, David A.
North, Eric R.	Uhrich, Gregory A.
Paashaus, Richard T.	Vandegriff, John C., Jr.
Prontnicki, Louis	Vivona, Alan R.
Ramos, Elliot H.	Weller, Dana E.
Ravis, Richard B.	Wells, Howard N.
Reed, Calvin T.	Wickstead, James A.
Ritter, Ralph E.	Widger, Byron
Schlonecker, William G.	Yerrington, Philip E.
Schmoyer, Timothy J.	

\* Contingent upon approval of recommendation of their ordination in this report.

## **II. Ordained Ministers Working Under the Direction of the Board of Missions of the BFC:**

Aukamp, William A.	Moyer, Duane E.
Denlinger, Ronald K.	Moyer, Jerry L.
Head, Jim D.	Pollock, Thomas A.
Johnston, Walter M.	Riddell, David W.
Manney, David L.	Studenroth, John C.
Morrison, Philip E.	

### **III. Ordained Ministers Working in the Chaplaincy Under the Sponsorship of the BFC:**

Heineman, David N. - Hospital  
 Hurst, Kenneth J. – Military  
 Jones, David H. – Military  
 Moyer, Richard A. - Prison Ministry

### **IV. Ordained Ministers Working in Other Christian Ministries:**

Commerford, Robert S.	Lawrence, Dennis J.
Dunn, William J.	Lea, Herbert K.
Evans, Scott B.	Martin, Carl T.
Hagy, Ronald C.	Ruhl, Jeffrey L.
Harding, W. Neil, Jr.	

### **V. Ordained Ministers Between Calls:**

McCreary, J. Mark  
 Reitz, Roger L.  
 Way, David R.

### **VI. Ordained Ministers on Leave of Absence:**

Frale, Arthur H., Jr.  
 Tait, Jonathan P.  
 Trommler, Steven L.

### **VII. Ordained Ministers in Retirement:**

Barber, Kenneth F.	Cassel, Carl C.
Batchler, James R., Jr.	Coulbourn, Hugh C., Jr.
Beil, James A.	Dotts, Raymond R.
Bigley, T. James, Jr.	Draper, Robert L.
Brosius, Bert N.	Dunn, John
Buck, Leonard E.	Ellingson, Bruce A.
Byrd, Terris L.	Frank, Walter H.
Cassel, Alva C.	Fritz, Harvey J., Jr.



Gehman, Richard J.	Reichenbach, R. C.
Harley, J. Barclay	Riggall, John H.
Herb, Frank L., Jr.	Seifert, A. L.
Herb, George E.	Shelly, Austin G.
Herb, John H.	Smith, Gene W.
Hertzog, Roy A.	Smock, Robert W.
Hoyle, Ronald W.	Thomann, David E.
Minsky, Barry J.	Watkins, David J.
Moyer, Edward	Weaber, Harold C.
Munyan, Edgar H.	Ziegler, Daniel G.
Phillips, D. Thomas	Zimmerman, Paul G.
Plows, Keith E.	

Credentials Committee makes the following additional recommendations:

2. **Resolved**, that an Ordination Service be held Tuesday, April 28, 2009, at the 126<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference.
3. **Resolved**, that the Grace Bible Church of Las Cruces, NM, Paradise, PA, BFC, Ephrata, PA, BFC and the Shamokin, PA, BFC, be encouraged to have a service in recognition of the ordination of Thomas H. Morrison and prior ordination of Shan D. Cleck, Robert B. Kramer and Ferdie R. Madara, respectively, and that they be encouraged to invite the Credentials Committee to send representation to be present at the service.

**Committee on Credentials**: Dennis M. Cahill, Chairman; David A. Thomann, Vice Chairman; Ralph M. Soper, Secretary; LeRoy S. Heller, Keith E. Plows.

## ***Report of the Ministerial Candidate Committee***

During the past year, the Ministerial Candidate Committee implemented new procedures for its examination and approval process. Men who apply for recognition with the Committee are given a preliminary interview by one of the members of the Committee after which he may be asked to complete the Open Book Examination. After the satisfactory completion of this exam, he will meet with the entire committee for a more thorough interview during which he will be tested orally on the *Articles of Faith*. Following a satisfactory interview and examination, the applicant or candidate is approved as a probationer eligible to receive a call. The Committee believes this new procedure will streamline the approval process and improve the *Articles of Faith* examination by allowing it to determine not only if a man knows the *Articles* but also if he is committed to them.

Because of this new procedure, men can move from applicant status to probationer status quickly. For this reason, the number of men listed as candidates this year appears to be small while the number of applicants seems large.

Jonathan Arnold resigned from the Committee as a result of beginning a new ministry. The Committee appointed Clyde D. Bomgardner, Jr. to serve until this Annual Conference. We are grateful to Brother Arnold for his service as a part of the Committee and to Brother Bomgardner for his willingness to assume this responsibility.

Because proposals will be offered for new leadership structure at Annual Conference, the Ministerial Candidate Committee believes that it would be advantageous to merge its duties with those of the Committee on Credentials to form one committee to oversee the men who are serving in the BFC. We encourage the Steering Committee and new Executive Committee to consider this merger.

An Orientation Seminar was held June 26-28, 2007. During the seminar, the men under the direction of the Ministerial Candidate Committee are given instruction in the doctrine and procedures of the BFC. Because men are given this orientation into the procedures we follow, an examination on the Principles of Order

is no longer given. This year's Orientation Seminar will be held at Coopersburg, PA, June 3-5, 2008.

The Committee met nine times between May, 2007, and February, 2008.

The following men were interviewed: Ronald C. Hagy, David J. Peters, Fred G. Zaspel, Joshua P. Miller, Robert B. Kramer, Shan D. Cleck, Carlos G. Rodriguez, Marcos G. Ramirez, Frank E. Lenahan, Mark R. Evans, Kurt P. Francis, and Ferdie R. Madara.

The following men were approved as probationers eligible to receive a call: David J. Peters, Aaron J. Susek, Fred G. Zaspel, Joshua P. Miller, Carlos G. Rodriguez, Marcos G. Ramirez, Mark R. Evans and Kurt P. Francis.

Colby A. Weinhofer was licensed.

The following men were recommended to the Committee on Credentials for Ordination Examination: Thomas H. Morrison, Robert B. Kramer, Shan D. Cleck, and Ferdie R. Madara.

1. **Resolved**, that the following list of men under the direction of the Ministerial Candidate Committee be approved:

### Probationers

[Year of licensure is within parentheses.]

Brandt, David E. (2006). . . . . Lebanon, PA  
 Cleck, Shan D. (2006). . . . . Lancaster, PA  
 DelDuco, Steven J. (2007). . . . . Mahopac, NY  
 Evans, Mark R. (2008). . . . . Coopersburg, PA  
 Forsythe, Jonathan D. . . . . Brigantine, NJ  
 Francis, Kurt P. (2008). . . . . Northumberland, PA  
 Kramer, Robert B. (2006). . . . . Ephrata, PA  
 Lenahan, Frank E. (2005). . . . . Cape May Court House, NJ  
 Madara, Ferdie R. (2006). . . . . Benton, PA  
 Miller, Joshua P. (2007). . . . . Quakertown, PA  
 Morrison, Thomas H. (2005). . . . . Las Cruces, NM  
 Peters, David J. (2008). . . . . Chambersburg, PA  
 Peters, David W. (2004). . . . . Steilacoom, WA  
 Ramirez, Marcos G. (2008). . . . . Merida, Mexico  
 Rodriguez, Carlos G. (2008). . . . . Reading, PA  
 Susek, Aaron J. . . . . Royersford, PA  
 Weinhofer, Colby A. (2007). . . . . Akron, PA

Williams, Daniel L.(2006). . . . . Aston, PA  
Zaspel, Fred G.. . . . . Lansdale, PA

**Candidates**

MacArthur, James D... . . . . Oley, PA  
Schlonecker, David K... . . . . Emmaus, PA  
Stoltzfus, Alphaus D... . . . . Downingtown, PA

**Applicants**

Allen, Jason M.. . . . . East Stroudsburg, PA  
Allen, Joshua M.. . . . . East Stroudsburg, PA  
Clark, Timothy G.. . . . . Sinking Spring, PA  
Claudio, Samuel, Jr.. . . . . Bethlehem, PA  
Cole, Raymond L.. . . . . Newark, DE  
Edwards, Joshua D... . . . . Old Zionsville, PA  
Elias, John C... . . . . Bethlehem, PA  
Gibson, Joshua P.. . . . . Northumberland, PA  
Gilbert, Shad A... . . . . Stockertown, PA  
Graham, Daniel J.. . . . . Dallas, TX  
Green, Robert W... . . . . Newark, DE  
Kappes, W. Scott.. . . . . Catasaqua, PA  
King, Jonathan H.. . . . . Schnecksville, PA  
LoRusso, John R... . . . . Alburdis, PA  
Stapleton, Andrew J... . . . . Jenkintown, PA  
Zuck, Timothy M.. . . . . Telford, PA

- 2. **Resolved**, that the following amendment to Article 505-1 of the *F&O* be approved at second reading:

505-1. Voting Members.  
(5) probationers who have been licensed by the Ministerial Candidate Committee

- 3. **Resolved**, that the following amendment to Article 204-1.4 of the *Faith & Order* be approved at first reading:

Physical Qualifications. The pastor must be a mature man who is physically and mentally fit, being free from impairments that

would undermine his ability to minister. His physical and mental fitness should give promise that he will be able to bear the demands of the ministry.

**Ministerial Candidate Committee:** Calvin T. Reed, Chairman; Richard E. Taylor, Secretary; Clyde D. Bomgardner Jr., Howard N. Wells, and David E. Gundrum.



*New Jersey - Delaware Region (L to R)*

*Row 1: William Schlonecker, Robert Kaatz, Jonathon Arnold*

*Row 2: Raymond Dotts, Mark Morrison, William Splawn, Raymond Bertolet*

*Row 3: Timothy Schmoyer*



*Both working (Allen, Smock), just differently!*

## ***Report of the BFC Board of Directors***

The Board of Directors of the BFC held four regular meetings to attend to corporate business related to Annual Conference, to agencies, and to churches.

The board provided oversight, advice, and assistance in respect to fiscal, legal, and property acquisition and disposal matters as follows: Annual Conference, medical insurance, administrative budget, Board of Church Extension, and churches.

American Insuring Group, LTD, continues as agent of record for BFC sponsored health insurance plans. Policy holders with questions or concerns should contact Mr. David Ross, who administers the program for American Insuring Group, LTD. Mr. Charles Lavigna serves the Board of Directors as Health Insurance Coordinator and liaison with Mr. Ross. He is available to churches as needed.

After study, cost-saving measures were taken which should make the denominational health plan affordable to more of our churches. Each church has received a brochure describing the plan and there will be further explanation of the plan and opportunity for you to have your questions answered at Annual Conference. We urge each church to give careful consideration to participation in the program.

All funds are deposited in Wachovia Bank. Accounts were reviewed by Linda K. Yuill.

We recommend that the 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference adopt the following:

1. **Resolved**, that the rate of mileage reimbursement for conference business conducted in 2008 be 27¢ per mile.
2. **Resolved**, that the Administrative Budget for January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008 be adopted.
3. **Resolved**, that the Administrative Budget for January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009 be approved for submission to the churches for their pledges.  
Pledges for the 2009 Administrative Budget shall be received by the Financial Secretary by September 1, 2008.

**Board of Directors of the BFC:** Randall A. Grossman, President; Carl C. Cassel, Vice President; David J. Watkins, Secretary; Horace A. Kauffman, Financial Secretary; Robert W. Gehret, Treasurer; Charles A. Lavigna, Health Insurance Coordinator; David T. Allen, Raymond R. Dotts, L. James Roberts, Jr..

**Bible Fellowship Church  
Balance Sheet**

December 31, 2007

Assets

Current Assets		
Cash		
General Fund	93,276.19	
Ministers' Assistance Fund	1,307.25	
Church Assistance Fund	5,787.41	
Pastoral Intern. Fund	7,403.39	
Special Projects Fund	10,000.00	
Vison Fund	<u>750.00</u>	
Total Cash		118,524.24
Accounts Receivable - One Voice		<u>2,749.77</u>
Total Current Assets		121,274.01
Fixed Assets		
R. Est. - Pinebrook Conference	435,268.08	
R. Est. - Victory Valley	<u>111,877.01</u>	
Total Fixed Assets		<u>547,145.09</u>
Total Assets		668,419.10
Net Worth		<u>668,419.10</u>
Total Liabilities & Net Worth		<u><u>668,419.10</u></u>

**General Fund Statement of Income**

December 31, 2007

Income

Administrative Budget	120,673.31	
Contributions, Special	22,795.00	
Holmes Settlement	3,300.00	
Special Projects Fund	25,000.00	
Interest	<u>7,725.72</u>	
Total Income		179,494.03
Expenses		
Ministers' Assistance Fund		500.00
Church Assistance Fund		500.00
Special Projects Fund		25,000.00
An. Conference Entertainment		7,000.00
An. Conference Expense (Arrangements Com)		5,586.87
Beneficiary Fund		500.00

Conference Pastor		42,786.87
Historical Committee		1,000.00
Ministers' Retirement Fund		63,000.00
Board of Communications		5,000.00
Ministerial Convention Exp.		1,000.00
One Voice		3,000.00
Expenses of Committees		
Com. to Exam Church Min.	204.96	
Credentials Committee	963.89	
Ministerial Candidate Com.	2,210.95	
Ministerial Relations Com.	490.43	
Nominating Committee	113.40	
Statistical Committee	153.32	
Board of Church Health	451.72	
Study Com.: Millennium	51.30	
Conference Agenda & Program	401.52	
Study Com.: Multiple Staff	68.75	
Study Com.: Salvation	<u>170.36</u>	
Total Committee Expense		5,280.60
Chaplaincy Expense		(232.36)
Steering Committee		192.50
Board of Directors' Expenses		1,423.91
Holmes Settlement Costs		<u>3,300.00</u>
Total Expenses		164,838.39
Gain or (Loss)		14,655.64

### **Real Estate Fund Balance**

December 31, 2007

#### Assets

##### Current Assets

Cash	206,952.51
Accounts Receivable	
Notes	
Cottrell Corners, NJ	40,000.00
Brooklyn, NY	55,315.93
Cape May Co., NJ	10,145.90
Longneck, DE	175,000.00
Newark, NJ	9,961.43
Toms River, NJ	48,476.37
Thompson, CT	47,977.94
Mortgage	
Beraca Church	<u>61,944.73</u>

Total Current Assets	655,774.81
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Fixed Assets - Real Estate		
Brooklyn, NY	207,750.00	
Cape May Co., NJ	44,919.99	
Toms River, NJ - Parsonage	126,985.70	
Toms River, NJ - Church	175,000.00	
C.E. Parsonage	178,193.04	
Thompson, CT	<u>132,427.00</u>	
Total Fixed Assets	<u>865,275.73</u>	
Total Assets		1,521,050.54
Liabilities		
Mortgages		
Brooklyn, NY	125,374.89	
Thompson, CN	48,175.04	
Toms River, NJ - Parsonage	11,294.18	
Toms River, NJ - Church	<u>90,053.68</u>	
Total Liabilities		274,897.79
Trust Funds		
Brooklyn, NY	82,375.11	
Cape May Co., NJ	44,919.99	
Toms River, NJ	200,637.84	
Thompson, CN	<u>84,251.96</u>	
Total Funds Held in Trust		412,184.90
Net Worth		<u>833,967.85</u>
Total Liabilities, Net Worth & Trust Funds		1,521,050.54

### Real Estate Fund Income Statement

December 31, 2007

Income		
Interest Received	<u>12,806.79</u>	
Total Income		12,806.79
Expenses		
Property Investigations	<u>1,852.50</u>	
Total Expenses		<u>1,852.50</u>
Gain or (Loss)		10,954.29

## 2007 Church Giving

Church	Budget <u>Pledge</u>	Given for <u>Budget</u>
Adams County, PA	100	100
Allentown, PA, CC	7,900	7,900
Allentown, PA, Lighthouse	0	0
Bethlehem, PA	2,500	2,500
Blandon, PA	2,160	2,160
Brooklyn, NY	0	0
Camden, DE	500	500
Clinton Corners, NY	200	150
Coopersburg, PA	6,500	6,500
Denville, NJ	0	0
Emmaus, PA	10,097	10,097
Ephrata, PA	6,400	6,500
Fellowship Community Ch	1,000	1,000
Finesville, NJ	1,100	1,100
Fleetwood, PA	500	500
Graterford, PA	0	1,200
Harleysville, PA	4,300	4,300
Harrisburg, PA	4,300	4,300
Hatfield, PA	4,750	4,740
Holmes, NY	600	600
Howell, NJ	400	400
Kutztown, PA	1,428	1,428
Langrangeville, NY	1,800	1,800
Lancaster, PA	6,000	6,000
Lebanon, PA	0	2,250
Lehighton, PA	750	750
Long Neck, DE	300	250
Maple Glen, PA	600	600
Mt. Carmel, PA	1,440	1,320
Mt. Pocono, PA	2,300	2,300
Nazareth, PA	2,500	2,500
Newark, DE	1,500	1,500
Newark, NJ	1,000	1,000
Old Bridge, NJ	0	0
Oley, PA	5,100	5,100
Paradise, PA	800	794
Phila. Wissinoming, PA	675	600
Piscataway, NJ	1,200	2,200
Quakertown, PA	6,300	6,300
Reading, PA	3,500	3,400
Red Hill, PA	500	475
Royersford, PA	2,100	2,100

Church	<u>Budget Pledge</u>	<u>Given for Budget</u>
Shamokin, PA	0	125
Sinking Spring, PA	5,000	5,000
Spring City, PA	100	100
Stroudsburg, PA	2,000	2,000
Sunbury, PA	3,931	3,931
Terre Hill, PA	650	0
Thompson, CT	350	300
Toms River, NJ	500	250
Wallingford, PA	5,700	5,700
Walnutport, PA	230	230
Whitehall, PA	0	225
York, PA	2,000	1,667
Zionsville, PA	540	540
Bd. of Church Extension	300	250
BFC Homes, Inc.	1,375	1,375
Bd. Missions	2,350	2,350
Pinebrook Bible Conference	1,200	0
Brotherhood Mutual	<u>11,095</u>	<u>11,700</u>
Totals	130,421	132,957

#### **Pledges to the Administrative Budget**

Church	<u>2007 Pledge</u>	<u>2008 Pledge</u>
Adams County	100	100
Allentown, PA, CC	7,900	8,100
Allentown, PA, Lighthouse	0	0
Bethlehem	2,500	2,600
Blandon, PA	2,160	2,214
Brooklyn, NY	0	0
Camden, DE	500	500
Clinton Corners, NY	200	150
Coopersburg, PA	6,500	6,656
Denville, NJ	0	0
Emmaus, PA	10,097	8,000
Ephrata, PA	6,400	6,500
Fellowship Community	1,000	1,025
Finesville, NJ	1,100	1,200
Fleetwood, PA	500	500
Graterford, PA	1,200	0
Harleysville, PA	4,300	4,400
Harrisburg, PA	4,300	4,408
Hatfield, PA	4,750	4,900
Holmes, NY	600	250

Church	2007 <u>Pledge</u>	2008 <u>Pledge</u>
Howell, NJ	400	400
Kutztown, PA	1,428	1,464
Langrangeville, NY	1,800	1,850
Lancaster, PA	6,000	6,200
Lebanon, PA	1,500	3,000
Lehighon, PA	750	750
Long Neck, DE	300	0
Maple Glen, PA	600	500
Mt. Carmel, PA	1,400	1,500
Mt. Pocono, PA	2,300	2,400
Nazareth, PA	2,500	2,565
Newark, DE	1,500	1,500
Newark, NJ	1,000	1,000
Old Bridge, NJ	0	
Oley, PA	5,100	5,200
Paradise	800	800
Phila. Wissinoming, PA	675	660
Piscataway, NJ	1,200	2,100
Quakertown, PA	6,300	6,500
Reading, PA	3,500	3,600
Red Hill, PA	500	490
Royersford, PA	2,100	2,200
Shamokin, PA		500
Sinking Spring, PA	5,000	5,130
Spring City, PA	100	100
Stroudsburg, PA	2,000	2,000
Sunbury, PA	3,931	4,030
Terre Hill, PA	650	650
Thompson, CT	350	350
Toms River, NJ	500	275
Wallingford, PA	5,700	5,700
Walnutport, PA	230	236
Whitehall, PA		0
York, PA	2,000	2,000
Zionsville, PA	540	540
BFC Homes, Inc.	1,375	1,500
Bd. Church Extension	300	250
Bd. of Missions	2,300	2,400
Pinebrook Bible Conference	1,200	0
Brotherhood Mutual	<u>11,095</u>	<u>11,000</u>
Totals	133,121	132,843
Proposed Budget		142,550
% of Budget Pledged		93.2

### Administrative Budgets

	Proposed 2008 Budget	Revised 2008 Budget	Proposed 2009 Budget
1. Beneficiary Fund	500	500	500
2. Ministers' Assistance Fund	100	100	100
3. Ministerial Convention	1,000	1,000	1,000
4. Ministers' Retirement Fund	66,000	66,000	69,000
5. Annual Conference			
a. Conference Entertainment	7,500	7,500	7,500
b. Conference Expense	4,100	4,150	5,350
6. Fund to Assist Churches	100	100	100
7. Board of Communications	5,000	5,000	5,000
8. Expenses of Committees			
a. Chaplaincy Expenses	700	700	700
b. All other Expenses	8,000	8,000	8,000
9. Expenses, Board of Directors	3,000	3,000	3,000
10. M.C.C. Internship Fund	250	250	250
11. Historical Committee	1,000	1,000	1,000
12. Conference Pastor	41,500	42,500	42,500
13. ONE Voice	2,750	2,750	0
Total Budget	141,500	142,550	144,000
% of previous budget	102.4	103.1	101.0



*Upper Susquehanna Region (L to R)*

*Row 1: Charles Cole, Hugh Coulbourn, Bert Brosius*

*Row 2: Kurt Francis, Robert Cox, Bryan Snyder*

*Row 3: Rich Nye, Philip Norris*

## ***Report of the Ministerial Relations Committee***

The Lord continues to graciously provide for and oversee His flocks in the BFC. We are grateful for the privilege to have a part in overseeing the pulpit supply procedures during the year. The committee appreciates the manner in which pastors, elders, and congregations conduct their business in conjunction with the Ministerial Relations Committee. The full committee met four times in 2007. In addition to these meetings, other meetings took place with pastors, congregations and committee members to provide information, guidance and support. We pray regularly for congregations seeking a pastor, for the men eligible to receive a call and for particular issues that they are facing. We also send out general emails to Annual Conference keeping them informed of current Ministerial Relations Committee information.

The following resignations were received according to the Rules of our *Faith & Order* this year:

<b><u>Church</u></b>	<b><u>Pastor</u></b>	<b><u>Effective Date</u></b>
Blandon, PA	Carl J. Fischer	April 30 2007
Reading, PA	Steven J. DelDuco	July 31, 2007
Harleysville, PA	Alan G. Miller	September 8, 2007
Graterford, PA	Philip E. Yerrington	March 16, 2008

The following pastorates were established according to the Rules of our *F&O* this year:

<b><u>Church</u></b>	<b><u>Pastor</u></b>	<b><u>Effective Date</u></b>
Nazareth, PA	Carl J. Fischer, Jr.	May 1, 2007
Holmes, NY	Steven J. DelDuco	August, 1, 2007
Blandon, PA	Alan G. Miller	September 9, 2007
Quakertown, PA	Joshua Miller (Pastor of Youth and Family)	December 9, 2007
Coopersburg, PA	Mark R. Evans (Pastor of Youth and Young Adults)	January 27, 2008
Sunbury, PA	Kurt P. Francis (Associate Pastor)	January 27, 2008
Old Bridge, N.J.	David Peters	March 31, 2008

Church Extension	Daniel C. Willaims	April 2, 2008
Church Extension	Marcos G. Ramirez	April 6, 2008
Church Extension	Carlos G. Rodriguez	April 6, 2008
Royersford, PA	Aaron J. Susek (Assistant Pastor)	April 27, 2008

The following churches are presently in the process of seeking a pastor, either a senior pastor or an addition to the pastoral staff: Coopersburg, PA, Whitehall, PA.

The ministry of our Conference Pastor, Ronald C. Mahurin, continues to be a great asset to the ministering brethren. The committee is grateful for his availability to meet with men to share insights from God's Word and from his own rich experience. His counsel, prayer, guidance, and exhortations have been a source of encouragement to many pastors during this year.

The committee makes the following recommendations to the 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference:

1. **Resolved**, that the recommended minimum salary for a pastor serving in the BFC be \$32,000.00. In addition to his salary, the church must provide half of the pastor's Social Security Tax, parsonage and/or housing allowance (which would include utilities, repair costs, etc.), health insurance, and provision should be made for reimbursement for allowable car and professional expenses. The church must also contribute a minimum of 3% of the pastor's salary for retirement to the Ministers' Annuity Fund, plus an additional 1% match if the pastor is voluntarily contributing 1%.

Note:

The above recommendation is considered the minimum. In establishing a fair and equitable salary and benefits package for the minister, consideration should be given to experience, education and the cost of living as per one's location. In some areas, a higher figure would be more equitable.

Additional information for the Pastoral Relations Committee can be found in the *Yearbook*. You can also contact the Reading BFC for added information.

2. **Resolved**, that the salary for the Conference Pastor be \$26,000.00, and in addition we provide \$7,200.00 for health insurance and \$9,300.00 for car and professional expenses.
3. The committee will also present material for Second Reading.

**Ministerial Relations Committee:** Randall A. Grossman, Chairman; Jacob J. Susek, Jr., Secretary; Steven Kauffman, Ronald W. Reed, L. James Roberts, William G. Schlonecker, Byron Widger.

### ***Report of the Conference Pastor***

*Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine  
yourselves!*

*Or do you not recognize this about yourselves,  
that Jesus Christ is in you – unless indeed you fail the test?  
(2 Corinthians 13:5)*

When people ask me, “How are you?” my pat answer has always been, “Fine.” Recently, however, I have been adding, “Fine, so far as I know.” I have known so many people who thought they were “fine” only to suddenly discover they were quite ill. Some, in fact, died soon after becoming aware of their illness. At such a time, the grieving family is faced with many questions: Why didn’t we see this coming? Could we not have done something to prevent it? Was all that could be done for our loved one done?

In my position as Conference Pastor, I am often asked, “How are our Churches doing?” and I’m tempted to answer, “Fine, as far as I know.” But then, what do I know? Who am I to judge the health of our conference or any particular church or mission? For have we not read, *...do not go on passing judgment before the time, but wait until the Lord comes who will both bring to light the things hidden in the darkness and disclose the motives of men’s*



*hearts; and then each man's promise will come to him from God.  
(1 Cor. 4:5)*

I am convinced Mark Dever offers some helpful insights in his book entitled, *What Is A Healthy Church?* “A healthy church is a congregation that increasingly displays the character of God as His character has been revealed in His world...” and then he lists 9 marks of a healthy church:

- (1) Expository Preaching
- (2) Biblical Theology
- (3) A Biblical Understanding of the Good News
- (4) A Biblical Understanding of Conversion
- (5) A Biblical Understanding of Evangelism
- (6) A Biblical Understanding of Membership
- (7) Biblical Church Discipline
- (8) Biblical Discipleship and Growth
- (9) Biblical Church Leadership.

When I return to my doctor each year for my annual physical, he examines me and asks a lot of questions designed to assist him in passing judgment on my present state of physical health. May I suggest we perform a self-examination on the spiritual health of our church by answering questions designed to help us make the most objective judgment as to the health of each particular church and mission. Questions like: Is our preaching Biblical and Expository? Are we faithfully proclaiming the Good News of Salvation? Do we have a strong emphasis on evangelism? Are we seeing conversions to Christ, new converts being baptized and joining the Church? Are we exercising our God-given responsibility of disciplining and discipling our members and are we producing Godly leaders? This list of questions is not exhaustive, but I trust it may serve as a stimulus in assisting each church in answering the question, “Is our church a healthy church?” For, unlike physical illness, where there are times God chooses to glorify Himself through such illness, I find no evidence God is glorified through a spiritually unhealthy church. I am grateful to God for raising up an extremely qualified group of men to serve on the Board of Church Health and I strongly recommend their services to all who are concerned for your church health and growth.

Throughout this conference year I have been encouraged by the number of churches who show evidence of giving attention to

strengthening their congregation through evangelism, children and youth ministries, young adult ministries, discipleship and small groups.

I continually praise and thank the Lord for our faithful pastors, elders and deacons who provide leadership to our local congregations. Each of our conference agencies are blessed with very capable and Godly leadership for which we praise the Lord. Each of these agencies deserve our confidence, support, prayer, and thanks. Once again, by His sovereign will, God called some of His faithful ones to Himself. Pastor Robert N. Gordon, Pastor Jansen E. Hartman, Pastor Donald T. Kirkwood, Pastor James G. Koch, John and Judy Pello, Church Extension workers, and Nina (Wells) Johnson, daughter of Pastor Howard and Meta Wells, are sorely missed by us all. The memory of their exemplary lives and faithful service is a comfort, blessing, and challenge to us who remain.

The need for men to serve as pastors in our conference is ever before us. Two of our churches remain without a pastor and our Church Extension Department waits for three of our missions to be supplied, along with the hope to establish three new church plants in 2008. Please join me in asking the Lord of the harvest to send out workers in His harvest (*Matt. 9:38*). I call upon all our pastors and elders to carefully look out among you for potential men to serve in the ministry and to encourage them to pursue this high calling.

Through the love gifts to the Darlene J. Mahurin Memorial Fund of \$1,000 from the members of Annual Conference and a very special gift of \$5,000.00 from an estate, we were able to give financial assistance to 17 pastors and families in the amount of \$1,615. These expressions of love were gratefully received and a real encouragement to these choice servants of the Lord.

I want to sincerely express my gratitude and thanks to God for the encouragement I receive from the Ministerial Relations Committee, Annual Conference, and for the gracious way I am received by our pastors and local congregations. Your prayers and financial support of this ministry are greatly appreciated as I continue by His grace and strength to, *exhort and encourage and implore each one of you as a father would his own children, so that you would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory. (1 Thess. 2:11-12)*

Your Co-laborer in Christ  
Ronald C. Mahurin, Conference Pastor

**Financial Report**  
**January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007**

Balance, December 31, 2006		\$ (1,286.87)
Receipts		9,802.97
Expenditures:		
Travel	4,507.59	
Meals	1,764.29	
Lodging	408.12	
Phone	1,164.36	
Office Supplies	<u>569.75</u>	
Total Expenditures		<u>8,414.11</u>
Balance, December 31, 2007		<u><u>\$ 101.99</u></u>

**Darlene J. Mahurin Memorial Fund**

Opening Balance	\$ 300.00
Deposits	6,000.00
Withdrawn	<u>1,615.00</u>
Balance, December 31, 2007	\$ 4,685.00

17 Families Assisted

***Report of the  
Board of Church Health***

The Board of Church Health met three times during the year to consider the state of health of the local congregations of the



*In Session!*

BFC. We considered several churches that met the criteria listed in 504-1.2 of the *F&O* (First Reading). We assisted several churches in determining their church health with a Natural Church Development (NCD) self-assessment survey. Personal visits and extensive contact were made with several pastors to assist them in analyzing their needs and encouraging them in their work. We were glad to assist Wissinoming BFC in its Wissinoming Day event in September.

Church health consultant, Carl Shank, met with the Board to give a NCD presentation on the Biotic Principles, a next step of “how-to’s” for a church after a health assessment survey. Carl Shank can now be reached at Crossroads Brethren Church, 800 Donegal Springs Road, Mount Joy, PA 17252 / Office 717-653-1616 / Home 717-426-2283 / [crossroads-carl@earthlink.net](mailto:crossroads-carl@earthlink.net).

In 2007, four churches underwent NCD surveys to evaluate their church health. Since the Adjourned Session of Annual Conference in October 2005 at least 16 churches from the breadth of the BFC have taken the survey. We encourage congregations to use this tool as a foundational piece of self-examination to help stay attentive in serving Jesus Christ. Funding help is available if an interested church finds the \$300 expense to be prohibitive.

**Resolved**, that the following be adopted at Second Reading for inclusion into the *F&O*:

504-1.1 All new Particular Churches will be on a two-year probation with open accountability to the Board of Church Health.

504-1.2 Any congregation that reports any one of the following criteria will allow the Board of Church Health to initiate discussion with that Particular Church.

1. Three consecutive years where attendance declined more than 5% per year.
2. Three consecutive years of declining offerings.
3. An Elder Board that has declined to fewer than two lay elders.

**Board of Church Health:** Carl K. Spackman, Chairman; Robert

A. Sloan, Vice Chairman; Byron Widger, Secretary; Robert C. Kaatz, Richard T. Paashaus, Ronald W. Reed, Clyde W. Snyder, Robert H. Zentz.

## ***Report of the Board of Church Extension***

The Board of Church Extension Ministries is the church planting arm of the BFC, seeking to “build the Body of Christ



*Retired Pastors (L to R)*

*Row 1: Bert Brosius, John Riggall, David E. Thomann  
Row 2: Thomas Phillips, Harvey Fritz  
Row 3: Carl Cassel, Terry Byrd, Robert Draper  
Row 4: Roy Hertzog, R.C. Reichenback  
Row 5: David Watkins, James Batchler, Robert Smock  
Row 6: Keith Plows, Daniel Zeigler, Paul Zimmerman  
Row 7: Ray Dotts, Bruce Ellingson, James Beil*

through extending the Bible Fellowship Church in the world by means of evangelistic church planting.” The Vision Statement of

Church Extension Ministries states that we will “efficiently and effectively plant new Bible Fellowship churches, promote and facilitate daughter and regional church planting, and connect with groups seeking affiliation with the Bible Fellowship Church.” The Board met four times since last Annual Conference and various committees of the Board met additional times to accomplish its necessary work.

The Board recognizes the immense value of each member of the team. David Gundrum, Executive Director, has provided faithful and diligent leadership for another year. Mark Morrison, Assistant Director, works closely with several church planting pastors in providing oversight, accountability, direction, and encouragement. He devoted significant time to Cape May, NJ, Adams County, PA, Hellertown, PA, and South Allentown, PA, during the past year. Though Mark has served full-time for this year, he remains in need of additional support from churches and individuals. Lisa Christensen, Administrative Assistant, continues to serve with excellence in this area of ministry. William Singletary, long-time Board member and treasurer of Church Extension Ministries for many years, continues to devote many hours in his retirement to keeping the financial records of the Department with excellence. Carol Snyder continues to assist in special assignments, publications, and communication. Raymond and Louise Bertolet have completed their ministry at Long Neck, DE. Ray has also completed several demographic surveys of potential church plant areas in the Delmarva region. This year the Lord called home John and Judy Pello, long-time servants in the BFC church planting ministry. Their devotion to the Lord, heart for church planting, and servant hearts will be sorely missed.

The Personnel Committee is very active in meeting with and providing direction for each church planter. David Way and Frank Lenahan resigned from Adams County, PA, and Cape May, NJ, respectively, both seeking the Lord’s will regarding future ministry opportunities. The Chesapeake, VA, Mission, where Willis Dowling has served as church planter, will be closed this year. Though a church was not planted, lives were impacted for Christ through the Dowling’s ministry. The Board is grateful for the faithful service of these men and their wives / families. The Board was also pleased to issue a call to Marcos Ramirez to serve as Church Planter at Iglesia Biblica La Roca, Merida, Mexico, and to

Carlos Rodriguez to serve as Church Planter of La Roca Mission Church in Reading, PA. We give thanks to God for these growing Hispanic Mission Churches and the men being called to serve in the BFC. Two Training Days were held for church planters and Tim Zuck and Al Dommel attended the CMTC's Church Planter's Boot Camp in Lancaster, PA. Church planting intern, Tim Zuck, is presently serving at the Hellertown, PA, Mission Church.

Several Aquila and Priscilla teams continue to provide encouragement and support. Harry and Sandra Workman are assisting in Long Neck, DE, and are eager to see how God will grow His church in the Delmarva region. Jason and Joanne Englehart are serving in the La Roca Mission Church in Reading, PA, and this year Russell and Eleanor Ruch began serving at the Hellertown, PA, Mission Church. Pray for these auxiliary team members who are so vital to the development of church plants. Visits to mission churches for worship services can go a long way in encouraging church planters and their congregations and reminding them that they are not alone. Also, numerous church plants would welcome assistance in the areas of music and youth ministry. Why not consider how you or a group from your church can personally be of assistance and encouragement to a particular mission church?

We rejoice that two mission churches will be presented to the 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference to be recognized as Particular Churches – Las Cruces, NM, and Iglesia Biblica La Roca, Merida, Mexico. These two new Bible Fellowship Churches expand our denomination to new horizons. We pray that these are the first fruits of many more to come, by God's grace and for His glory. Dennis Spinney and the Thompson, CT, church are diligently seeking to plant a daughter church in the nearby Danielson / Killingly area. There are presently several churches in various stages of discussion and exploration of connecting with the BFC.

This year the Board formed an Endowment Development Committee in order to formulate a strategic financial plan to supplement the Church Extension Ministries' strategic plan of planting churches for years to come. Board member, Robert Davies, attended the "Professional Development Training Program" in Indianapolis. As costs to plant a church increase, we must be purposeful in stewardship, establishing financial stability and the resources necessary to continue to move forward

appropriately.

The Board continues to evaluate and make adjustments to the “Forward Plan for Planting New Bible Fellowship Churches in 2006-2011 – Missions Here and Now.” This strategic plan continues to provide a focus and direction for the great task before us. The Board encourages each local church to review this plan and to consider ways to be increasingly involved in reaching these goals for God’s glory and the strengthening of the BFC for the future. Prayer and financial support from churches and individuals are the backbone of this ministry. As faithful stewards, this ministry seeks to maximize every gift given and is grateful for the heart of each giver. Hundreds of individuals pray regularly for Church Extension Ministries, many using the monthly prayer guide supplied. Please help the Board by making these available and accessible to as many in your congregation as possible. Continue to pray for the Lord of the harvest to raise up church planters from among our churches and to lead others to partner with us in this endeavor. Pray for the church planters. These men and their families faithfully and sacrificially serve – some bi-vocationally – and often without the things that pastors of established churches take for granted. A note of encouragement or a personal visit at the right time can make all the difference for a discouraged church planter. The Board covets the continued prayer and support of so many churches and individuals.

The following is a list of men who are presently serving in the Department of Church Extension Ministries:

Adams County, Pennsylvania. . . . . To be called  
 Brooklyn, New York. . . . . Ralph E. Ritter



Cape May, New Jersey. . . . . To be called  
 Mark L. Morrison, Interim Church Planter  
 Chesapeake, Virginia. . . . . Willis I. Dowling  
 (to be closed this year)  
 Hellertown, Pennsylvania. . . . . Albert J. Dommel  
 Las Cruces, New Mexico. . . . . Thomas H. Morrison  
 Long Neck, Delaware. . . . . Jonathon W. Arnold  
 Woodbury Heights, New Jersey. . . . . Daniel L. Williams  
 Merida, Mexico (Iglesia Biblica La Roca). . Marcos G. Ramirez  
 Reading, Pennsylvania (La Roca). . . . . Carlos Rodriguez  
 South Allentown, Pennsylvania (El Faro). . . . . Elliot H. Ramos  
 Worcester County, Maryland. . . . . To be called

The Board of Church Extension recommends the following resolutions be adopted by the 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the BFC:

1. **Whereas**, the Board of Church Extension is of the opinion that the Las Cruces, New Mexico, Mission Church meets the qualifications of a Particular Church as specified in Article 18 of the Articles of Faith of the Bible Fellowship Church, therefore, be it  
**Resolved**, that the Las Cruces, New Mexico, Mission Church be recognized as a Particular Church, and that its delegate be received into membership of the 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Bible Fellowship Church.
  
2. **Whereas**, the elders currently serving at Iglesia Biblica La Roca Mission Church in Merida, Mexico, meet the qualifications for an elder in the Bible Fellowship Church, and  
**Whereas**, more than twenty persons are committed participants in the La Roca Mission Church, and  
**Whereas**, La Roca Mission Church has demonstrated that it can offer an adequate salary package for a pastor and is able to financially maintain its ministry outreach and facility costs, and  
**Whereas**, the Board of Church Extension is of the opinion that the Iglesia Biblica La Roca Mission Church of Merida, Mexico, meets the qualifications of a Particular Church as

specified in Article 18 of the Articles of Faith of the Bible Fellowship Church, therefore, be it

**Resolved**, that the Iglesia Biblica La Roca Mission Church of Merida, Mexico, be recognized as a Particular Church, and that its delegate be received into membership of the 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Bible Fellowship Church.

3. **Resolved**, that the material pertaining to Church Extension Ministries on pages 58-63 of the 2007 *Yearbook* be adopted at Second Reading.

**Board of Church Extension Ministries:** Richard E. Taylor, Chairman; Byron Widger, Vice Chairman; William R. Singletary, Treasurer; William G. Schlonecker, Secretary; Robert W. Davies, Kenneth D. Keeler, Alfred G. Roberts, Clyde W. Snyder, Carl K. Spackman, Robert H. Zentz, David E. Gundrum, Executive Director; Mark L. Morrison, Assistant Director.

### Financial Report

January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007

Balance, December 31, 2006		\$ 57,717.72
<b>Income</b>		
Undesignated		
From BFC Churches	140,256.08	
From Other Sources	36,847.29	
Designated		
From BFC Churches	307,441.79	
From Other Sources	140,617.89	
Other		
Reimbursements	1,214.40	
Designated In/Out	16,760.22	
Interest	224.68	
Fund Interest Income	<u>1,500.00</u>	
Total Income		644,862.35
<b>Expenses</b>		
Appropriations	450,311.67	
Executive Director		
Salary/Retirement	52,801.00	
Medical Insurance	17,758.21	
Related Expenses		
Housing & Travel	34,537.76	

Education/Conferences	1,951.17	
Administrative Contingency	300.00	
Support Staff/Office Operation		
Salary/Benefits	16,053.01	
Office Expenses	21,949.75	
Rent	1,200.00	
Other		
Internship	1,513.00	
Board Expenses	3,993.48	
Conference Expenses	575.00	
Insurance, Taxes, Pensions	6,697.89	
Designated In/Out	<u>19,019.59</u>	
Total Expenses		<u>\$ 628,661.53</u>
Total, Balance, December 31, 2007		<u>\$ 73,918.54</u>
Depository		
Savings Account	62,367.36	
Department Checking Acct.	11,551.18	

Accounts and report have been reviewed and approved by Torry R. Hinkle, EA  
All monies deposited in Sovereign Bank



*Church Extension Administrative Assistant  
Lisa Christensen*

Board of Church Extension Funds Deposited in the Mennonite Foundation					
MRF					
Date	Beginning Bal.	Year to Date		Ending Bal. for Year	
01/01/07	\$136,494.12				
		Int. & Div. Income =		\$	1,200.00
		Cash Added =			6,094.22
		Expenses =			(1,998.39)
		Chg. in Mkt. Val =			(1,409.23)
12/31/07					\$140,380.72
ERMDZ					
Date	Beginning Bal.	Year to Date		Ending Bal. for Year	
01/01/07	\$166,321.77				
		Int. & Div. Income =		\$	2,663.78
		Cash Added =			75.00
		Expenses =			(440.69)
		Chg. in Mkt. Val =			2,565.84
12/31/07					\$171,185.70
DISTRIBUTION OF ERMDZ FUNDS (1/1/07-12/31/07)					
FUND	Starting Ratios	Ending Ratios	Start of Period Value	End of Period Value	Year to Date Gain in Mkt Value
			\$	\$	\$
			70,861.98	171,185.70	100,323.72
ERF	2.00%	45.10%	\$ 1,417.24	\$ 77,204.75	\$ 75,787.51
CRF	64.80%	37.40%	\$ 45,918.56	\$ 64,023.45	\$ 18,104.89
ZLF	33.20%	17.50%	\$ 23,526.18	\$ 29,957.50	\$ 6,431.32
<b>NOTES</b>					
The expenses include fees, withdrawals and change in market values from 1/1/07 to 12/31/07.					
The Balance 1/1/05 for the MRF fund includes \$5,000 loaned to New Life BFC (Ken Barber), at 3% APR over a 2 year period.					
Every year, we withdraw \$1,500 from the MRF fund for our annual budget income.					
<b>Definitions of Funds</b>					
ERF – Emergency Reserve Fund holds monies available to meet the operating expenses of the Ministry					
CRF – Capital Resource Fund holds monies available to be loaned to Ministries of the Church Extension Ministry for improving and replacing equipment and facilities.					
ZLF – The Daniel G. Ziegler Fund holds moneys in honor of Daniel G. Ziegler, past Executive Director of Church Extension. The income from the ZLF may be distributed as awards, grants and scholarships to encourage church planters and planting of churches in the BFC.					
MRF – Mission Resource Fund holds monies available for loans or grants to ministries of the Church Extension ministry. Use of the monies will focus on the start of new church planting and projects aimed to further develop ongoing Church Extension work.					

## 2008 Proposed Budget

### Income

Undesignated			
From BFC Churches	\$	147,000	
From Others Sources		32,542	
Designated			
From BFC Churches		294,700	
From Other Sources		135,000	
Other			
Interest		225	
Fund Interest Income		<u>1,500</u>	
Total Income			\$ 610,967

### Expenses

Appropriations	444,292		
Executive Director			
Salary/Retirement	53,800		
Medical Insurance	17,000		
Related Expenses			
Housing & Travel	33,500		
Education/Conferences	1,500		
Support Staff/Office Operation			
Salary/Benefits	17,500		
Office Expenses	22,200		
Rent	1,200		
Other			
Internship	1,000		
Board Expenses	2,500		
Conference Expenses	575		
Insurance, Taxes, Pensions	5,400		
Miscellaneous Contingency	500		
Emergency Reserve Fund	<u>10,000</u>		
Total Expenses			\$ 610,967

## ***Report of the Executive Director of Church Extension***

“...he began to relate one by one the things  
which God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry.”  
*Acts 21:19*

### ***“It’s a Wonderful Mission”***

What would the Church be like were it not for the Apostle Paul’s church planting ministry? Many of us are familiar with the classic Christmas movie, *It’s a Wonderful Life*. The story line of the movie is about what life would be like in Bedford Falls without the positive influence of one man named Harry Bailey. In my report to Annual Conference, I would like to consider this thought of how the absence of one entity can greatly influence the results of a larger setting. How has Church Extension impacted the BFC and what would be missing in the BFC were it not for the vital church planting ministry of Church Extension?

***Denominational Church Growth*** – In the last twenty-five years, Church Extension presented eighteen churches for reception into Annual Conference. This year, two more churches will be presented, totaling twenty churches: Kutztown, PA - Red Hill, PA - Mt. Pocono, PA - Walnutport, PA - Fellowship Community, Whitehall, PA - Newark, DE - Camden, DE - Long Neck, DE - Piscataway, NJ - Howell, NJ - Newark, NJ - Toms River, NJ - Old Bridge, NJ - Clinton Corners, NY - Brooklyn, NY - Lagrangeville, NY - Holmes, NY - Merida, Mexico - Las Cruces, NM - Thompson, CT.

These former church plants, connections and re-starts make up thirty-seven percent of today’s roster of churches that comprise the BFC (excluding Mission Churches). If Church Extension had not been on the scene, the BFC would be a fellowship of thirty-three churches rather than fifty-three.

***Conversion and Baptismal Growth*** – It is impossible to go back twenty-five years and measure how many people were saved through the ministries of the twenty churches who came out of Church Extension. Because Church Extension kept records of conversions for the past seven years among its Mission Churches,

we can give some objective report of conversions. Over the past seven years, the Mission Churches of the Church Extension, as a group, averaged thirty-one recorded conversions per year, totaling two hundred-seventeen conversions. If Church Extension had not been on the scene, the BFC would have missed the joy of all those born-again through the ministries of this Mission.

Baptisms are a little easier to look at. We could go back twenty-five years but let's merely look at the 2007 *Yearbook* and see how many were baptized by the churches who came from Church Extension. A total of eighty-nine people were baptized in 2007. This represents twenty-five percent of the total baptisms in the BFC in 2007. If Church Extension had not been on the scene, the BFC would have a significantly lower amount of baptisms and, as follows, a reduction of church membership.

***Mission Support*** – Do you realize that when a church or individual stops or reduces their support of Church Extension they are taking valuable finances away from the BFC's mission to reach the world with the Gospel? Not only is church planting here in America harmed, but with reduced funds to start new churches, the funding base for foreign missions is also eroded. In 2007, the twenty churches brought into the BFC by Church Extension gave \$180,210.00 to Missions in the BFC. In the past twenty-five years the churches that came into the BFC through Church Extension have been a valuable part of our Missions outreach and have sent several missionaries out from their churches to serve the Kingdom. If Church Extension had not been on the scene, the BFC would have been hindered in its ability to send out missionaries and church planters.

***The Joy of Sacrificing and Serving*** – The Christian faith is grounded in sacrifice and service. Our Lord's two main areas of focus were His determination to sacrifice Himself on the cross in order to be the sinner's perfect substitutionary atonement and second, to come to serve and not be served. In a wonderful way, Church Extension has given the BFC opportunities to exercise the joy of sacrificing and serving. Church Extension allows for the churches of the BFC to assist and participate in the birthing of a church and being part of that growing process with the baby church until it reaches maturity and graduation. Think for a moment of all the work teams, ministry teams, Surrogate and Organizing Elders, Aquila & Priscilla teams, coaches and people who have left the

comfort of their church to be a part of a baby church. With sacrifice and service there comes hard work and struggles, yet there remains few richer blessings from the Lord than to be a part of the birth of a church and see it through to graduation. Church Extension and its Church Planters have been blessed with support and involvement from the BFC churches over the years. If Church Extension had not been on the scene, the BFC would not have experienced the joy and wonder of being involved with the excitement of planting baby churches and watching them develop, not to mention the joy experienced by those who plant churches along with their teams.

*It truly is a wonderful Mission – Church Extension Ministries.* As pointed out in this introduction, Church Extension Ministries is the lone BFC Mission charged with extending and growing the BFC. There are valuable ministries in the BFC. We rejoice in the camping outreaches of Pinebrook and Victory Valley, however they are not charged with extending the BFC. Our Board of Foreign Missions has an important facilitating role with those who are sent out to missions here in home offices and settings, along with those going to foreign fields, yet our Foreign Missions Board has not been given the task of extending the BFC. Only Church Extension has the responsibility of reaching people with the Gospel in new ministry target sites and gathering people to birth and develop new BFC churches.

With this strategic and critical role given to Church Extension, one would hope that the denomination would do all it is capable of doing to adequately support the mission of Church Extension. Our future growth as a fellowship of churches is dependent on the success of Church Extension. When Church Extension seeks to begin a new Bible Fellowship Church, it faces formidable challenges. Last year, I stated, “...*Our Five-Year Plan, for planting a church estimates a cost of \$280,000.00 to plant a church in five years...The BFC now gives an average of \$360,000.00 a year to Church Extension...Most of this giving is designated for church planters, while other portions are needed for administrative costs, staff salaries, equipment and special projects.*” One can see that after you take out designated giving and other costs, there is little left for ministry and outreach needs.

Successful church planting is not solely dependent on adequate finances. Finances are necessary but there are other necessary



elements. Successful church planting is best accomplished with a committed core group of twenty people or more who will remain at the plant for at least five years, along with a Spirit-filled and gifted church planter, as well as denominational interest and support.

Not all church plants are going to be successful. The Southern Baptist Association estimates a 30% success rate in its church planting efforts. Church Extension has close to a 70% rate of bringing church plants into the BFC as Particular Churches.

We must also be careful how we define success and attach it to our support for church planting. Do we use the same measure of our money and time when considering overseas missions? Churches will support overseas missionaries for many years without questioning their effectiveness and whether or not they planted a church, or even a BFC church. Being a small connectional denomination, the BFC churches must consider the fact that very little of our support for foreign missions has a direct impact on extending the BFC. Our foreign missions endeavors do not plant BFC churches nor do they make disciples who will be BFC members and support our mission to the world. We must be supportive of a global mission plan that includes adequate attention and support for missions to our Jerusalems, Judeas and Samarias, as well as the uttermost parts of the world.

All this to say that if Church Extension is going to carry out its vision and charge to plant new Bible Fellowship Churches and extend the BFC, it must have the financial and human resources to do so. It is very discouraging to have Bible Fellowship Churches reduce their financial support for this vital Mission, not have churches desiring to send out their people to plant new churches, and possess such a small church planter pool of men willing to go and plant churches. It seems to me that every Bible Fellowship Church will need to decide if it truly wants to be an integral committed part of a fellowship of churches and be committed to this body we call the Bible Fellowship Church. I am praying I will be able to count on the churches of our denomination to support this vital Mission called Church Extension.

*“To be an **expanding** fellowship of churches united to make disciples of Jesus Christ.”*

**REVIEW OF 2007 IN CHURCH EXTENSION**

- We recorded *twenty-nine* people making professions of faith.
- **Financial Giving** from churches increased in 2007 by approximately seven percent, along with an increase in our donor list and donor giving.
- Two **Training Days** were held for our men including guest presenters and case studies from former BFC church planters.
- Tim Zuck and Al Dommel attended **CMTC Church Planter's Boot Camp Training** in Lancaster and were sponsored by Church Extension.
- I met with four churches seeking **connection with the BFC**.
- Numerous **new contacts were made**, door-to-door surveys took place in new target sites, networking in community events, eight VBS programs were organized along with other community outreaches, and several thousand Gospel tracts were distributed.
- Church Extension, with the assistance of several churches, made needed renovations and maintenance repairs on the BFC properties we occupy at Brooklyn, NY, South Allentown, PA and Cape May, NJ. The costs for these jobs were paid for by the Mission Churches, some BFC churches and Church Extension.
- **Las Cruces, NM and Merida, Mexico** churches will be presented for reception into Annual Conference.
- The **DELMARVA Team** was active in Millsboro, Georgetown and completing demographic studies in the Middletown, Smyrna, Milford and Selbyville, DE sites. Our Aquila & Priscilla Team in DELMARVA - Harry & Sandra Workman - continued their Bible study at their home and assisted at New Life BFC, Long Neck, DE.
- **Jason and Joanne Englehart**, our Aquila & Priscilla team from Blandon BFC, continued serving alongside Carlos Rodriguez at La Roca Mission Church in Reading.

- **Ray Bertolet** completed his duties at the Long Neck, DE BFC and we decided to suspend the attempt to plant a church in Millsboro, DE. Ray has been actively targeting a new church planting site by completing detailed demographic surveys of several sites.
- **Pastor Jonathon Arnold** assumed the pastorate of New Life BFC, Long Neck, DE. The church has now graduated from Church Extension.
- The **Hellertown Mission** grew to forty this year. A Transitional Leadership Team is in place with four men who may eventually serve as elders. The Mission is scheduled to graduate in 2009.
- **Russ and Nell Ruch** completed their ministry as an Aquila & Priscilla Team at the Walnutport Church and have moved on to serve at the Hellertown Mission Church.
- **Tim Zuck** served as our Summer Church Planting Intern at Hellertown and is now serving an extended internship at the Mission Church.
- Pastor **Mark Morrison** serves full-time as Assistant Director. He is assisting at Cape May, NJ, Adams County, PA, Hellertown, PA and South Allentown, PA. Brother Morrison has not raised his full support and we ask that you consider supporting our Brother.
- **Eight ministry and work teams** were sent out to assist our plants in Reading, PA, DELMARVA, Cape May, NJ, Brooklyn, NY, South Allentown, PA, Las Cruces, NM, Adams County, PA and Hellertown, PA.
- The **Cape May County, NJ Mission** held numerous outreach events, but has not seen significant growth. Church Planter Frank Lenahan has moved on to another Mission and we are seeking the Lord's will for a new man to develop the plant in Cape May.
- David Way resigned his position as Church Planter. The Board of Church Extension is evaluating the **Adams County Mission** in order to determine its future.
- **Administrative Assistant, Lisa Christensen**, is a tremendous help with all the administrative duties of the Mission and more. This year, we adjusted to our office

at Fellowship Community. The Community has been very gracious and helpful with accommodating us. Lisa put together a very active volunteer force that assisted with numerous mailings and help around the office. We especially thank Pastor David and Lena Thomann for their help throughout the year assisting in the office.

- We praise God for blessing our two major fundraising projects: ***SummerTen and Christmas Gift Month***. A total of over \$100,000.00 came in through these fundraisers.
- Willis Dowling continued his bi-vocational church planting ministry in ***Chesapeake, VA***. After ten years of trying to plant the church in Virginia, the Board of Church Extension has decided to close the Mission, June 2008. Pastor Dowling has been candidating for a pastorate in the BFC. Over the years and through the efforts of Pastor Dowling, this Mission reached many people with the Gospel and reached out in mercy to various individuals and families. Not all is lost when a Mission closes – God through the Chesapeake Mission has touched lives.
- ***New Beginnings Bible Fellowship Church in Mantua, NJ*** is a Mission Church in the BFC. The Mission has faced some challenges with the death of their Interim Pastor and an elder suffering from a stroke and cancer. Yet, this determined group of people is moving ahead. We hope to present a church planter to the group this year.
- ***Pastor Dennis Spinney of the Thompson, CT BFC*** continues his efforts to plant a daughter church in Danielson, CT.
- The ***Strategic Planning Committee of the Board*** revised our By-Laws and discussed various strategies for church planting.
- The ***Forward Plan: Missions Here and Now*** was presented to several churches and regions during the year.
- A number of meetings were held with ***prospective church planters***.

- **More than 40 churches were visited** this year by Church Extension staff. We presented our Mission and vision.
- **The Las Cruces, NM Mission Church** was assessed this past year and will be presented at Annual Conference to be received as a Particular Church. Planning continues regarding the planting of a second church in New Mexico.
- **Our Hispanic Church Plants in Reading (La Roca) and in Allentown (El Faro)**, under the leadership of Carlos Rodriguez (Reading) and Pastor Elliot Ramos (Allentown) continued their outreaches to the Hispanic communities. La Roca experienced significant growth in 2007, averaging close to 100 people, along with many challenges. Carlos still needs to acquire his visa extension – pray for this. El Faro faced financial challenges and little growth this year. The new Organizing Elder Board began serving and is drafting a strategic plan for developing the Mission.
- I chaired the **Joint Committee on Ethnic Church Planting**. This year, the Committee focused its efforts on Hispanic church planting. We met with a possible candidate for our Hispanic planting focus, but he was not able to raise support to join us. We finalized a partnership with CAM for sending us Hispanic church planters and began translating the *Biblical Principles for Living* into Spanish.
- The **La Roca, Merida, Mexico** church was approved as a Mission Church in the Bible Fellowship Church. It was assessed and will be presented at Annual Conference to be received as a Particular Church.
- **John Pello (Outreach Assistant)** was diagnosed with liver cancer and went home to be with the Lord in 2007. Judy, his wife also went home this past January 2008, after her kidneys failed. They were true servants and will be missed.
- I once again served this past year on the **Ministerial Candidate Committee** and have enjoyed working with the new men coming into the BFC.

I remain humbled by God's call in my life to serve Him and His Kingdom. I am blessed with the privilege of serving what I believe is a fine and godly fellowship of churches, called the Bible Fellowship Church. At times, my heart aches to see the struggles we go through as a body of churches and as Particular Churches. On other occasions, I rejoice in seeing and hearing of the way the Lord moves among us. We have a way to go in order to be truly unified in doctrine and centered on the vision to be an expanding fellowship of churches, but I trust the Lord will guide us and bring about His perfect will for the future of the BFC.

Pray for the Board of Church Extension and me in 2008. We had to make some tough decisions regarding some of our men and some church plants. Pray for God to give us wisdom to direct this Mission. Doing missions in America is increasingly difficult. We may not have language barriers, physical persecutions, or face other obstacles unique to foreign missions, yet the paganism and indifference to the Gospel in this post-modern America may be as difficult as physical and cultural barriers.

Pray for Mark Morrison and for God to empower him to provide assistance to our church planters. Pray for our Team: Administrative Assistant Lisa Christensen, Special Projects Coordinator Carol Snyder, Assistant Church Planter Ray Bertolet and our growing list of volunteers. Please pray regularly for our church planters and their families who serve in Church Extension Ministries. They sacrificially serve you as your missionaries to America.

In His Love & Service,  
Respectfully Submitted,  
David E. Gundrum,  
Executive Director of Church Extension.

## **Resources for Churches & Regions Seeking to Plant and Prospective Church Planters**

### **Churches/Regions**

- ***Churches Planting Churches*** – A guide designed to walk your church through the process of planting a daughter church.

- ***The Dynamic Daughter Church Planting Handbook (DCPI)*** – The Biblical basis for planting a daughter church. Answers to common questions: (e.g. Can we afford to plant a daughter church? What size do we need to be to daughter? What is in it for us as a mother church? Won't a daughter church destroy the fellowship in the mother church?) The six-step process for planting a daughter congregation.

### **Prospective Planters**

- ***DCPI – Pre-Assessment and the BFC Comprehensive Assessment*** – The DCPI booklet is an inductive and introductory assessment for those looking into church planting. The BFC Assessment is a complete assessment process to determine whether a man has the gifts, abilities and competencies to plant churches.
- ***BFC Church Planting Guide & DCPI Handbook*** – The BFC plan and approach to church planting. A complete systematic process for the planter and his team to move from the initial Identification Stage to the Graduation Stage.
- ***Church Planter's Toolkit*** – The Church Planter's Toolkit includes 12 audio CD's as well as detailed checklists and action planning worksheets to form a comprehensive package for church planters and their team.

**Addendum** – Church Extension Activity Chart (see next page - 125)

Activity Chart





*Morrison Family - Parents with Pastor Sons  
Phil - Missionary (L); Mark - Church Extension (R)  
Thomas (Top), Paula & Joy - new Las Cruces Church*



*Spanish Speaking Pastors and Mexican Delegation (L to R)  
Elliot Ramos, Marcos Ramirez, Francisco García, Daniel Hernández  
Carlos Rodríguez*

## ***Report of the***

## ***Joint Committee on Ethnic Church***

The Joint Committee met numerous times during the past year and continues to concentrate its efforts on Hispanic Church Planting. Our initial Hispanic Church Plant, the Lighthouse Church in south Allentown, PA, led by Pastor Elliot Ramos, experienced financial challenges this past year but God provided for the needs and the Mission continues to be a needed outreach to the Latino community in Allentown. The Organizing Elders, with the assistance of Mark Morrison, formulated a strategic plan that will be implemented in 2008.

The Reading, PA Hispanic Church Plant continues to make progress under Carlos Rodriguez's direction. An ESL outreach continues and is well attended. Attendance and offerings grew in 2007 and attendance is now averaging near one hundred people on Sundays. The Berks Regional Resource Team continues to assist and Grace BFC continues to act as a gracious host to La Roca. People continue to be saved and leaders are beginning to surface.

In 2007, ***Carlos Rodriguez, Church Planter at the Reading, PA Hispanic Church Plant and Pastor Marcos Ramirez, La Roca Church in Merida, Mexico, completed their tests for credentials with the BFC*** and are now Probationers. The Ministerial Candidate Committee appreciated the diligent preparation on the part of both men in completing the testing.

This past year, four members of the Committee: Elliot Ramos, Al Roberts, David Schlonecker, and Dana Weller were appointed by the Board of Church Extension to assess the Merida Church. The Team traveled to Merida, Mexico, and interviewed the Pastor, Elders, and congregation. They returned with a very positive report and recommendations that the Merida Church be received into the Annual Conference of the BFC. The Board of Church Extension approved the recommendations and the Merida Church will be presented for reception at this year's Annual Conference. The Merida church will be the first church, outside of the United States, received into Conference. Praise God for His leading. ***The Merida church has been ministering in Merida for twelve years. The Church is nearing two hundred people, with qualified Elders, and is fully self-supporting and not seeking or desiring financial assistance from the BFC. The government of Mexico gave the***

**church a property in the center of Merida, a city of two million people. The Church built a building on the property, along with an outdoor meeting place. They developed plans for a new sanctuary and are saving the money to build this new addition.**

The Merida Church had been looking for a connection with an established denomination because of the Mexican government requirement for such a connection and the Elders believe that being connectional is God's desire for the Church. They investigated several possible connections but did not find the doctrinal compatibility they were seeking. When God led the Director of Church Extension to a meeting with Pastor Ramirez, it was apparent to both men that a connection could be pursued.

The Ethnic Committee will continue its work alongside the Merida Church and develop plans for overcoming any cultural challenges that confront us. ***The connection with Merida is strategic to the Hispanic church planting vision of the BFC.*** Both the Merida Church and the BFC seek to plant Hispanic BFC churches. Our joint vision is to have BFC churches established in the Yucatan and a Bible/Church Planting School in Merida where men can be trained for church planting in Mexico and the U.S. These are lofty goals, but we trust the Lord will guide us along each step just as He has done so with this entire venture.

The Committee continued to work on ways to develop its ***partnership with CAM International Mission.*** CAM is seeking to assist denominations ministering among Hispanics and planting Hispanic churches in America. A partnership agreement was approved this past year and could provide Hispanic men from CAM's seminaries to assist our Hispanic church planting endeavors. Recently CAM recommended a graduate from its seminary as a candidate to assist us here in the U.S. We will be meeting with CAM and this man to determine the Lord's will.

The Committee's translation team, headed by David Schlonecker, continues its work on ***preparing a Spanish version of the Biblical Principles for Living (BPLs).***

This past year, Dr. Gary Shogren, President of ESEPA Seminary in Costa Rico, BFC missionary, and member of the Quakertown BFC, recommended a man from ESEPA to assist us with Hispanic church planting. The Committee held several interviews with the man, paid his travel here to meet with the Committee, and he was interviewed by Committee member David

Schlonecker in Costa Rico. The Committee approved the Brother to come and assist us with our Hispanic church plants in Reading and Allentown. Due to a lack of financial support and interest from the BFC churches, we decided not to call the Brother and place his family in such an uncertain situation. This was very disappointing for the Committee after having spent a significant amount of time and energy in qualifying this man.

Finally, we would like to encourage our Churches to reach out to the expanding number of ethnic-people groups in their ministry-target sites. ***“Ethnics in America, a Unique Opportunity to Share the Gospel.... Ethnic people in America totaled 97 Million in 2003 and this number continues to increase. Hispanics number close to 40 million, Asians close to 9 million, and Islamic people more than 7 million. More Jews live in America than in Israel. More Cubans live in Miami than in any city in Cuba except Havana. More Polish people reside in Chicago than in any city except Warsaw, Poland. More Armenians live in Los Angeles than in any city in the world. According to future projections, by 2060, the Asian population of the United States will surpass 42 million and the Hispanic population 115 million (The Alliance web site).”*** We can no longer ignore the alien in the land (the U.S.). We have many opportunities to reach ethnic people with the Gospel and plant BFC churches here in our BFC ministry target areas. We are not a large denomination and God, at present, has led us to focus on the Hispanic communities developing near all our churches. Please help us fulfill the calling God has given to reach the alien in our land.

***We encourage the churches of Annual Conference to continue their support for ethnic church planting. If your church has not budgeted an amount for ethnic church planting, please do so. The opportunities are many and we need your support. Send your contributions to the Board of Missions, designated for Ethnic Church Planting.***

**Joint Committee on Ethnic Church:** David E. Gundrum, Chairman; Don Faust, Secretary; Elliot Ramos, Alfred G. Roberts, Carlos G. Rodriguez, David K. Schlonecker, Dana E. Weller.

## ***Report of the Board of Missions***

Things have changed! It is now 9:00 A.M. on a wintery day and already I have:

- distributed Friday Prayer instantly to our prayer partners here in the States as well as our missionaries in over thirty nations!
- sent out two urgent prayer requests that came in overnight to all of the BFC pastors and delegates of Annual Conference.
- had an instant message, including video, with a former international student in Thailand.
- communicated with a missionary in Morocco with both audio and video.

Technology has changed the way we carry out missions in the BFC! I have communication access to nearly every missionary in the BFC. At this very moment, I have contact with missionaries in ten nations who are available to take an internet call; green check marks appear after their names if they are at their computers. It is incredible! Because of the internet, we can, within moments of a crisis, mobilize the entire denomination in prayer. We keep the Daily Prayer Calendar current with relevant requests and receive feedback immediately.

Even with all of this technology, the heart of missions remains the same. There is a burning urgency to take the Gospel to those who have little opportunity to hear. This is our Lord's commission to the Church. Our missionary family fulfills this commission either directly on the front lines or in support roles so that others can minister directly. That has been the BFC priority for over a hundred years.

As older missionaries complete their calls and return to the States, God is stirring the hearts of others to go. Just this month, I received three applications from young people willing and eager to serve their Lord in career missions! Four commissioning services are already scheduled for this spring! New horizons are opening via denominational projects like the unreached people groups in Tanzania. Others are called to China, Togo, Japan, Central African Republic and Thailand.

They join forces with those already serving in over thirty nations - ministering to refugees, teaching in seminaries, translating the scriptures, working with the handicapped and orphans, doing street evangelism with transients, evangelizing unreached communities, planting churches, and working in camping ministry, clinics, and sports ministry. Still others support these outreach ministries by serving in home offices, repairing cars and airplanes, shipping goods, and keeping missionaries connected through aviation. Two of our missionaries work in the home office coordinating and leading short term ministry, service, and humanitarian teams for the BFC.

God continues to use some of our missionaries, like Dave Riddell and Dan Scott, in important leadership roles. It is a blessing to see such men receive recognition from their sending agencies and peers. Still others share their knowledge and experience by creating much-needed books and other publications relevant to a particular area of the world. A recent book written by Phil Morrison to assist pastors of multiple churches has become a standard in Africa and has already been translated into several languages.

Short term ministry continues to be a priority for many of our BFC churches. God continues to call people to full time career missions from the host of people who spend part of their summer or vacation serving our missionary family. Nearly every BFC applicant for career missions states that it was short term missionary service that sensitized their hearts to God's calling in their lives. The BOM continues to provide resources for short term ministry through the services of Nelson Randolph and Chris Merrick. The weekly e-publication, "**Let's Fish**," promotes prayer and resources for short term ministry.

Our missionary families that face unexpected, urgent financial needs, may find assistance with the BOM Buttress Fund. This Fund has grown because of the generous gifts of concerned BOM friends and through dear saints that recognized the need to include the BOM in their estate planning. The BOM financial statement demonstrates the fund's resources and the substantial grants that were awarded to our missionary families this year. Missionaries may apply for grants in January and June; emergency applications are also accepted for immediate distribution.

Of course I cannot talk about what God is doing through our missionary family without mentioning the sacrificial giving of the BFC churches and individual BFC members. Our financial report bears witness of this commitment. The finances needed to follow our Lord's command to go into His entire world are astronomical, yet feasible, when God's people follow His prompting to give. We praise God for all of our BFC churches that have sacrificially taken on this challenge. One hundred percent of every dollar given to the BOM designated for a BOM missionary is passed on to the missionary; no fees are assessed. In light of this, we praise God for those churches and individual BFC members (we call them Collegium) who continue to support the BOM. Without that faithful support, we could not serve our missionary family and the churches.

I encourage you to read over the roster of BFC missionaries included in this report. Notice the variety of ministries to which God has called them. Review the financial statements and see how we attempt to give accounting of every cent of the sacrificial gifts from our churches and members. Then, please realize that prayer remains the most important activity of the BFC church. I encourage each church to become proactive in promoting the Missionary Prayer Calendar. We desperately need the continued corporate prayer of the BFC.

Below is a summary of the BOM services:

### **1. Missionary care, including field visits**

We are available and willing to meet with those considering missionary service and with our missionaries who need advice or counsel regarding their ministry. Visits to fields of ministry are undertaken to assist and encourage our missionaries as needs arise.

### **2. Seminars**

The BOM offers a host of informational resources to BFC churches.

- **Design Your Impact Workshop** – This five-hour seminar enables church leaders to discover their congregation's key characteristics and resources (their DNA) and move toward identifying a strategic missions focus that can unleash powerful, new, global dynamic from their church.

- **Knowing Gods Will Seminars** are conducted each year on a denominational level at a fall Retreat Within a Retreat (RWR) held at Pinebrook. This information is also useful as a weekend course for a youth group in a local church setting.
- **P.O.M. (Parents of Missionary) Retreats** – This weekend retreat seminar is designed to keep the parents of our missionaries on track with the ministry of their sons and daughters (and grandchildren) overseas.
- **Culture Link Seminars** is a program that prepares your short-term missionary teams to be fully prepared for ministry. This is a necessary seminar for any church serious about getting the most from a cross-cultural experience.
- **Speaker Resource** – The office personnel remain available for mission emphasis in local congregations. This includes all stated public worship services, Sunday School, mission conferences, and special events. The office also provides a complete listing on our website (see #3) of our missionaries that are currently available for your missionary event needs.
- **Mentoring Services** are available to assist a church's board of elders and missions committee in developing a comprehensive, long range, and balanced outreach plan that uses every member in God's global cause.
- **Short-term Planning Advice and Assistance** is designed to help you and your church partner with your missionaries. Chris Merrick (Short-Term Projects Coordinator) and Nelson Randolph (Short-Term Partnership Coordinator) will assist with short term missions trip plans.

### 3. **Prayer Calendar**

This publication provides current prayer information for your congregation. The new format is an attractive, readable prayer aid and is offered to the churches at a reduced rate. Nearly 1900 are sent out each month.

### 4. **Board of Missions Website**

The BOM website is quickly becoming a focal point of information for everyone interested in missions in the BFC.



This site continues to grow with useful information for both the church leadership and anyone seeking God's direction for possible service through the Board of Missions. Personal support needs and biographical information are continually updated and available 24 hours a day. There are also helpful links for planning short-term or career missions involvement. You may log onto the site at [www.bfcbom.org](http://www.bfcbom.org).

## **5. Email Subscriber Lists**

### **a. Daily Prayer**

This is a daily e-mail that allows subscribers to view the Prayer Calendar request for the day, in addition to receiving up-to-the-minute news and prayer requests from the field. Readership is approximately 125.

### **b. Friday Prayer**

This is an in-depth prayer document produced each Friday and sent by e-mail. This communication, designed for missionary-to-missionary contact, is also available to a select group of other prayer partners. Readership is 190.

## **6. "Let's Fish"**

This newsletter, produced each Wednesday, is designed to keep those interested in short-term missionary trips and possible career missionary involvement on the cutting edge. It is an outlet for the exchange of ideas, as well as prayer and ministry opportunities. This document enjoys a readership from ages fourteen years through adult, and includes pastors, missionaries, youth leaders, mission chair persons, laymen, and students. There is a readership of nearly 250 each week. A full archive is available on the BOM website.

## **7. May Missionary Rally**

This annual gathering of missionaries and Bible Fellowship churches provides a world-wide panorama of missions, both local and overseas. It is an opportunity for networking and interaction among individuals as they endeavor to draw attention to God's heart for the world in their churches. A children's program for Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade has become a successful part of this day. This year's rally will be held May 8, 2008 at Faith BFC, Lancaster, PA.

## **8. Missionary In-Residence at Pinebrook Bible Conference Summer Family Camp**

The BOM provides a missionary family for each of the seven weeks of family camp to promote missions in the Bible Fellowship Denomination. Each week the campers have opportunity to interact with a missionary from the BFC at a very personal level. Additionally, the missionaries have opportunity to present their ministries during public meetings.

### **9. Office Activities**

The office remains the hub for donor and church information and financial processing. We compile and maintain all the necessary information to keep individuals and churches abreast of the financial needs of the entire missionary family. Receipting of financial donations is meticulously recorded for both the donor's and the missionary's records. Addresses and birthdays are kept up to date.

Thank you for your partnership in ministry!  
 Dana E. Weller  
 Director

The Board of Missions makes the following recommendation to the 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference:

**Resolved**, that Daniel G. Oswald be ratified as Financial Secretary of the Board of Missions for a three year term.

**Board of Missions:** Ralph M. Soper, Chairman; Dana E. Weller, Director; Daniel G. Oswald, Financial Secretary; Robert W. Davies, Secretary; Donald S. Faust, Sue Figard, Leroy O. Herb, Kevin W. Kirkpatrick, Thomas P. Shorb, Philip E. Yerrington

## Missionary Units as of December 31, 2007

### General Statistical Report on December 31, 2007

1. Number of Sending Boards under which our missionaries are working. . . . . **42**
2. Number of countries in which our missionaries are working. . . . . **34**
3. Number of Missionaries:

	Family Units	Couples	Singles	Total Adults
Active Missionaries	78	63	15	141
Leave of Absence	0	0	0	0
Appointees	13	9	5	23
Active Applicants	4	1	3	5
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>169</b>

4. Geographical Areas where our missionaries are assigned and their number

Area	Families	Adults	Countries
USA	35	60	United States of America
North America	4	8	Canada, Mexico (excluding U.S.)
Central America	3	5	Costa Rica, Guadeloupe
Caribbean	1	2	Bonaire
South America	2	4	Bolivia, Brazil
Europe	18	39	Austria, France, Germany, UK, Greece, Hungary, Spain, Northern Ireland, Yugoslavia, Czech Republic, Spanish Canary Islands
Africa	11	18	Kenya, Tanzania, Morocco, Central African Republic
Asia	9	17	China, Mongolia, Kazakhstan, India, Thailand, Ukraine, Japan
Southeast Asia & Pacific	5	7	Philippines, Australia, Malaysia, Indonesia

## Our Missionary Family

Sam & Melissa Adams	Czech Republic – WOL camp ministries
Keith & Carol Anderson	Texas, USA - registrar & director of housing
William Aukamp	South Dakota, USA - evangelism, discipleship, church planting
Totoram & Felica Baran	Bonaire - evangelism & discipleship
Byron & Lisa Barnshaw	Pennsylvania, USA - graphic design and web master Charstar
Bruce & Heather Beal	Mexico - Bible translation
Glen & Leah Ruth Blausner	North Carolina, USA – shipping warehouse manager JAARS
Scott & Stacy Bose	Brazil - administration & teaching Brazilia International School
Gena Bulgrien	Germany - teacher at Black Forest Academy
Jay & Ruth Burrington	China – not yet assigned
Barbara Chappell	Brooklyn, USA - evangelism, teaching and discipleship
Sanjay & Karen Dalavai	India - camping ministry
Lynette Dallman	Pennsylvania, USA – area coordinator Operation Christmas Child
Larry & Michele Davies	Czech Republic – church planting
Francisco & Eliane deSouza	Pennsylvania, USA - missionary care
Ron & Joan Denlinger	Illinois, USA - minister to field staff RHMA
Bill & Lois Early	Pennsylvania, USA - northeast representative for Trans World Radio
John & Karen Elias	England - evangelism and church planting among Muslims
Jaroslav & Natalija Eljas	Yugoslavia - evangelism, discipleship, church planting, relief work and radio ministry
Rick Erb	Ukraine - teaching English, discipling new believers, preaching and cooperating in ministry with a local Bible university in the Ukraine
Theresa Faust	Malaysia - ministering to physically and mentally impaired persons and their families

Carl & Wren Fitzgerald	Brooklyn, USA - Apollos Minister with the BFC Board of Missions to the Chinese in Brooklyn, NY
Ondrej & Milina Franka	Yugoslavia - evangelism, discipleship, church planting, relief work and radio ministry
Maggie Gallo	Pennsylvania, USA - graphic design, ministry support
Bob & Shirl Harriman	Texas, USA - bookstore ministry RBI
Connie Hartman	Austria - evangelism, discipleship, Bible studies, music
Tim & Barbara Hash	Vermont, USA - director, Cornerstone Boys Home, The Fold
James & Lynne Head	South Carolina, USA - training and counseling missionaries
Aaron & Marlene Hoffman	Pennsylvania, USA - northeast region leadership and management
Scott & Sue Hoffman	Pennsylvania, USA - director of finance and administration Push the Rock
Marc & Elizabeth Hoyle	France – architectural design ministries
Chris & Alma Hunsicker	Morocco - house parents at Children's Haven
Walter & Susan Johnston	Philippines - video training ministries, evangelism, discipleship
David James Kelly	New York, USA - TRL Trip Coordinator
Cheryl Kline	Indonesia – training interns
Paul & Kathryn Kline	Greece – discipleship, leadership, camp ministry, member care
Kimberly Knaub	Tanzania – Tanzania Project
Brian & Carol Ann Lawrence	Canada - church planting and evangelism among the Kurds
John & Nancy LoRusso	Tanzania – Tanzania Project
Matt & Sukey Lynskey	Tanzania – Tanzania Project
Dave & Rosemarie Manney	Pennsylvania, USA - HCJB Euro-Asia
Kyle & Jenny Merkey	North Carolina, USA - Kyle - aircraft maintenance JAARS, Jenny teaching
Chris & Beckie Merrick	Pennsylvania, USA – project coordinator & facilitator
Barry & Lesa Miller	Morocco - house parents at Children's Haven

Craig & Karena Miller	Spanish Canary Islands - church planting, and discipleship
Dennis & Nancy Mitchell	Pennsylvania – collegiate outreach
Sandy Mitchell	Central African Republic – accounting, teaching, women’s ministries
Phil & Jan Morrison	Kenya, Africa - chaplain Rift Valley Academy, teaching, secretarial
Duane & Joetta Moyer	Guadeloupe - director of Ministries for World Team in Haiti and South East Caribbean
Jerry & Carolyn Moyer	France - church planting
Rob & Lauren Munden	Tanzania – Tanzania Project
Tony & Joanna Murrin	Bolivia - missionary aviation, evangelism and discipleship
Mike & Trudy Newell	England - evangelism and discipleship to Hindus
John & Judy Nicely	Spain - school administration, teaching
Tim & Michelle Obarow	Ohio, USA - mission aviation production manager
Jeff & Emmy Ort	Montana, USA - Handi*Camp program director and follow-up ministry
Tom & Becky Pollock	Minnesota, USA - evangelism, discipleship, church ministries among native Americans
Jason Raines	Tanzania Project
Nelson & Robyn Randolph	Pennsylvania, USA – short-term partnership coordinator
Art & Vicki Reyes	Mexico - evangelism, discipleship and church planting
David & Becky Riddell	France - Leading and directing World Team Europe towards planting multiplying churches to the glory of God.
Randy & Amina Ruth	Kazakhstan - church planting and friendship evangelism
Amy Sandt	Philippines - community coordinator
David & Denise Schlonecker Jr.	Pennsylvania, USA – director of missions and outreach Push the Rock
Kimberly Schlonecker	Pennsylvania, USA – administrative assistant, Push the Rock

Dan & Jackie Scott	Thailand - leadership ministry
Mark & Jocelyn Scott	New Jersey, USA - campus ministries
Nathan & Cindy Sefiane	Morocco – maintenance, teaching and house parents at Children’s Haven
Ted & Grete Shelling	Austria - counseling, international student evangelism/discipleship and Bible studies
David & Sherry Shelly	Ohio, USA - facilities manager and safety coordinator
Patti Sherman	Florida - office administration
Gary & Karen Shogren	Costa Rica - seminary president & Bible college professor
Efthymes & Irene Sioukiouoglou	Greece - outreach to refugees and church planting
Bob & Donna Sloma	Maine, USA – director, Blueberry Bible Camp
Lillian Solt	Costa Rica - medical missions, evangelism and counseling
Sarolta Solymosi	Hungary - professional associate - door-to-door evangelism, literature distribution and discipleship
Donn & Julie Stengele	India - Grounds keeper (Donn), Alumni Officer (Julie), school activities and church ministries.
Kim Stengele	Tanzania, Africa - Sandawe outreach project, medical ministry
John & Laura Studenroth	Pennsylvania, USA - evangelism among college professionals
Edward Stuebner	Pennsylvania, USA - publication production
Scott & Jennifer Tibbetts	Thailand – Church Planting
Craig & Mary Tress	Australia - financial administration, local church ministry representative
Rick & Donna Warner	Mongolia - agricultural ministries, evangelism and discipleship
Colby & Theresa Weinhofer	Japan – not yet assigned
Dana & Lanette Weller	Pennsylvania, USA - director, BFC Board of Missions
Scott & Joanna Widman	Northern Ireland - camping ministries
Oliver & Linda Williams	Pennsylvania, USA – home office finance department
Mark & Cathy Wimble	Thailand – church planting

Barry & Candy Wingo	Mexico - evangelism, translation, church planting
Ondra & Melissa (Hause) Zikanovi	Czech Republic - church planting, discipleship

### **Candidates and Commissionings**

The local church continues to produce world bound missionaries. This year, the Board of Missions processed a number of new applications and approved candidates: Lynette Dallman, David Kelly, Rachel Knaub, Sandy Mitchell, John and Nancy LoRusso and Jason Raines commissioned missionaries: Jay & Ruth Burrington

### **Individuals Ending Their Active Missionary Service in 2007**

Billy & Cindy Dunn	Joyce Sacher
Marian Gibbon	Judy Pello - January 19, 2008
Earl Poysti	John Pello - April 23, 2007

### **Annual Reports From Missionaries**

Annual activity reports from missionaries will be sent out by the missionaries themselves. These reports for 2007 will be sent out in early 2008.

### **Dates To Mark On Your Calendar Of Events:**

Thursday, May 8, 2008 Conference-Wide Missionary Rally 10am to 3 pm at Faith BFC, Lancaster, PA



**Figure 34** Ordained Missionaries (L to R)  
 Row 1: Scott Evans, Phil Morrison, David Manney  
 Row 2: John Studenroth, Thomas Pollock, Colby Weinhofer (Probationer), Walter Johnston



**BFC Board of Missions**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
 As of December 31, 2007

Assets (Cash & Investments)	
Cash in Bank & On Hand	\$ 401,269.73
Accounts Receivable	900.27
Board of Pension Bonds	117,399.00
Loan Receivable - PBC	95,908.08
General Fund Investments	459,415.16
Supplemental Aid Investments	129,578.10
Housing Fund Investments	298,727.82
Buttress Fund Investments	<u>329,319.10</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 1,832,517.26</u>
Liabilities (Support, SAF & Projects)	
Missionary Support / Projects	\$ 399,033.73
Ethnic Church Planting	2,950.79
Collegiate Outreach	6,860.11
Pastoral Scholarship	6,075.68
Awaiting Designation	16,689.47
Support Excess Reserve	<u>31,564.60</u>
Total Liabilities	\$ 463,174.38
Funds Held in Trust	
Prior Year's GF Balance	\$ 335,186.03
Prior Year's SA Balance	228,730.33
Prior Year's HF Balance	267,506.74
Buttress Fund - Temporarily Restricted	532,368.56
This Year's Excess (Deficit)	(2,180.75)
Increase (Decrease) in Market Value	
General & Housing Funds	(1,629.91)
Supplemental Aid Fund	<u>9,361.88.</u>
Total Funds Held in Trust	<u>1,369,342.88</u>
Total Liabilities & Funds Held	<u>\$ 1,832,517.26</u>

**Statement of Revenues & Expenditures**  
**General Fund**  
 For the Year Ended December 31, 2007

<u>General Fund Income:</u>	
Undesignated Income - Churches	\$ 1,162.00
Undesignated Income - Other	2,275.00
Honorarium Income	1,820.00
Special Events Offerings	-
Prayer Calendar Income	4,895.25

Associate Director's Support	7,149.00	
General Fund Investment Income	39,200.80	
Board Ministry Income	90,861.67	
Missions Week Contributions	400.00	
Other Income	50.13	
Subsidized Housing Income	<u>18,368.91</u>	
Total Income		\$ 166,182.76

General Fund Disbursements:

Supplemental Support - Dana	\$ 10,075.87	
Regular Board Expenses	3,727.90	
Board of Communications	735.00	
Missionary Specials/Projects	873.65	
Pensions	5,823.48	
Hospitality	849.78	
Seminar Expenses	-	
Office Supplies & Equipment	7,696.35	
Office Furniture, Etc.	-	
Publicity, Postage	6,614.72	
Prayer Calendar	4,132.95	
Telephone	2,839.40	
Books & Materials	57.00	
Missionary In Residence	3,339.00	
Hospitalization	15,778.84	
Office Expense - (Rent)	18,590.00	
Associate Director	61,360.00	
Secretarial & Financial Services	12,553.63	
Payroll Taxes & Workers Comp.	3,878.86	
Office Cleaning	300.00	
Administration Budget	2,350.00	
Miscellaneous Expense	<u>607.47</u>	
Total Regular Disbursements		<u>162,183.90</u>
General Fund Excess (Deficit)		3,998.86
Bequest Income applied to Operation Expenses		-
Net General Fund Excess (Deficit)		<u>\$ 3,998.86</u>

Temporarily Restricted Gifts and Bequests

<u>Buttress Fund Income</u>		
Contributions	\$ 150,918.68	
Investment Income	<u>13,276.35</u>	
Total Buttress Fund		\$ 164,195.03
Disbursements		<u>32,450.00</u>
<u>Net Excess</u>		<u>\$ 131,745.03</u>

**Statement of Revenues & Expenditures  
Various Funds**

For the Year Ended December 31, 2007

Housing Fund (HF):	
HF Income & Interest Income	\$ 18,368.91
Realized Gain on Investments	-
Housing & Rentals	-
HF transfer to General Fund	<u>(18,368.91)</u>
HF Excess	<u><u>\$ -</u></u>
Supplementary Aid (SA) Analysis:	
SA Interest & Investment Income	\$ 14,910.55
SA Board Ministries Income	11,480.88
Gain (Loss) on Securities	<u>88.43</u>
Total SAF Income	26,479.86
SAF Payments	<u>(32,659.47)</u>
SAF Cumulative Excess / (Deficit)	<u><u>\$ ( 6,179.61)</u></u>
Cumulative Missionary Support & Projects Analysis:	
Missionary Support & Projects (Income):	
(Includes Income & Credit adjustments)	
Missionary Support	\$ 1,477,769.86
Missionary Projects	968,083.43
Ethnic Church Planting	20,872.22
Awaiting Designation	<u>49,654.07</u>
Cumulative Total Income	\$ 2,516,379.58
Missionary Support & Projects (Disbursements):	
(Includes Disbursements & Debit adjustments)	
Missionary Support	\$ 1,266,749.53
Missionary Projects	767,134.24
Ethnic Church Planting	17,921.43
Awaiting Designation	<u>1,400.00</u>
Cumulative Total Disbursements	<u><u>2,053,205.20</u></u>
Missionary Support & Projects	
Cumulative Excess	<u><u>\$ 463,174.38</u></u>

**Notes to the Financial Statements**

For the Period January 1 to December 31, 2007

- Note 1 The Board of Missions has provided a Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2007, and is using the Fund Accounting concept. Any excess of cash received as Designated Income over funds disbursed is shown as a payable since it is being held for future payment of missionary support or designated projects.
- Note 2 The liabilities missionary support / projects and awaiting designation and the Total Support Excess includes the balance excess as of December 31, 2007.

Note 3 The Financial Statements show the investments in the Funds at Market Value and therefore reflect the Increase/Decrease in Market Values at December 31, 2007.

Note 4 The Board of Missions received a gift and bequest in the amount of \$154,464.46 during 2006 and \$150,918.68 during 2007. The investment income on this fund was \$13,276.35 and increase in market value was \$3,527.79 during 2007. The amount disbursed during 2007 was \$32,450.00, leaving a fund balance on December 31, 2007 of \$532,368.56. This fund is called Buttress Fund. This fund is temporarily restricted since it will be disbursed over a period of years, along with the earnings for missionary support and Board of Missions staff.

Note 5 Fidelity Investments - General & Housing Funds

	12/31/2007 Market Value	12/31/2007 Cost Basis
Janus Mid Cap Value	\$ 32,042.82	\$ 33,352.16
Pimco High Yield Instl	43,031.25	43,693.69
T Rowe Price Equity Income	31,552.84	30,056.07
Vanguard Primecap	100,704.28	70,128.05
Vanguard Short Term Invmt	314,037.56	315,678.30
Fidelity Advisor Energy	15,474.54	15,438.88
Harbor International Institute	48,283.96	52,639.85
GNMC # 28984	70.41	68.40
FHLMC # 180822	4.21	4.09
FNMA # 1994-1	7,044.00	6,999.97
FHLMC # 1136	227.49	227.86
Western Asset Core Plus	127,842.56	132,810.16
Fidelity Cash Reserves	34,804.44	34,804.44
Cash	<u>3,022.32</u>	<u>3,022.32</u>
	<u>\$ 758,142.68</u>	<u>\$ 738,924.24</u>

Note 6 Fidelity Investments - Supplemental Aid Fund

	12/31/2007 Market Value	12/31/2007 Cost Basis
Artisan International	\$ 15,481.36	\$ 10,421.50
Janus Mid Cap Value	9,374.32	9,757.15
Vanguard Growth & Income	20,960.70	22,917.40
Vanguard Primecap	22,896.84	15,944.87
United States Treasury Notes	64,175.29	55,878.29
Fidelity Cash Reserves	36,689.42	36,689.42
Cash	.17	.17
	<u>\$ 169,578.10</u>	<u>\$ 151,608.80</u>

Note 7	Fidelity Investments - Buttress Fund	
	12/31/2007	12/31/2007
	Market	Cost
	Value	Basis
Spartan Total Mkt Index Inv	\$ 94,926.86	\$ 92,582.31
Spartan Intl Index Investor	49,381.39	47,095.94
Vanguard Short Term Market	127,460.35	126,431.00
Fidelity Cash Reserves	17,548.33	17,548.33
Cash	2.17	2.17
	<u>\$ 289,319.10</u>	<u>\$ 283,659.75</u>

Books reviewed by Ellis Lee Hostetter, CPA. "Audit Letter" available upon request.

### *Missions Rally*



Faith  
Lanca  
PA -  
2008



BFC,  
ster,  
May 8,

## ***Affiliate Report of Bible Fellowship Church Homes, Inc.***

Motivated by the compassion of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the mission of the Bible Fellowship Church Homes, Inc. is to provide the services for older adults and infirmed which promote social, physical, psychological, emotional, intellectual and spiritual well-being. In fulfilling this mission, Fellowship Community adheres to the concept of ministry of the BFC, which recognizes and affirms the maturity, dignity and eternal destiny of each person. The Board of Directors seeks to honor this mission by maintaining a commitment to excellence, innovative program and quality service.

Fellowship Community has completed and dedicated Kauffman and Wentz Courts this past year, which adds 34 additional independent units for a total of 117.

Resident occupancy levels remain high with waiting lists for the Skilled Nursing and Short term Rehabilitation unit (Manor), Assisted Living Unit (Terrace), and the Independent Living Units (Courts).

At the present time, we have 372 residents living on the campus. To assist the residents, we have 271 full-time and part-time employees and 36 contracted Sodexo Dining Service employees who strive to provide the highest level of quality care. We continue to be accredited by the Joint Commission for Health Care Organization and maintain an excellent standing with the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare, Pennsylvania Department of Health Division of Life Safety and the Pennsylvania Department of Insurance.

The majority of the Park Project has been completed and a dedication service was held. The residents and family members have expressed much appreciation for the beautiful surroundings and enjoyment of watching the fish in the brook and pond.

Fellowship Community endeavors to meet the religious needs of all residents, which are addressed by the Pastoral Services Department, the Social Service Department and the Activities Department. Harvey J. Fritz, Jr., serves as Director of the Pastoral Services. Frank L. Herb, Jr., James A. Beil, Mark L. Morrison and Herb Dyke serve as part-time Chaplains. Michael Roberts was

added this year as a full-time Chaplain. The Chaplains complete a spiritual assessment on each admission to the Manor and Terrace and inform the residents of the spiritual opportunities available. This includes Worship Services, Prayer Meeting, Bible Studies, Daily Devotions, Visitation, Counseling (residents and staff), Seasonal/Special Services. The Chaplains also participate in family conferences, hospital visits, attending calling hours and/or funeral services.

The residents, their families, the staff and the Board of Directors are very grateful for all the various forms of support that have been and continue to be provided by the Bible Fellowship Churches, including prayer, volunteers, special gifts and financial support.

In conclusion, the Board of Directors appreciates all the contributions from the churches and individuals. The church contributions are used to assist BFC members who no longer have the resources to be maintained as private pay residents. The approximate amount of benevolent care provided by BFC Homes, Inc. for the fiscal year ended 6/30/07 was \$1,500,000.00. Of this amount, \$326,000.00 was provided to members of the BFC.

Note that the financial report prepared by Lisa Hazler, CPA is a condensed version of the full financial report audited by Parente Randolph. The fiscal year of Bible Fellowship Church Homes, Inc. is from July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007. The audited report from Parente Randolph is available and may be obtained by contacting the secretary of the Board.

**Board of Directors, Bible Fellowship Church Homes, Inc.:**

Robert H. Zentz, President; LeRoy S. Heller, Chairman; Dean A Stortz, Vice Chairman; Bruce A Ellingson, Secretary; John W. Trauch, Treasurer; C. Larry Bennett, David W. Cole, Robert A. Erland, Robin A. Musselman, D. Thomas Phillips, Glenn D. Ruoss, Henry U. Sandt, Hans R. Waldvogel.

**Financial Report**  
**Bible Fellowship Church Homes, Inc.**  
**Balance Sheet**  
June 30, 2007

**Assets**

## Current Assets:

Cast & cash equivalents	\$ 2,295,054
Assets whose use is limited, under trust indenture, held by trustee	562,180
Accounts receivable, residents, net of estimated allowance for doubtful collections of \$100,000	1,235,416
Inventories	147,021
Prepaid expenses & other current assets	<u>137,755</u>
Total current assets	\$ 4,377,426
Assets whose use in limited, under trust indenture, held by trustee	1,791,098
Board designated endowment fund	420,078
Long-Term Investments	3,152,377
Property and Equipment, net	25,770,969
Deferred Financing Costs, Net	<u>970,373</u>
Total	<u><u>\$ 36,482,321</u></u>

**Liabilities & Net Assets**

## Current Liabilities:

Current maturities of long-term debt	\$ 445,000
Accounts Payable:	
Trade	743,397
Construction	1,633,813
Entrance Fees	-
Amounts withheld from employees for taxes, etc.	27,047
Accrued expenses	703,886
Deferred revenue	<u>23,077</u>
Total current liabilities	\$ 3,576,220
Long-Term Debt	19,795,000
Refundable Fees and Deposits	8,199,470
Deferred Revenues from Advance Fees	<u>2,675,507</u>
Total liabilities	\$ 34,246,197
Net Assets	
Unrestricted	2,235,691
Temporarily restricted	<u>433</u>
Total net assets	<u>2,236,124</u>
Total	<u><u>\$ 36,482,321</u></u>



**Statement of Operations**  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2007

Unrestricted Revenues:	
Net resident service revenues	\$ 16,015,499
Other revenues	116,670
Pennsylvania Nursing home assessment	206,016
Investment income	398,925
Unrestricted contributions	294,337
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>21,528</u>
Total unrestricted revenues	<u>17,052,975</u>
Expenses	
Healthcare	7,125,158
Dietary	1,624,600
Housekeeping and laundry	766,147
Social services and activities	756,056
Plant operations	1,614,123
General and administrative	1,611,174
Pennsylvania nursing home assessment	70,650
Depreciation	1,294,229
Amortization	64,409
Interest	<u>1,272,876</u>
Total expenses	<u>16,199,422</u>
Operating Income	853,553
Change in Net unrealized gains and losses on investments other than trading securities	115,620
Net Assets released from restrictions used for purchase of property and equipment	<u>67,976</u>
Increase in unrestricted net assets	<u>\$ 1,037,149</u>

**Statement of Changes in Net Assets**  
For the Year Ended June 30, 2007

Unrestricted Net Assets:	
Operating Income	\$ 853,553
Change in net unrealized gains and losses on investments other than trading securities	115,620
Net assets released from restrictions used for the purchase of property and equipment	<u>67,976</u>
Increase in unrestricted net assets	<u>1,037,149</u>

Temporarily Restricted Net Assets:	
Contributions	74,696
Net assets released from restrictions used for:	
Operations	(21,528)
Purchase of property and equipment	<u>( 67,976)</u>
Decrease in temporarily restricted net assets	<u>(14,808)</u>
Increase in Net Assets	1,022,341
Net Assets, Beginning	<u>1,213,783</u>
Net Assets, Ending	<u><u>\$ 2,236,124</u></u>



*Figure 30* Bridge in new park at Fellowship Community



[Note - Homes Ad]

## ***Report of Victory Valley Camp***

Goliath rises from the meadow, towering over the boy, who stares up with a mix of fear and faith, trepidation and determination.

The boy will conquer Goliath this day, thanks to his God and a team of Summer Missionaries at Victory Valley Camp. The 9-year-old will climb the 30-foot wall, walk the tight-rope, leap from plank to plank on the swinging bridge, and ultimately fly through the air on the 400-foot zipline.

Construction work by Redpoint Adventures on the new \$36,000 Upper Elements Challenge Course, dubbed Goliath, ended just two weeks before camp started in Summer 2007. More than \$26,000 of that money came from designated contributions. Boys and girls challenged Goliath almost every day. As one camper dismounted the zip-line, she said, "This made me realize that I'm not in control of my life, God is."

### **New Snak Shak and Nurses Health Center**

Thanks to volunteers from several BFC churches, under the leadership of our facility manager, John Masters, several major projects saw completion in the spring of 2007. Plateau Cabin was completely gutted inside and restructured to accommodate a combined Snak Shak/Gift Shop and larger health center. This freed up our former gift shop space, in Victory Hall, for use by our Valley Day Campers, as well as other groups year round.

### **More Improvements**

The timber-and-brick outdoor staircase from the Game Room to the swimming pool was completely ripped out and rebuilt, replacing the rotting railroad ties. A guest room, for nurses and speakers, was completed in the basement of the modular home, offering the beauty and comfort of a nice hotel room. The second floor sleeping quarters in the Stone House were completely redecorated, and furnished thanks to volunteer workers. Even the Dining Hall is now graced with two lovely ceiling fan-lights. The camp beautification projects are coordinated, and much of the actual work is done, by Stephanie Ott, who also raises funds for the

supplies through two annual scrap-booking and stamping retreats she initiated.

### **Increase in Campers**

The total number of campers in Victory Valley's summer programs increased this year to 665, largely on the strength of a 33 percent increase in Valley Day Camp participation, our fastest growing program. An increase in children coming with church groups, often with adult chaperons, also contributed to the growth of our Cabin Camp Program. The ministry offers a significantly lower price for campers who come with groups in order to strengthen the children's ministries of the local churches. We still have a way to go before we exceed our Summer 1999 enrollment of more than 1,000 campers.

### **Military Family Initiative**

A new initiative by the Victory Valley Board to thank those who serve with the U.S. military in Iraq and Afghanistan brought children to camp for free, and brought in unexpected contributions from 17 states and one foreign country which offset the costs. In addition to the joy of having these families at camp, TV news crews from Allentown and Philadelphia also visited the camp and told the story to their viewers.

### **Pastor & Missionary Family Discounts**

Victory Valley continues to eagerly welcome the children of BFC pastors and missionaries who benefit from a large discount to make sure no child is "left behind". Some are surprised to learn that if their family cannot afford the discounted price, we do whatever it takes to bring their children to camp. We never say 'No' and we want every child of a BFC pastor or missionary to spend a week at Victory Valley each summer. This camp is part of what brings us together as a denomination, ultimately helping us to become "an expanding fellowship of churches, united to make disciples of Jesus Christ."

### **Summer Missionaries**

Our Summer Missionary prayer-support teams continued to undergird this ministry. Through their prayers and money, they helped to train several dozen young people who sacrificed other

opportunities in order to live for Christ in the presence of hundreds of boys and girls. Our 2007 Summer Missions leader, Jason Raines, is headed to East Africa in 2008 as a church-planter with the BFC's Tanzania Project. At the end of the summer, the young Summer Missionaries whom Jason served, unanimously decided to contribute from their small earnings, through the BFC Board of Missions, to help him get to Tanzania.

### **Strategic Plan**

Thanks to financial commitments from several BFC churches Victory Valley's Board of Directors entered into a strategic planning process this year, facilitated by the Center for Ministry Advancement of Souderton. Every church we asked said "Yes" -- a measure of the importance of children in the life and future of our local BFC churches. At this writing, the board has examined results of a survey of BFC pastors and campers parents, has honed in on four areas of focus, and has begun to develop plans to address these areas. This faith-filled re-imagination of the ministry will likely lead to redesign of our facilities and significant new construction, as well as other changes to better equip us to serve the church and parents; helping them to make disciples of children in this rapidly-changing world.

### **Rental Groups**

The facilities of Victory Valley Camp continue to attract church and community groups for all kinds of opportunities such as week-long and weekend retreats, to picnics, Challenge Course adventure sessions, and a variety of both indoor and outdoor sporting events. Victory Hall, in winter and early spring, gets almost nightly use by community sports organizations.

### **Aunt Donna Departs**

Donna Bauer, formerly Meng, retired from Victory Valley Camp in February 2007 after almost 30 years of service, most recently as assistant director. Her farewell party packed the Dining Hall for hours, as former campers, summer staff and others came to say thanks to the woman who will always be 'Aunt Donna'. Her creativity, as well as her ability and willingness to do almost anything, helped to sustain this ministry for decades. She made a meaningful impact in the lives of thousands of boys and girls, and

the young leaders she trained. The Board of Victory Valley Camp is grateful for her dedication.

**Board of Victory Valley Camp:** Douglas J. Manwiller, Chairman; Bruce A. Ellingson, Vice Chairman; Timothy D. Weaver, Secretary; Dennis W. Spinney, Treasurer; Timothy J. Bertolet, Jason J. Englehart, Alan G. Miller, Rachel E. Norris, Rodney P. Plows

Scott G. Ott, Director



*Figure 39* Girls' Cabin at Victory Valley Camp



*Figure 40* 2007 Summer Staff at Victory Valley Camp

**Financial Report**  
**Statement of Financial Position**  
As of December 31, 2007

**ASSETS**

## Current Assets

## Checking/Savings

Paypal	681.19
Lafayette Checking	10,467.55
Money Market	5,250.99
Petty Cash	<u>60.21</u>

Total Checking/Savings	16,459.94
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## Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivable	<u>(2,900.00)</u>
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Total Accounts Receivable	(2,900.00)
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## Other Current Assets

American Funds Mutual Fund	761.21
AmericanBank CD 928	10,520.05
AmericianBank CD 910	15,524.23
Undeposited Funds	2,155.00
Investments - other	<u>857.34</u>

Total Other Current Assets	<u>29,817.83</u>
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Total Current Assets	43,377.77
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## Other Assets

Real Estate	399,840.91
Pool	69,696.60
Victory Hall	266,651.00
Modular	60,174.00
Tractor	20,900.00
Renovations	18,714.00
Fixed Assets	<u>111,822.00</u>

Total Other Assets	<u>947,798.51</u>
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Total Assets	<u><u>\$ 991,176.28</u></u>
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**LIABILITIES & EQUITY**

## Liabilities

## Current Liabilities

Credit Cards	1,006.20
Payroll Liabilities	<u>1,251.03</u>

Total Current Liabilities	2,257.23
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## Long Term Liabilities

Loan	<u>100,000.00</u>
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Total Long Term Liabilities	<u>100,000.00</u>
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Total Liabilities	102,257.23
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## Equity

Opening Balance Equity	545.92
Unrestrict (retained earnings)	880,642.66



Use restricted net assets	<u>18,577.00</u>	
Temporarily restrict net asset		18,577.00
Net Income		<u>(10,846.53)</u>
Total Equity		<u>888,919.05</u>
Total Liabilities & Equity		<u>\$ 991,176.28</u>

### Profit & Loss

As of December 31, 2007

#### Ordinary Income/Expense

##### Income

Contributed support		
Annual Fund	28,262.25	
Capital Fund	30,023.06	
Campership Fund	1,987.80	
Camper Offering	405.00	
Summer Missionary Fund	24,090.09	
Church Support	44,563.96	
Golf Challenge	6,599.59	
Gifts-in-kind - goods	<u>64.25</u>	
Contributed support		135,996.00
Earned revenues		
Program Income		
45 Hour Core Challenge	1,710.00	
Sno Valley	13,233.00	
Parent Child Weekends	95.00	
Camp	134,183.81	
Outpost	12,470.24	
Day Camp	15,519.25	
Other Program Income	<u>1,540.00</u>	
Program Income		178,751.30
Interest-savings/short-term inv	1,319.55	
Dividends & Interest-securities	186.84	
Miscellaneous revenue	<u>581.97</u>	
Total Earned Revenues		180,839.66
Auxiliary Program Income		
Gift Shop/Snack Shak	5,736.72	
Horsemanship	<u>8,379.16</u>	
Auxiliary Program Income		14,115.88
Rental Income		
Reservation Deposits	0.00	
Overnight Groups	24,244.83	
General Rental Income	13,794.46	
Victory Hall Rental	12,893.26	
Challenge Areas & Equipment	4,833.45	
Security Deposits	<u>(300.00)</u>	
Rental Income		55,466.00
Total Income		<u>386,417.54</u>
Gross Profit		386,417.54

Expense		
Payroll Expenses		0.00
Salaries related expenses		
Facilities Manager	24,571.36	
Registrar/Bookkeeper	1,530.23	
Director	35,214.92	
Assistant/Program Director	8,663.60	
Employee health benefits	17,693.18	
Health Saving Account Contrib.	8,250.00	
Payroll Taxes	7,015.03	
Salaries & related expenses - Other	<u>1,747.68</u>	
Salaries & related expenses		104,686.00
Program Expenses		
Summer Missionary Development	454.46	
Summer Missionary Pay	26,761.16	
Medical Supplies	373.48	
Parent Child Weekends	38.70	
Camp	2,372.17	
Outpost	232.78	
Day Camp	282.55	
Recreational Supplies	499.59	
Program Expense - Other	<u>2,314.90</u>	
Program Expenses		33,329.79
Administration Expenses		
Computer Software	134.74	
Office Salaries	4,179.90	
Office Supplies	3,599.55	
Registration Expenses	9,185.89	
Telephone & telecommunications	4,861.86	
Postage, shipping, delivery	2,768.96	
Books, subscriptions, reference	729.77	
Development Promotion		
Golf Challenge Expen.	3,876.44	
Other	<u>1,668.15</u>	
Total - Development Promo		5,544.59
Ministry/Program Promo	3,687.93	
Promotion - Other	<u>328.17</u>	
Total Promotion		<u>9,560.69</u>
Total Administration Expenses		35,039.36
Occupancy Expenses		
Utilities	23,991.74	
Real estate taxes	<u>6,033.90</u>	
Occupancy Expenses		30,025.64
Travel & Meetings Expenses		
Meals	1,696.49	
Travel	1,334.40	
Conference, convention, meeting	736.29	
Travel & meetings expenses - other	<u>23.21</u>	

Total Travel & Meetings Exp.	3,790.39
Misc Expenses	
Interest expense - general	1,717.27
Insurance - liability, auto, wc	27,973.92
Membership dues - organization	945.00
Other expenses	3,500.00
Misc. expenses - other	<u>858.28</u>
Total Misc Expenses	34,994.47
Buildings & Grounds	
Maintenance & Repair	16,764.45
Cleaning Supplies	1,820.29
Vehicle Maintenance	664.50
Fuel	3,527.45
Waste Removal	2,678.95
Pool supplies	3,142.75
New Construction	37,107.77
Building & Grounds - other	<u>330.19</u>
Total Buildings & Grounds	66,036.35
Food Services Expenses	
Food - program related	52,402.78
Supplies	2,996.94
Equipment	843.54
Special Dinners - non program	4,371.67
Rental Meals	7,719.11
Food Services Expenses - other	<u>298.73</u>
Total Food Services Expenses	68,632.77
Auxiliary Program Expenses	
Snak Shak Expense	3,493.23
Gift Shop Expense	4,798.11
Horsemanship Expense	10,549.99
Camper Picture Expense	1,688.50
Craft Expense	<u>199.74</u>
Auxiliary Program Expense	<u>20,729.30</u>
Total Expense	<u>397,264.07</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>(10,846.53)</u>
Net Income	<u><u>(10,846.53)</u></u>



V.V. Camper - "Military Kid" interviewed by Channel 69

## **Report of the Board of Communications**

*For the Word of God is living and active.  
Sharper than any double-edged sword . . .  
Hebrews 4:12*

The writer of *Hebrews* understood the power of God's Word. Truly it digs into the deepest recesses of one's spiritual heart and soul. The Board of Communication understands its role in the propagation of that Word from the position of being a BFC Board. Most of our materials are a response of how that Word is interpreted and understood in our faith tradition (*Faith & Order, Articles of Faith, Biblical Principles for Living*). We also produce words that inform, encourage, uplift and challenge (*Fellowship News*). And, with our website, we disseminate information helpful to those seeking that Word or portraying it.

More specifically here is what the Board of Communication has been doing:

- *Fellowship News*, in its 42<sup>nd</sup> year of operation, is edited by Carol Snyder. Approximately 5000 copies of each of the eleven issues are distributed annually to our constituents via the churches.
- The *Faith & Order* was reprinted in 2006. Revision pages will be produced until it is deemed necessary by Annual Conference for another reprinting.
- Approximately 800 copies of the 2007 *Yearbook* were sold.
- A CD was produced containing the *Faith & Order* plus the 2007 *Yearbook* and several others *Yearbooks*.
- The Board continues to maintain a supply of materials needed by our churches such as booklets, attendance cards and certificates.
- Our website - [www.bfc.org](http://www.bfc.org) continues to draw attention by those seeking information about the BFC (average of 52 visits each day).
- Yahoo-Groups Email - keeping pastors and delegates informed with announcements and other pertinent information.

We thank those who have volunteered and assisted the Board of Communications this past year: Rachel Anderson (Treasurer), Carol Snyder (Editor), Scott Ott (Webservant) and Scott and Roy Hertzog for their work with the Yahoo-group. Thanks also to the many who submitted articles for the *Fellowship News*.

At the last Annual Conference we presented a new logo to the conference. Available at this Annual Conference will be printed material explaining the use of the logo. Copies of the logo, as well as the guidelines and video explaining the logo will be on the annual CD which also contains the updated *Faith & Order* and 2008 *Yearbook*. We hope to have this CD available by June.

We are always happy that service organizations are willing to come to each Annual Conference. Vendors make a donation to the *Yearbook* and are given an ad in the *Yearbook* as a thanks. Sponsors for the *Fellowship News* would be greatly appreciated and would help underwrite the cost of the *Fellowship News*. If you know of businesses that might benefit from this opportunity, please let us know.

It is important that communication continue between us, therefore the following emails, addresses, and phone numbers are provided.

**Bills and orders should be sent to the following address:**

Board of Communications, 12 Pinebrook Road, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

Dan Allen, [ebfc@ptd.net](mailto:ebfc@ptd.net)

***Fellowship News*—articles and questions about editorial policy:**

Carol Z. Snyder, 3091 York Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325, 717-337-3408;

[ccsnyder@supernet.com](mailto:ccsnyder@supernet.com)

**Billing of Accounts**

Rachel Kistler Anderson, [rkistler@enter.net](mailto:rkistler@enter.net)

**Webservant**

Scott Ott, 7572 Sigmund Rd., Zionsville, PA 18092,

[webservant@bfc.org](mailto:webservant@bfc.org)

or [www.bfc.org](http://www.bfc.org).

**Information for Pastor / Delegates - Yahoo-Groups**

Just Pastor – [BFC-Pastors@yahoogleroups.com](mailto:BFC-Pastors@yahoogleroups.com)

Pastors and Delegates – [BFC-AC@yahoogleroups.com](mailto:BFC-AC@yahoogleroups.com)

The Board presents the following for your prayerful consideration:

1. **Resolved**, that the cost of the 2008 Yearbook be \$9.00 per copy.
2. **Resolved**, that a contribution of three hundred fifty dollars (\$350.) for the conference year 2008 be given to the Board of Communications from each agency to help underwrite the cost of printing and distributing the Fellowship News. Payments are to be made to the Board of Communications by December 31, 2008
3. **Resolved**, that \$1.85 per member of the Bible Fellowship Church for 2008 be forwarded to the Board of Communications from each church to help underwrite the cost of printing and distributing the Fellowship News. Payments are to be made to the Board of Communications at the 125th Annual Conference.
4. **Resolved**, that Carol Snyder be ratified as the Editor of Fellowship News for a three year term.

**Board of Communications:** Daniel P. Allen, Chairman; Allan R. Vivona, Secretary; Rachel Anderson, Business Manager; Scott G. Ott, Webservant; Carol Z. Snyder, *Fellowship News* Editor; Byron Barnshaw, Ralph E. Ritter; Clyde W. Snyder.



**Figure 42** Annual Conference Pages (L to R)

Row 1: Mark Evans, Mark Bickel, Scott Kappes

Row 2: Ben Armstrong, Sid Fields, John LoRusso, Joshua Miller

Row 3: Keith Long, Tim Hogan, Josh Allen

Row 4: Ray Cole, Daniel Williams, Colby Weinhofer

## Financial Report

December 31, 2006 to December 31, 2007

Balance, December 31, 2006		\$ 5,029.57
Receipts:		
From Administrative Budget	5,000.00	
From Boards & Committees (2006)	975.00	
From Boards & Committees (2007)	975.00	
From Churches - <i>Fellowship News</i>	11,490.75	
<i>Yearbook</i> Sales	5,474.00	
<i>Faith &amp; Order</i>	1,872.50	
Church Supplies	150.50	
Shipping	24.54	
<i>Yearbook</i> Sponsors/Vendors	710.00	
Refund 2006 Abridged <i>F&amp;O</i>	**(465.00)	
Bank Adjustment	75.01	
Interest Received	<u>5.08</u>	
Total Receipts		26,287.37
Expenditures:		
<i>Fellowship News</i> :		
Design & Layout	2,300.00	
Printing & Mailing	12,653.73	
Editor's Honorarium	1,600.00	
Annual Conference Expense	300.00	
Board Expense	1,467.37	
<i>Yearbook</i> Expense	6,248.01	
Conference Expense	350.00	
Web Source	504.45	
David Snyder Memorial Fund	100.00	
Refund <i>Yearbook</i> Cost (1)	8.50	
Refund 2006 Abridged <i>F&amp;O</i>	111.00	
Total Expenses		<u>25,643.06</u>
Balance, December 31, 2007		<u><u>\$ 5,673.88</u></u>

\*\* Reduced 2007 supply orders wherever applicable

Board of Communications funds held in Wachovia Bank, Camp Hill, PA.

Books were reviewed and approved by Bea Roth

## Budget - 2007

### Receipts

Administrative Budget	5,000
Boards and Committees	1,625
Churches	14,000
<i>Yearbook</i> Sales	6,000
<i>Yearbook/Fellowship News</i> Sponsors	800
<i>Faith &amp; Order</i> / "Articles of Faith"	3,500
CD & Supplies	400
Church Supplies	400
Shipping	80
Miscellaneous	200
Interest	10
Promotional Products	<u>850</u>
Total Receipts	32,865

### Expenses

<i>Fellowship News</i> :	
Layout & Design	2,650
Printing & Mailing	13,500
Editor's Honorarium	1,750
Proof Reading	350
Annual Conference Expense	350
Board Expense	1,500
<i>Faith &amp; Order</i> Update	2,365.00
<i>Yearbooks</i> Costs	6,500
Business Manager's Expenses	100
CD & Supplies	400
Church Supplies	500
Web Page Expense	600
Logo Development	<u>2,300</u>
Total Expenses	32,865



***New Church Facility***

Faith BFC of Holmes, NY, moved and became  
New Life, Carmel, NY



## *Report of the Board of Christian Education*

The Board met three times: March, June and September of 2007. This year was a year of major transition for the board. We had good discussions regarding our current role as a committee of the BFC. It was discussed that over the last year or so, many of our “duties” were eliminated (PED, big event teacher training, curriculum for the BPLs) because they were completed, or have run their course.

A new course was set to develop a site on the web devoted for BFC Christian education. Scott G. Ott made an introductory presentation of this website at annual conference and it was well-received. Preliminary plans for the website will include three categories of lists/links:

1. Static link of resources
2. Courses and sermons (interactive learning)
3. On-going dialogue

Much more work remains not only to develop this website plan but to continue to discuss how best we can carry out the responsibilities of this board as described in the *Faith & Order*.

**Board of Christian Education:** Michael J. Tannous, Chairman; Nancy A. Mertus, Secretary; Kevin W. Kirkpatrick, Treasurer; David Eisenhower, Michael Herb, Scott G. Ott, John C. Studenroth, Eric R. North, Lou Prontnicki, Dick Vroman, James A. Wickstead



*Army Chaplain  
Col. David Jones*

## Christian Education Financial Statement

Opening Balance - January 1, 2007		\$ 12,185.71
<b>Income</b>		
Church Contributions	3,400.40	
Interest	<u>55.95</u>	
Total Income	3,456.35	3,456.35
<b>Expenditures</b>		
Committee Expenses	139.60	
Bank Account Charges	<u>24.00</u>	
Total Expenses	163.60	<u>163.60</u>
Ending Balance		\$ 15,478.46

Funds held at Blue Ball National Bank  
Report reviewed by Diane Kirkpatrick



**Figure 46**      *BFC Agency Leaders (L to R)*  
*Row 1: Mark Morrison (Church Extension), LeRoy Heller (Homes)*  
*Row 2: Scott Ott (Victory Valley), David Gundrum (Church Extension),*  
*Dana Weller (Missions)*  
*Row 3: Don Kuntzman (Missions), Raymond Bertolet (Church Extension),*  
*Daniel Allen (Pinebrook)*

## ***Report of the Board of Youth & Young Adults***

This year, the full board met four times to do its work. The board is a joy to be on because the members genuinely like one another and are willing to put up with the likes of me, the secretary. It may be oxymoronic, but this is a “Fun Board”.

The major effort for the board each year is Sno-Glo. This year, there were almost 1200 people (most of whom were not teens or young people, but students). This year, the first week was given over to combined (grades 7-12) the second to senior high students and the third to junior high students. Billy Dunn was the speaker. Danny Oertli was the worship leader. When one considers all those who played significant parts, perhaps there were one hundred others.

Each year we give out evaluations (something that makes board member Clyde Bomgardner’s heart overflow with joy) so that we can make Sno-Glo as spiritually effective as possible, and as much fun as we can. We pore over these to try to discover what will work the best and have the best everlasting results. This year’s evaluations were exceptionally good, but still we looked for ways to improve. Suggestions are treated seriously and often they are put into practice.

This year 37 people publicly indicated that they had put their trust in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord at the three Sno-Glo retreats. The *Articles of Faith* indicate three purposes that we are to strive for: worship, edification and evangelism. These are hard to balance in church life, and dealing with over a thousand adolescents and making that balance is certainly a challenge. But this is what we are called to do and you may be sure we are trying with all our hearts.

We cooperated with Pinebrook Bible Conference on a Young Adults Conference on February 15-17, 2008. This retreat attracted about 30 young adults. Pastor Steve Cornell, Millersville Bible Church, was the speaker and worship was led by Amy Courts. Our Young Adults Committee is going to put a strong effort on next year’s retreat. Also our Leadership Committee has been working with Pinebrook Bible Conference for a Youth Leaders Conference this spring.

**Board of Youth and Young Adults:** Ronald L. Kohl, Chairman; Andrew T. Crossgrove, Vice Chairman; John C. Vandegriff, Jr., Secretary; Clyde D. Bomgardner, Treasurer; Mark E. Barninger, Mark Evans, Regina A. Gotchel, Lisa F. Kellerman, Dorothy L. Ruch.

## Financial Report

2007

Balance, January 1, 2007		\$ 28,034.92
Revenues & Support		
Sno-Glo 2007	\$ 91,413.00	
Sno-Glo 2008 (Deposit)	27,006.00	
Church contributions	<u>4,062.93</u>	
Total Revenue		122,481.93
Expenditures		
Sno-Glo 2007	115,401.49	
Administrative Assistant	1,400.00	
Administrative Assistant	1,125.00	
Committee Expenses	275.92	
Postage and supplies	198.40	
Sno-Glo 2008 Deposit	4,628.24	
Misc.	<u>408.50</u>	
Total Expenditures		<u>123,437.55</u>
Total Assets of the BYYA - 12/31/07		(955.62)
Balance, December 31, 2007		27,079.30
Adjustment		<u>(0.60)</u>
Closing Balance, December 31, 2008		<u><u>\$ 27,078.70</u></u>
Account held at Sovereign Bank		
Accounts reviewed by Linda Salzman		

## ***Report of the Board of Higher Education***

During the past year, the Board of Higher Education (BHE) met one time. The BHE continues to oversee the work of the Pinebrook Educational Foundation (PEF), and to consider how else it might foster higher education in the BFC.

### **The Pinebrook Educational Foundation**

The Board of Directors of the PEF for the past year was as follows:

Term expiring in 2010:	Raymond R. Dotts Jay H. Fasnacht
Term expiring in 2009:	Gary E. Karch Karen Stull
Term expiring in 2008:	Stephen C. Cassel Judith Rychnovsky

The report of the PEF is appended to the report of the BHE

**Resolved**, that the Annual Conference ratify the election to the Pinebrook Educational Foundation of Stephen C. Cassel and Judith Rychnovsky for terms to end in 2011.

### **Other Ways of Promoting Higher Education in the BFC**

The topic of our meeting this past year has been whether the BHE has any purpose for existence any more (other than overseeing the PEF), and whether we should continue or request that the BHE be dissolved and the oversight of the PEF be turned over to another agency. We submit the following resolution to Annual Conference for its action:

**Whereas**, the BHE has found limited opportunities in recent years to provide services according to its stated purpose except for its supervision of the PEF; therefore be it **Resolved**, that the 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference dissolve the BHE and transfer oversight of the PEF to the BFC Board of

Directors to be governed according to Section 512-5.7 (Pinebrook Educational Foundation) of the BFC *Faith & Order*.

In light of the above motion to Annual Conference, we would also recommend that Steven C. Cassel be re-elected for only a one-year term to the BHE until the dissolution can be adopted at second reading by the 126<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and that the board position that was recently occupied by Billy Dunn remain unfilled.

**Board of Higher Education:** Ralph E. Ritter, Chairman; Raymond R. Dotts, Vice-chairman; Alan H. Russell, Secretary; Charles A. Bloomfield; David Bossard; Stephen C. Cassel.

**PINEBROOK EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION**  
2007 Annual Report  
To the Board of Higher Education

The Board of Directors of the Pinebrook Educational Foundation met three times in 2007. The Foundation received gifts totaling \$2,600 in 2007.

Significant Board actions are described below:

1. Issued scholarship grants totaling \$7,500 as follows:
  - a. \$500 to Jeffrey Cole from the Ungerer Memorial Fund. Jeffrey attends Lancaster Bible College.
  - b. \$1,000 to Alan G. Miller from the Ziegler Memorial Fund. Alan is enrolled in a Doctoral Program at Baptist Bible Seminary.
  - c. \$1,000 to Mark Bickel from the Reverend and Mrs. R. C. Reichenbach Scholarship Fund. Mark attends Biblical Theological Seminary.
  - d. \$1,000 to Krista Lenahan from the Weaver Memorial Scholarship Fund. Krista attends Word of Life Bible Institute.
  - e. \$1,000 to Lindsay North from the Weaver Memorial Scholarship Fund. Lindsay attends Lancaster Bible College.

- f. \$1,000 to Edward Snyder-Ritter from the Berean Scholarship Fund. Edward attends King's College and is a grandson of Clyde Snyder who is a graduate of Berean Bible School.
  - g. \$1,000 to Elizabeth Studenroth from the Weaver Memorial Fund. Elizabeth attends Columbia International University.
  - h. \$1,000 to Austin Tannous from the Ungerer Memorial Scholarship Fund. Austin attends Gordon College.
2. Presented Stephen Cassel and Judith Rychnovsky to the Board of Higher Education for approval as nominees for ratification by Annual Conference to serve on the Board of Pinebrook Educational Foundation for a three-year term ending in 2011.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jay H. Fasnacht, Secretary

### **Pinebrook Education Foundation**

#### Balance Sheet

December 31, 2006 and 2007

<u>Assets</u>	2006	2007
Cash in Lafayette Ambassador Bank	\$ 738	\$ 1,088
Accounts Receivable	2,388	1,048
Investments	<u>196,305</u>	<u>205,171</u>
Total Assets	<u>199,431</u>	<u>207,307</u>

#### LIABILITIES and NET ASSETS

Amount Held for Board of Higher		
Education Expenses	\$ 183	\$ 183
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted	118,048	121,024
Temporarily Restricted	12,212	11,659
Permanently Restricted	68,988	<u>74,441</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>199,248</u>	<u>207,124</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>199,431</u>	<u>207,307</u>



**Statements of Income (Loss) and Changes in Net Assets**  
Years Ended December 31, 2006 and 2007

	2006	2007
Investment Income	\$19,407	\$ 12,776
Contributions Received	3,200	2,600
Scholarships Awarded	<u>(10,500)</u>	<u>( 7,500)</u>
Net Income (Loss)	12,107	7,876
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	<u>187,141</u>	<u>199,248</u>
Net Assets at End of Year	<u><u>199,248</u></u>	<u><u>207,307</u></u>

The Financial Statements of the Pinebrook Educational Foundation were audited by Darian R Allen

**Pinebrook Educational Foundation**  
**Schedule of Investments**  
**December 31, 2006 and 2007**

	2006	2007
IDEARC Common Stock – 5 Shares	\$ 136	\$ ---
Verizon Common Stock – 116 Shares	4,320	5,068
Davis Funds – New York Venture B	16,490	17,310
Vanguard:		
Bond Funds	81,156	83,419
Stock Funds	<u>94,203</u>	<u>99,374</u>
Total Investments	<u><u>196,305</u></u>	<u><u>205,171</u></u>



**Figure 47**

*Delegates Worshipping in Song*

## ***Report of the Strategic Planning Committee***

The Strategic Planning Committee did not meet since the 124<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. The following resolutions included in last year's report of the Strategic Planning Committee were passed at first reading:

**Whereas**, the work of the Strategic Planning Committee as established by the Annual Conference and outlined in the *Faith and Order* of the Bible Fellowship Church will no longer be necessary when the Executive Board and Executive Director are in place, therefore, be it

**Resolved**, that the Strategic Planning Committee as described in Article 512-17 of the *Faith and Order* of the Bible Fellowship Church be dissolved, and further

**Resolved**, that the responsibilities for strategic planning now be cared for by the Executive Board and Executive Director of the BFC, and further

**Resolved**, that Article 512-17 as well as other references to the Strategic Planning Committee be deleted from the *Faith and Order*.

(First Reading)

If the 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference votes positively on recommendations regarding the establishment of an Executive Board and Executive Director, we ask that the before-mentioned resolutions be presented for approval at second reading. We believe that the Steering Committee preparing for the establishment of the Executive Board and Executive Director can and should adequately do the work of Strategic Planning. Therefore, the Strategic Planning Committee will no longer function.

**Strategic Planning Committee:** Dana E. Weller, Chairman; Richard T. Paashaus, Secretary; Robert T. Evans, Elliot H. Ramos, Richard E. Taylor, Robert Vaughn, Robert H. Zentz



*Figure 48 Son & Father: Steven & Daniel Ziegler*



*Figure 49 Retired Missionaries - David & Georgina Solt*

## ***Report of the Board of Pensions***

### **2007 Review and Status** (*figures rounded for simplicity*):

The total of Ministers' Retirement Fund (MRF) annuity payments to beneficiaries in 2007 was \$211,300 (compared to \$215,900 in 2006 and \$208,300 in 2005): See Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements. This is the first year that the total disbursements have declined. There are 8 future beneficiaries of the MRF, the youngest of which will begin receiving benefits at age 65 in the year 2013. There was one beneficiary who went home to the Lord in 2007. Based on the current mortality assumptions, the final year of MRF payments to beneficiaries is projected to be 2036. Between now and then, it is estimated that the MRF will distribute future benefits totaling nearly \$3,500,000. The Present Value lump sum cost of funding these future annual benefits is \$2,090,000. During 2007, the Net Assets in the MRF continued to fall as expected, and are now (\$90,300), as illustrated on the Balance Sheet. Therefore, the present value shortfall is approximately \$2,180,000, which is being funded by contributions from the Administrative Budget and the churches. To provide future retirement benefits for current pastors, the *Faith & Order* requires churches to contribute to each pastor's individual 403(b) account (the Ministers Annuity Fund, or MAF) at a minimum rate of 3% of Schedule SE compensation (4% if the pastor is also making voluntary contributions). If you are a pastor and your church is not making their contribution to your 403(b) plan, contact the Secretary of the Board, Keith Plows, at P.O. Box 323, 228 Hope Street, Stockertown, PA 18083.

### **Interest Bearing Notes:**

As approved by the 119th Annual Conference (April, 2002), the Board of Pensions began to issue interest bearing notes in 2003 to cover the near-term liquidity shortage of the MRF. In 2007, \$40,000 of Notes were issued (in 2006, no Notes were issued). The total of Notes outstanding is \$130,000. PTL: Based on the current projection, the Board would need to issue only \$25,000 of Notes during the next 4 years (2008

through 2011). This is a significant improvement from last year's projection calling for \$160,000 worth of Notes during those years. The Notes have a 5-year maturity, and carry an interest rate equal to the yield on the 5-year US Treasury Note at date of issue, plus 2.5%. In order to meet the liquidity needs of the Ministers' Retirement Fund for 2008 through 2011, **IT IS CRITICAL** that the agencies and churches support the issuance of the Notes. Otherwise, the BFC will need to arrange for commercial loans through their banking relationships, at substantially higher cost to the Board of Pensions. If an agency or church has long-term investment assets (legacies, endowment funds, building funds, etc) currently invested in money market funds, CDs or bonds, prayerful and serious consideration should be given to redirecting a portion of those assets to the Board of Pension Notes. Agencies and churches that may be interested in subscribing to the **2008 or 2009 Notes** offering should contact Rick Volpe via e-mail at rick@assetplanningservices.com. Subscription requests will be first come, first served, with the Agencies having priority.

#### **Annual Funding:**

PTL: Based on the current projection, future long-term funding requirements by the churches and Conference have been reduced (compared to prior years' reports) while still arriving at a "soft landing" in 2036. The Board of Pensions is requesting a contribution from the Administrative Budget in the amount of \$69,000 for 2009, and \$72,000 for 2010. As projected for the past several years, the near-term contribution rate for churches will increase in 2009 to \$1,000 per church plus \$10.00 per member for calendar years 2009 through 2011. Long-term projected contributions from the Churches and the Administrative Budget are shown in the accompanying table labeled "Annual Contribution Data & Assumptions".

#### **Planned Giving:**

Early in 2008, the Board received notice that it will receive a bequest from the estate of a BFC member that may eliminate the need to issue any Notes in 2008. This bequest will further improve the current projection, and will be illustrated in next year's report. The Board of Pensions urges other members of the BFC to consider including the MRF in their estate planning arrangements.

The simplest and most tax efficient method would be to name the MRF as a contingent or primary beneficiary (for married or singles, respectively) of a portion of an IRA or 403(b) account. This arrangement can be adjusted or revoked at any time, and does not involve changing one's Will. For more information, please contact the Board at P.O. Box 148, Harleysville, PA 19438 or e-mail to Rick Volpe at [rick@assetplanningservices.com](mailto:rick@assetplanningservices.com).

The Board of Pensions recommends the following resolutions to Annual Conference:

1. **Whereas**, the MRF annuity rate for 2008 is \$217 per year of service, and  
**Whereas**, partial cost-of-living adjustments are part of the long-term phase out strategy of the MRF, therefore be it  
**Resolved**, that the MRF annuity rate for calendar year 2009 be \$218 per year of service.
  
2. **Whereas**, starting in calendar year 2006, the per church and per member contribution rates to the MRF have been \$900 / \$9.00 respectively, and  
**Whereas**, periodic inflation and mortality adjustments to the contribution rates have been part of the long-term MRF strategy, therefore be it  
**Resolved**, that beginning in calendar year 2009, the per church and per member contribution rates to the MRF be \$1,000 / \$10.00 respectively.
  
3. **Whereas**, the Department of Church Extension Ministries is investigating church plant affiliations outside of the United States, and  
**Whereas**, some of these affiliations may be with established churches that could become recognized churches of the BFC as early as 2008, and  
**Whereas**, for the first 5 years after their admission to the BFC, newly recognized churches are required to support the MRF at 50% of the normal contribution rate, and

**Whereas**, the assessment could be an undue and disproportionate burden on these non-American churches,  
**Resolved**, that these churches be exempt from supporting the MRF until the Board of Pensions, in conjunction with Church Extension Ministries, investigate an appropriate contribution rate for presentation to the 126th Annual Conference in 2009.

Resolution Relating to Rental/Housing Allowances for Retired or Disabled Ministers of this Conference **for Calendar Year 2009**

4. **Whereas**, the religious denomination known as The Bible Fellowship Church has and functions through Ministers of the Gospel who are duly ordained or licensed; and  
**Whereas**, the practice of The Bible Fellowship Church is to provide a parsonage or a rental allowance as part of the gross compensation for each of its active ordained or licensed ministers; and  
**Whereas**, pensions paid to retired and disabled ordained or licensed ministers of The Bible Fellowship Church are considered as deferred compensation and are paid to said retired and disabled ordained or licensed ministers in consideration of previous, active service; and  
**Whereas**, the Internal Revenue Service has recognized that The Bible Fellowship Church is the appropriate organization to designate a housing/rental allowance for retired and disabled ordained or licensed ministers who are members of this Conference;  
**Resolved**,
1. An amount equal to 100% of the pension payments received during the year of **2009** be and is hereby designated as a rental/housing allowance for each retired and disabled ordained or licensed minister of The Bible Fellowship Church who is or was a member of the Bible Fellowship Church Minister's Retirement Fund.
  2. This rental/housing allowance shall apply to each retired and disabled ordained or licensed minister who has been granted the retired relationship or placed on disability leave by the Bible Fellowship Annual Conference and whose name and

relationship to the conference is recorded in the *Yearbook* of the Annual Conference of the Bible Fellowship Church and in other appropriate records maintained by the conference.

3. The pension payment to which this rental/housing allowance applies shall be the pension payment resulting from all service of such retired or disabled ordained or licensed minister from all employment by any local church, Annual Conference or institution of The Bible Fellowship Church or of any former denomination that is now a part of The Bible Fellowship Church, or from any other employer who employed the minister to perform services related to the ministry and who elected to make contributions to the pension funds of The Bible Fellowship Church for such retired minister's pension.

Note: The rental/housing allowance which may be excluded from a minister's gross income is limited to the lesser of (1) the amount of the rental/housing allowance designated by the minister's employer or other appropriate body, (2) the amount actually expended by the minister to provide his or her housing, or (3) the legally-determined fair rental value of the parsonage or other housing provided. As specified in Rev. Rul. 71-290 C.B. 92, "the only amount that will qualify for exclusion under section 107(2) of the Code as a 'rental allowance' is an amount equal to the fair rental value of the home, including furnishings and appurtenances such as a garage, plus the cost of utilities."

**Board of Pensions:** David J. Watkins, Chairman; Keith E. Plows, Secretary; Jay Fastnacht, Robert Gaugler, Ellis Hostetter, Clyde D. Bomgardner, Jr, David Schoen, Thomas P. Shorb, Richard J. Volpe.

### **Board of Pensions Balance Sheet**

Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2007

	FYE 12/31/06	FYE 12/31/07
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash: Harleysville N. B. Acct. #xxxxx5680	\$ 17,519.02	\$ 18,897.83
Money Market Funds Vanguard Acct. #xxxxx0164	22,364.05	15,384.45



Mutual Funds	0.00	0.00
Bequest Receivable	0.00	20,000.00
Receivables <sup>1</sup>	2,169.00	10,199.47
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 42,052.07</b>	<b>\$ 64,481.95</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
BOP Notes (Face Amount)	(90,000.00)	(130,000.00)
BOP Notes (accrued interest)	<u>(2,945.26)</u>	<u>(4,747.26)</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ (50,893.19)</b>	<b>\$ (70,265.51)</b>

Footnotes: Note 1: Receivables represent the amount owed to the MRF through the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter ending December, 2007. Net Assets are projected to decline until 2014 to a point of approximately negative \$135,000. However, liquidity will be maintained by the issuance of interest bearing notes.

## Board of Pensions Statement of Cash Receipts & Disbursements

Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2007

	FYE 12/31/06	FYE 12/31/07
<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
Administrative Budget	\$ 60,000.00	\$ 62,825.00
Contributions from Churches	112,605.25 <sup>1</sup>	130,352.33 <sup>1</sup>
Payments from Board of Missions	32,982.24 <sup>2</sup>	32,659.44 <sup>2</sup>
Gifts and Bequests	-	-
Total Receipts	\$ 205,587.49	\$ 225,836.77
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>		
Retirement Payments:		
Regular	\$ 215,885.94 <sup>3</sup>	\$ 211,278.61 <sup>3</sup>
Board of Missions	32,370.48 <sup>2</sup>	32,659.44 <sup>2</sup>
Administrative Expenses	1,786.00 <sup>4</sup>	1,436.94 <sup>4</sup>
Interest paid on		
BOP Notes outstanding	5,017.11 <sup>5</sup>	5,050.50 <sup>5</sup>
Total Disbursements	<u>\$ 255,059.53</u>	<u>\$ 250,425.49</u>
<b>NET</b>	<b>\$ (49,472.04)</b>	<b>\$ (24,588.72)</b>

Footnotes: Note 1: This reflects membership contributions for balances due for 2006, plus contributions during 2007. Note 2: As a service to the Board of Missions, the Board of Pensions makes payments to retired missionaries. Note 3: This is the total of the MRF annuity payments made to retirees for the year. Note 4: Administrative Expenses are paid directly from the Board of Pensions account. Note 5: Interest expenses for the Notes will climb annually as additional Notes are issued.

Audited by: Rick Volpe, Asset Planning Services, LTD.

## BFC Ministers' Retirement Fund Projections

Status as of December 31, 2007

### Starting Data & Assumptions

Total MRF Assets as of 12/31/07 (see Balance Sheet)	64,482
Benefits begin at Normal Retirement Age	65
Number of Current / Future / Total Beneficiaries	34 / 8 / 42
MRF Annuity Annual Payout Rate 2008 / 2009	217 / 218
Inflation / Interest Rate Assumption	3.0% / 6.0%
Cost of Living Gradual Phaseout (COLA): 2006-2010, 20%, 0% thereafter	
Assumed Rate for Interest Bearing Notes	6.50% (5-year Treasury Note, plus 2.5%)
Total amount of Notes: Currently outstanding / Yet to be issues	130,000 / 30,000

### Annual Contribution Data & Assumptions

Year	Per Mem.	Admin Budget	Year	Per Mem.	Admin Budget	
2008	9.00	66,000	2023	4.00	71,000	Basic Church Contribution Rate per Member times 100 BFC members as of 12/31/2006 7,575 Annual Membership Growth 1% (historical avg 1.5% since 1987)
2009	10.00	69,000	2024	4.00	66,000	
2010	10.00	72,000	2025		61,000	
2011	10.00	75,000	2026		56,000	
2012	10.00	77,000	2027		51,000	
2013	11.00	79,000	2028		47,000	
2014	11.00	81,000	2029		43,000	
2015	11.00	83,000	2030		40,000	
2016	10.00	85,000	2031		37,000	
2017	10.00	87,000	2032		35,000	
2018	9.00	89,000	2033		33,000	
2019	9.00	91,000	2034		31,000	
2020	4.00	86,000	2035		29,000	
2021	4.00	81,000				
2022	4.00	76,000				

2008 Church Contribution Example		
Members	150	
times Rate per Mem.	9.00	
equals	1,350	
plus Basic Contribution	900	
equals Total	2,250	
Important Note!!		
For 2009, \$10.00 per mem. plus \$1,000		

The results of these assumptions can be seen on the accompanying graph titled "Long-Term Projection of Account Balances". There is enough long-term cash flow from the churches and from the Administrative Budget to provide all of the benefit payments to the retirees. The liquidity shortage from 2008 to 2011 will be covered by issuing interest bearing notes on a periodic basis, as approved at Annual Conference in 2002. This will "bridge" the near-term liquidity shortfall. Repayments are projected to begin in the year 2015 and be complete by 2019.

The ASSUMPTIONS shown above reflect the current strategy of the Board of Pensions. Annual adjustments will be made according to actual rates of inflation and investment return, as well as actual mortality.

Chart

## *Report of the Historical Society*

On September 24, 1858, several men gathered at the home of David Musselman near the town of Zionsville, PA. They had come to talk about what they should do. Their church did not share their concerns. Their families and friends had begun to meet for prayer for those who lived around them. They wanted their neighbors to submit to Jesus and be born again. But their church was not sure. They tended to be enthusiastic in their prayer meetings. They were full of zeal about sharing the gospel and would share it with anyone. The new converts threatened the stability of the church. Finally, their church had enough and asked them to give it up or at least admit the Bible did not teach what they were doing.

And so they had come to the home of David Musselman. On that September day in 1858, they decided to leave their church and work together to pray for the people around them and preach the gospel wherever they could find someone to listen. Out of that meeting came our church and its values. From their desires came a church that believed it should listen to the word of God and bring the good news of God to the world. They first called themselves Evangelical Mennonites. Later, after joining with others of like mind, they became the Mennonite Brethren in Christ. And later, they chose the name, Bible Fellowship Church.

We celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this significant meeting during this conference year. Our churches were birthed there. Our spiritual DNA was formed there. Our values were molded there. Their concerns, faithful adherence to the word of God and gospel preaching, are still at the core of what it is to be the BFC. After 150 years, these things matter.

If this anniversary celebrates only the past, it is a sad celebration. With this anniversary, we celebrate the future. The past explains how we got here. The future is what we do and where we are going. The world needs churches that faithfully obey God's word and consistently preach the gospel. The BFC is committed to being one of those churches.

The role of the Historical Committee is not to be the anchor that holds us to the past but to be the springboard that launches us into the future. By preserving the materials that illuminate our past,

we are providing understanding that will guide into the future. What we will be will grow out of what we are. What we are has grown out of what we were.

Many of the resources that document our history are available in our on-line library ([www.BFCHistory.org](http://www.BFCHistory.org)). Here you will find nearly a complete set of the minutes of Annual Conference. You will find a collection of papers presented at the Historical Society over the last 24- years. You will find selected church histories that open the story of how God is building the church through us. You will find collections of data that help to show how our church progressed in carrying out its task. And you will find much more if you are looking for our story. Take a tour of the library and discover the resources that might help you to better understand how God will use you and your church.

The Historical Committee maintains its archival collection in Wallingford, PA. The collection includes, books, documents, photographs, denominational publications and many other materials that preserve the story of our journey which are not available on line. You are invited to make use of these archives.

Since 1983, the Historical Society of the BFC has been holding annual meetings. This year's Society meeting was held in Wallingford, PA, on October 27, 2007. Carl C. Cassel presented a paper on his grandfather, E. N. Cassel, which documented his theological concerns through an examination of his preaching notes and themes. Richard E. Taylor made a presentation on the history of the Chester / Wallingford congregation which endeavored to present the methodology followed by the Gospel Heralds in their church planting. Next year's meeting will be held on Saturday, October 25, 2008, at the Harrisburg Church and will include presentations on the history of the Harrisburg Church and the significance of the music we used in our worship.

The Historical Committee reminds each of our churches and agencies, as well as our boards and committees, that past records and minutes would be better kept if they were placed for preservation in the archives.

The Historical Committee recommends the following resolutions:

**Whereas**, during this conference year we will celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the meeting which launched the Bible Fellowship Church, and

**Whereas**, this anniversary should be a time of joy and gratitude for what God has done for us and through us, therefore, be it

**Resolved**, that all Bible Fellowship Churches be encouraged to hold a service of worship to celebrate this 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and further

**Resolved**, that all Bible Fellowship Churches be encouraged to show the video, "According to the Holy Spirit," to their congregations to promote an understanding of our heritage and an appreciation of our values, and further

**Resolved**, that the theme of the 126<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference be a celebration of this 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

**Historical Committee**: Jill Davidson , Chairperson; Richard E. Taylor, Secretary, Archivist; James A. Beil, Carl C. Cassel, Ronald W. Hoyle, Harold P. Shelly.

### **Historical Society Financial Report**

January 1 - December 31, 2007

Balance - 12/31/2007		\$ 4,133.03
Receipts		
Sales	\$ 121.00	
BFC Allowance	<u>1,000.00</u>	
	1,121.00	<u>1,121.00</u>
		<u>5,254.03</u>
Expenses		
Data Entry	147.00	
Website	49.50	
Domain Name	16.42	
Domain Name	25.00	
Archive Maintenance	500.00	
Mileage	23.76	
Membership - LMHS	<u>35.00</u>	
	<u>796.68</u>	<u>796.68</u>
Balance 12/31/2007		4,457.35

**Deposits** at Wachovia Bank, Brookhaven, PA

Checking account	2,457.35	
CD	<u>2,000.00</u>	
	4,457.35	

**Funds**

Memorial Funds	965.02	
Operating Funds	<u>3,492.33</u>	
	4,457.35	

Financial report was reviewed by Timothy S. Cowen

## *Report of the Conference Judicatory*

The Conference Judicatory received no communications from any of the churches, agencies, or individuals from the Bible Fellowship Church during the year. Therefore, there was no need to convene the Conference Judicatory.

**Conference Judicatory:** Gregory A. Uhrich, Secretary; James A. Beil, Douglas D. Bowne, Carl C. Cassel, W. Lester Moyer, Calvin T. Reed, Ronald W. Reed, L. James Roberts, Clyde W. Snyder, Dean A. Stortz, Robert H. Zentz.



*Figure 50 High-level Organization  
Chairman Schlonecker & Pastor Tom Shorb*

## ***Report of the Beneficiary Society***

*And this commandment have we from Him,  
that he who loveth God loves his brother also.  
1 John 4:21*

The ministry of the Beneficiary Society of the BFC has been to aid our Pastors, their wives and their families in their hour of need, when our Heavenly Father in His sovereignty calls one of our loved ones home. For many years we have been able to financially aid our members. This year God has again watched over our family. And then in the closing days of the year the call came for one of our beloved retired Pastors, Jansen E. Hartman. With love and our prayers, our Beneficiary Society presented a check to the children to aid in the payment of the funeral expenses.

Also, throughout the year we rejoiced in the fact that we were able to assist our beloved widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Bartron, with a monthly check and will continue to do so through 2008.

The officers of the Society received the resignation of John H. Riggall as an officer of the Society. Philip G. Norris was requested by the officers to fulfill the unexpired term of our Brother Riggall and accepted the office and has served acceptably. At the last annual meeting of the Society, Brother Norris was elected to a three year term. We respectfully request that the members of the Society respond to the 49 years of faithful service that our Brother Riggall has served by a standing "thank you" at one of our sessions of Annual Conference.

The following article which is to replace the present article of the Beneficiary Society in the *Faith & Order* was approved by the members of the Society in their annual meeting in October, 2007.

**Beneficiary Society:** Philip G. Norris, Chairman (3 years); R. C. Reichenbach, Secretary (2 years); LeRoy S. Heller, Treasurer (1 Year)



## **701-1 Beneficiary Society**

**701-1.1 Preamble** The Beneficiary Society of the Bible Fellowship Church is a mutual aid society of all the ordained and/or licensed ministers engaged in the ministries of the *BFC*.

We seek to aid one another in the time of death or when disability may cause one of our brethren to be laid aside. This aid is not only for the minister but extends to his family as well. We suggest that every minister and his wife read the rules and regulations and become aware of their responsibilities and benefits.

### **701-1.2 Organization**

- (1) The Beneficiary Society shall meet at least once a year to transact business relative to the Society. This meeting shall be held at the time of Ministerial Convention.
- (2) The secretary's annual report and the financial report shall be submitted at this meeting.
- (3) At this annual meeting officers shall be elected by and from the members of the Society. They shall be elected for terms of three years. These terms shall be staggered so normally one officer is elected each year. The elected officers shall be privileged to organize as chairman, secretary and treasurer.
- (4) The accounts of the secretary and treasurer shall be audited prior to Annual Conference and reported to the Committee on Auditing of the Annual Conference.
- (5) The officers of the Beneficiary Society shall be authorized to invest the funds of the Beneficiary Society and shall report all investments at the Annual Meeting.
- (6) The officers shall be authorized to conduct all necessary business of the Society throughout the year.
- (7) All three officers' names shall be on record at the financial institutions chosen by the officers. The secretary is authorized to carry out investments and arrange with financial institutions for financial transactions when benefits for members of the society are necessary. If the secretary is unable to carry out his duties, the two remaining officers together are authorized to engage in financial transactions with the financial institutions.

Benefits for members are paid by check, signed by two officers.

### 701-1.3 Rules and Regulations

**Membership.** On becoming licensed as a probationer in the ministry of the *BFC*, one shall become a member of the Beneficiary Society beginning at the succeeding Annual Conference and shall be responsible to pay into the fund. Every probationer/ordained man licensed or ordained by the BFC must be a member of the Beneficiary Society of the BFC, except those designated in the next paragraph.

Only active and retired ministers of the *BFC* can continue to be part of the Society. Ministers of the *BFC* who are working with other Christian ministries are not members of the Beneficiary Society and are not eligible for benefits from the fund; the same applies to ministers on leave of absence.

Ministers receiving Ministers' Retirement Fund benefits, ministers on disability, and ministers under the Ministers' Annuity Fund who have retired at age 65 or later are members of the Society but are exempt from dues. Those who continue or choose to continue serving as Pastors under agencies of the BFC must pay dues. Ministers who continue on active service are exempt from dues after reaching forty years of licensed ministry in the *BFC*.

**Dues.** The dues of all members of the Beneficiary Society shall be set at the annual meeting and shall be paid at Annual Conference. After a Pastor reaches the age of 72 he no longer is expected to pay into the fund of the society. Non-payment by the end of Annual Conference automatically cancels any claims to benefits until payment is received by the secretary.

**Benefits.** Each member of the Society is entitled to death benefits for himself, his wife and his children. Each child is insured until he or she reaches the age of nineteen. These benefits, as recommended by the officers of the Society, are determined by the members of the Society at their annual meeting. Information concerning benefits may be secured from

the secretary at any time during the year. Benefits are subject to annual review.

Current benefits are as follows:

Ministers holding credentials with BFC - \$6,000\*

When the assets of the Society fall below \$110,000, death benefits for the minister revert to \$5,500.

Wives and widows of BFC ministers - \$5,000\*

Children of BFC ministers:

Birth through 3 years of age - \$1,000\*

Age 4-9 - \$1,500\*

Age 10 through 19<sup>th</sup> birth date - \$2,500\*

\*A member must pay into the Beneficiary Society Fund for at least 10 years to receive full benefits. If a member pays into the fund less than 10 years the benefits are as follows:

1-4 years - 1/4 of the prescribed benefits

5-9 years - 1/2 of the prescribed benefits

## **Aid Grants**

(1) Widows. Widows of deceased ministers who have complied with the provisions of the Beneficiary Society (membership, dues) shall receive aid grants beginning at the time of the death of the husband and continuing until she is 65 years of age or until the time of her death or remarriage.

Widows of ministers who were retired and receiving annuities under the MRF benefits or under the MAF at the time of marriage shall not receive aid grants under this legislation.

Widow's aid grants shall be compiled at the rate of \$12.50 for each year that she was the wife of a minister who was in active service, giving his whole time to the ministry in the BFC, but such payments shall not exceed \$500.00 per year. A widow of a minister not receiving aid from MRF or MAF shall not receive less than \$100 per year. These benefits are subject to annual review.

(2) Ministers. A minister who, because of physical illness or disability, finds it necessary to leave the active ministry under

the terms of a leave of absence and who has complied with the provisions of the Beneficiary Society (membership, dues) shall receive aid grants beginning at the time of the severance from the active ministry and continuing until he reaches the age of 65 years, or until the time of his death or severance from membership in a Bible Fellowship Church.

Minister's aid grants shall be compiled at the rate of \$25.00 for each year of active service and shall not exceed \$1,000.00 per year. Benefits are subject to annual review.

No minister shall be eligible for disability benefits from the Beneficiary Society unless he has fulfilled a full-time ministry in the *BFC* for ten years or if he has a gainful occupation. Appeals of exception can be made to the officers of the Beneficiary Society.

**Miscellaneous Rules.** The term of office for officers elected or appointed to this Society shall be for the term designated by our rules for that office or until successors are elected.

Once a member leaves the active ministry of the *BFC* (except for retirement or disability under the Annual Conference rules and regulations), he forfeits all claims upon the fund. This is a mutual aid society and there are no refunds.

If a man has paid into the Beneficiary Society Fund for 30 or more years and leaves the ministry of the *BFC* to labor in a full-time ministry with some other Christian organization, he may, if he desires, continue as a member of the Society by making the regular yearly payments to the fund.

Each probationer/ordained man upon re-entering the membership of the Society must pay an equal amount of money equivalent to the number of years he was licensed up to the present year. This amount will be the total amount that was to be paid for the years that he was not a paying members of the Society.

**Financial Report**  
**January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007**

ASSETS - January 1, 2007	\$ 192,777.63
Receipts	
Dues	\$ 4,750.00
Gifts	50.00
Administrative Budget	<u>500.00</u>
Total Receipts	5,300.00
Investment Income	
Interest -	
Wachovia	10,784.50
Less Accrued Interest Paid	( 12.25)
Gain (Loss) on Securities Sold and Redeemed	<u>- . )</u>
Total Investment Income	<u>10,772.25</u>
	208,849.88
Expenditures	
Board & Secretarial Expenses	339.70
Gifts	335.47
Death Benefits	<u>6,000.00</u>
Total Expenditures	<u>6,675.17</u>
Total Assets - December 31, 2007	<u><u>\$ 202,174.71</u></u>
Checking and Savings Accounts	
Lebanon Val. Farmers Bank - Ck	\$ 1,268.88
Wachovia - Cash & MM 2.00%	<u>5,550.99</u>
Total Checking & Savings Acct.	\$ 6,819.87

Investments - Wachovia	<u>%</u>	<u>Market Value</u>	<u>Cost</u>
FHLMC - 2781 DD	5.50	7,614.00	8,040.00
FHLMC - 2890BB	5.50	2,850.72	3,006.00
FHLMC - 2643EE	5.00	5,291.88	6,000.00
GNMA - 03-81B	5.50	2,799.45	3,000.00
FHLMC - 2724GG	5.50	5,664.36	5,970.00
FHLMC - 2722EE	5.50	9,375.70	10,000.00
GNMA - 04-16EC	5.50	6,373.29	7,000.00
GNMA - 2004-16AE	5.50	921.50	1,006.00
Bank of America - 04-31A4	5.50	3,414.52	4,036.00
FHLMC - 2973CC	5.50	1,889.42	2,026.00
FHLMC - 2946EE	5.50	5,648.52	6,072.00
FHLMC - 2940CC	5.25	8,999.50	10,012.00
MASTR - 04-15A4	5.50	4,656.45	5,289.80

GNMA - 04-41CD	6.00	453.24	483.79
FHLMC - 2875HH	5.50	1,861.96	2,006.00
FHLMC - 2968MM	5.50	4,634.95	5,006.00
FHLMC - 2964GG	5.50	4,646.75	5,006.00
FNMA - 05-27AD	5.50	2,769.51	3,051.00
FHLMC - 2982DD	5.50	7,433.76	8,006.00
FHLMC - 2975DD	5.50	2,776.71	3,006.00
FHLMC - 2991HH	5.00	3,505.16	4,006.00
GSR MTG SECS - 05-5F2A7	5.50	5,945.46	6,006.00
FHLMC - 3022HH	5.50	1,894.10	2,016.00
FHLMC - 3014GG	5.50	12,040.21	13,006.00
FHLMC - 3033WW	5.50	2,831.49	3,036.00
FHLMC - 3040CC	5.50	12,155.65	13,136.00
Countrywide - 05-21A9	5.50	8,117.64	9,073.50
FHLMC - 3063LL	6.00	2,968.68	3,036.00
Countrywide - 05-53T22A4	5.50	1,679.20	1,996.00
Countrywide - 06-64CB1A3	6.00	11,035.18	13,006.00
FHLMC - 3081KK	5.75	2,872.44	3,006.00
FHLMC - 3148BB	6.00	1,872.22	2,006.00
FHLMC - 3158DD	6.00	4,743.15	5,006.00
FHLMC - 3173GG	6.00	2,878.92	2,991.00
Countrywide - 06-24CBA3	6.00	4,387.30	5,006.00
Countrywide - 06-24CBA3	6.00	4,387.30	5,006.00
FHLMC - 2810DK	6.00	954.62	1,003.75
FHLMC - 3047WW	5.75	962.86	996.25
FHLMC - 3333HH	6.00	1,889.98	1,982.50
FHLMC - 3364DD	6.00	989.35	1,003.75
FHLMC - 07-70LN	5.75	<u>949.65</u>	<u>1,007.50</u>
Total Investments		<u>179,136.75</u>	<u>195,354.84</u>
Total Assets - Dec. 31, 2007			<u>\$ 202,174.71</u>

## Notes

1 - Investments are listed at cost or Face Value.

2 - Anticipated income on Wachovia investments for year is \$10,958  
Books reviewed by Ellis Lee Hostetter, CPA. "Audit Letter" available upon request.

## ***Report of the Committee to Examine the Minutes of the 124<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference***

In pursuance of our responsibility to produce accurate minutes of Annual Conference, the committee compares the approved minutes with those published in the *Yearbook* as well as receiving and reviewing suggested corrections to the *Yearbook* submitted during the year. This task is accomplished each year with help from those who take the time to carefully examine the *Yearbook* for errors and omissions. We would particularly like to thank Mildred Musselman of Calvary BFC, Coopersburg, PA for her careful reading and notations on the text.

The following minor corrections should be made to the 2007 official minutes:

- p. 3 In the second paragraph the I should be capitalized in *Rejoice, the Lord Is King* and in the third line of the Report of the Registrar it should read Brian H. Cooper (not Brain).
- p. 8 In the third whereas from the bottom it should read “we believe these are men...”
- p. 10 At the end of the fifth line a semicolon should be inserted after Quakertown, PA and the Report of the Ministerial Candidate Committee starts on page 83 not page 84.
- p. 13 The last report should be the Report of the Executive Director of Church Extension and in the third line of the paragraph the comma after support should be deleted.
- p. 17 In line six of the Report of the Registrar it should read Philip E. Morrison (not Phillip) and “carry the gos” (in line five of the sixth paragraph) should be moved three lines later so it reads “faithfully carry the gospel...”
- p. 29 In 204-1.4 the words describing the work of elders should not be capitalized.
- p. 33 There should be a hyphen in Multi-Staff in the middle of the page where it refers to Report of the Study Committee on Credentials and Multi-Staff Churches.

- p. 50 In 409-1.6 it should read “When the Pastoral Search Committee has completed” (not had)
- p. 52 In second indented paragraph under 409-1.12 delete “provision of housing as agreed upon by you and the church,” since it was not included in the proposal by the committee as recorded on page 104.
- p. 56 Capitalize the p in paragraph in line six of the first paragraph.
- p. 68 In the first whereas, it should say “has begun” instead of “has began.”

The following minor corrections should be made to the remainder of the *Yearbook*:

- xviii Acts should be capitalized in line four of the first indented paragraph in the bottom half of the page.
- p. 71 In the index, the Ministerial Candidate Committee Report begins on page 83 (not page 84)
- p. 78 In the list of Ordained Ministers in Retirement, include G. as Paul Zimmerman’s middle initial.
- p.94-95 Insert “, PA” after Adams County, Bethlehem and Paradise to be consistent.
- p. 103 Delete extra spaces at end of last line on page 103 and fourth line of page 104.
- p. 107 Capitalize p in paragraph in last line of paragraph beginning with “Removal”.
- p. 111 In the Financial Report the 1,926.25 for meals should be in the first column instead of the second column.
- p. 115 In the fifth line of the third paragraph “ful-time” should read “fulltime.”
- p. 118 At the bottom of the page the hyphen should be deleted after 504-3.1.1
- p. 119 At the top of the page the hyphen should be deleted after 504.3.1.2
- p. 121 A parenthesis should be inserted after the 5 under the duties. (5)
- p. 122 There should be a comma instead of a period between City and State in the second line of 702-1.1
- p. 136 In the fourth line of the first paragraph South should be capitalized.
- p. 139 Indent “resources” in the second line under 2. Seminars.



- p. 150 In line seven the Net Excess should read \$102,518.45 not \$1022518.45 and in the third line from the bottom the Cumulative Total Disbursements should read 2,040,608,91 instead of 2,040,608.94
- p. 176 There should be a single line under the 1,000.00 for Logo Development.
- p. 193 In Board of Pensions Balance Sheet and Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements the second column should be FYE 12/31/05 not FYE 2/31/05.
- p. 204 Insert quotation mark before Glen in second line under p. 66.
- p. 215 In the quotation of Romans 1:19 in footnote three it should read “to them” instead of “tot hem”
- p. 221 Sake should not be capitalized in the quotation of Isaiah 43:25 in footnote five.
- p. 222 In footnote 1, 2 Timothy 2:25 should be in parentheses after the quote to be consistent.
- p. 233 There should be a hyphen between Multi and Staff in the title of the report.
- p. 243 Under IV Enrollment, parts b and c are not included in the statistical information.
- p. 257 The BFC under Whitehall, PA should be indented.
- p. 294 The Ministerial Candidate Committee Report begins on page 83.

**Committee to Examine the Minutes of the 124<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference:** Philip G. Norris, Chairman; Gary W. Saggio, Byron Widger.

## ***Report of the Committee on Examination of Minutes of Particular Churches***

The Committee on Examination of Minutes of Particular Churches met on Thursday, March 13, 2008 at Bethel BFC, Emmaus, PA.

The minutes of Particular Churches were examined on the basis of the suggested format for congregational meetings as stated in the *Faith & Order*, Article 403-3 and 403-4.

The Committee communicated with every church reminding the pastor to send a copy of the minutes of all congregational meetings, which shall include the Board of Elders' Report of the Membership and Annual Financial Report to: *Committee on the Examination of Minutes of Particular Churches, C/O Ralph M. Soper, 418 Elm Street, Emmaus, PA 18049.*

The minutes and reports were to arrive no later than March 1, 2008. Several churches did not submit their minutes on time and we would request that you have your congregational meeting early enough to meet this date. Beginning next year (2009), we will be including the names of those Particular Churches who have not submitted their minutes in our report.

The Committee appreciates those churches that used the checklist to make sure they were providing all the necessary information. **Several churches noted on this form where the requested information could be found in the reports. This helped to streamline our work, which was greatly appreciated.** The 2009 checklist will include a place to note this.

We would remind each of the churches again this year of the need to verify evidence of a *financial review* and to provide a report from the Pastoral Relations Committee.

**We more importantly remind each church of the need to include a copy of the signed Elder's Declaration of Agreement with the *Articles of Faith* and a willingness to follow the *Principles of Order of the BFC*. (see *F&O* §401-1.9).**

The committee found no petitions to Annual Conference.

**Committee on the Examination of Minutes of Particular Churches:** Ralph M. Soper, Chairman; Clyde D. Bomgardner, Jr., Secretary; C. Larry Bennett, Louis S. Curcio, Ronald C. Erb, Allan R. Vivona.

## ***Report of the Ministerial Convention Committee***

The annual Ministerial Convention was held on Tuesday and Wednesday, October 2-3, 2007 at Pinebrook Bible Conference Center.

The Conference theme was “*The Emerging Church Conversation.*” Dr. John Franke of Biblical Seminary, Hatfield, PA, presented three thought-provoking sessions on this timely topic: Engaging Postmodern Culture, Creating Christian Community, and Reforming Theology. A fourth session was set aside for question and answers. The sessions were lively and gave opportunity for much-needed dialogue on the topic.

At the business meeting, Timothy J. Schmoyer was elected to serve, replacing Gerald D. Clark whose term expired. We offer our thanks for the faithful service of Brother Clark.

The Committee is constituted as follows:

### **2007 Committee**

Raymond R. Bertolet, Chairman  
Steven J. DelDuco, Secretary  
Gerald D. Clark, Treasurer  
John C. Vandegriff, Jr.  
Philip E. Yerrington  
Ronald C. Mahurin, Advisor

### **2008 Committee**

Raymond R. Bertolet, Chairman  
Steven J. DelDuco, Secretary  
Timothy J. Schmoyer, Treasurer  
John C. Vandegriff, Jr.  
Philip E. Yerrington  
Ronald C. Mahurin, Advisor

Length of terms are as follows:

- 1 year – Raymond R. Bertolet, Philip E. Yerrington
- 2 years – Steven J. DelDuco, John C. Vandegriff, Jr.
- 3 years – Timothy J. Schmoyer

The 2008 Ministerial Convention is scheduled for October 7-8, 2008. The convention theme will be *Engaging Our Jerusalem*. A number of BFC churches will be sharing their outreach strategies. In addition, the Ethnic Church Planting Committee will share how we, as a denomination, might better reach the Hispanic community.

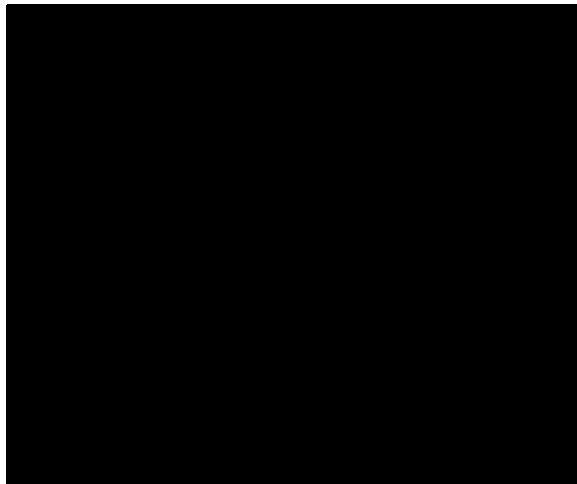
**Ministerial Convention Committee:** Raymond R. Bertolet, Chairman; Steven J. DelDuco, Secretary; Timothy J. Schmoyer, Treasurer; John C. Vandegriff, Jr., Philip E. Yerrington, Ronald C. Mahurin, Advisor.

**Ministerial Convention  
Balance Sheet**

December 31, 2007

Beginning Balance, Fall 2006	\$11.05
Income:	
BFC Annual Budget	1,000.00
Registration Fees	<u>4,847.50</u>
Total	5,858.55
Expenses:	
Pinebrook	4,437.00
Honorarium (Franke & Jessie Seneca)	1,100.00
Reimbursements (Mileage, Paper & Postage)	<u>165.10</u>
Total	5,702.10
Ending Balance 2007	\$ 156.45

Funds on deposit with Citizens Bank.



*Pinebrook Directors  
Bert Brosius, Alva Cassel, Nate Brosius,  
David E. Thomann and present director, Dan Allen*

## ***Report of Pinebrook Bible Conference***

*Without a vision the people perish.  
Proverbs 29:18a (KJV)*

The above Proverb has been misinterpreted by motivational speakers, politicians and preachers and it is about to be done so again within this report. Both the New International and English Standard Versions rightly portray this *vision* as *revelation* or *prophetic vision*, respectively. Without the revelation of God's Word there is no controlling authority and *the people [will] cast off restraint*. But it is also true in the misinterpreted sense that without clear vision people are often left misguided, leaderless, and can very well perish.

In 1933, seventy-five-years ago, God gave to Evangelist Percy Crawford a vision of a ministry to reach teens with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Via the radio and television, despite being in their infancies, and crusades from New York to California and with the troops overseas, Percy was able to reach out and affect thousands of lives seeing many make decisions for Jesus Christ. To assist with this outreach, acreage at the foothills of the Poconos was turned into camps (Pinebrook, Mountainbrook and Shadowbrook). Only Pinebrook remains to this day, but the vision that Percy had has not died.

Thirty-five years later, in 1968, God gave to Jansen E. Hartman, A.L.Seifert and the Annual Conference of the BFC the vision to use this facility as a replacement and continuation of the very effective evangelistic and discipleship outreaches in the tent-city known as Mizpah Grove, Allentown, PA.

The specifics of the vision may have changed over these seventy-five and forty years, but the overriding passion of seeing lives changed for the Glory of God, has not.

The present administration and Board of Directors have spent the year evaluating the mission, vision and core values of Pinebrook. It, too, wants to have a clear vision to lead us into the future with purpose and so that we can reach the lost. The mission and vision statements are listed below. The core values have been divided-up into "ministry" and "ministering" values. The latter are

for our team as we work together and are too long for this document. A copy is available upon request.

Mission Statement: “Pinebrook Bible Conference & Retreat Center offers real hope to the real world by committing all of our resources for the advancement of the gospel of Jesus Christ.” *Romans 15:13 (NIV)*

Vision Statement: Pinebrook will be the premier Christian conference & retreat center in the mid-Atlantic region. *Phil. 3:13f.*

Ministry Core Values:

1. We value **glorifying God** in all that's done, thus our motto: “All to the glory of God.” - *1 Cor. 10:31*
2. We value the preaching and teaching of the **Word of God**, the Bible. - *Heb. 4:12; 1 Cor. 1:18-31*
3. We value **praising God** through Biblically-based, Spirit-led expressions of worship. - *Psa. 67:3; Eph. 5:19; 1 Pet. 2:9*
4. We value the **cross-cultural** experience at Pinebrook Bible Conference.
5. We value the **cross-generational** experience at Pinebrook Bible Conference.
6. We value the relationship to our owners, the **Bible Fellowship Church**, and subscribe to the BFC *Faith & Order*.

It is hoped that the statements and values will help cast vision as they prepare us for the next seventy-five years of ministry as we “rescue those who are perishing.”

Pinebrook is presently in the fourth year of my administration. These years have been rather tumultuous from a financial perspective. Pinebrook’s indebtedness when we arrived was much greater than we had anticipated. We added to this with what the Board felt were necessary changes and improvements. Then we were hit with unprecedented cost increases in energy (from \$5100 to \$12,950 per month in fuel alone, not to mention electric) as well as natural disasters (floods, pestilence, and an aging facility). All of which has taken quite a toll and produced some fairly negative financial reports. We are grateful for loans from the Board of Missions and the Quakertown church helping us get through this quagmire. We are also thankful for the patience shown by Annual Conference as we have worked our way out of this ebb-time.

We believe, providing the economy stabilizes, fuel prices remain current and there are no major disasters, we have turned a financial corner. Retreat revenue is up. Thanks to our Sales Representative, Jim Herrold, more and more weekends are filling up. Donor participation is also up. A gracious matching gift was given during the middle of 2007 which spurred on gifts resulting in a 220% increase. We also received a large donation from a will. We are looking forward to great things from our newly formed Development Department which is being led by John C. Vandegriff, Jr. Our financial team which includes my associate, Errin Mulberry, along with Debra Kellerman, the watchful eye of our Board's treasurer, Jay Fasnacht, and financial consultant, David T. Allen, is doing its best to keep the books in tip-top shape.

This past year we addressed and resolved a financial situation which plagued us for the last three years. Because of tight finances we were unable to meet our financial obligation to the summer staff in a timely fashion. Although the scholarship fund has been on paper for many years, the Board during its December meeting decided to open a special account. All monies donated to this cause are deposited weekly in this account with the hope that summer staff will be paid by mid-to-late September.

Pinebrook's facilities are not quite 75-years-old, but are ancient in comparison to present-day standards. The sewage treatment plant, opened in the early 1960s, may need to be replaced soon. So, too, will energy-inefficient buildings. We are grateful for the work done by Jeremy Beichler and the maintenance /housekeeping staff. We are also very thankful for the many volunteers, some from the BFC, who help with chores around the grounds. We especially appreciate Nell Ruch from the Hellertown mission for the work she does in the Children's Garden, and the Didden Greenhouse, Hatfield, for the flowers which have beautified the grounds over the past 40-years. And we're grateful for the many RWRs (Retreats within a Retreat) for the work they do each weekend, serving our guests in the Dining Hall and Snack Shop.

Many have reported that the food at Pinebrook has never tasted better. Chef Doug Ryan and his team in the kitchen are to be commended for the superb job they are doing.

Pinebrook is a ministry of and to the Bible Fellowship Church. Yes, we minister to many other churches and Christian

organizations as well, but we hold in high esteem our relationship to the BFC. The mission statement of the BFC – *We, the BFC, seek to become an expanding fellowship of churches, united to make disciples of Jesus Christ* – is being fulfilled, in part, with what we are doing here at Pinebrook. Although we may not be viewed on the front lines of this mission, the part we play is vital. Think of us as the den in a house. It may not be absolutely necessary to have it, but when finished it is sure nice to have the kids play there instead of at someone else’s house. Or, in a more churchly way, think of us as the denomination’s Fellowship Hall. A church can do without one, but having it allows for not only fellowship around the table, but a lot of other ministry that takes place. Pinebrook is that “den” or “fellowship hall” for the BFC. We offer a respite for pastors and missionaries, often free-of-charge. We provide retreats for all ages - teens and up. We provide a dynamic summer Bible Conference with BFC pastors and wives and great speakers and musicians ready to minister. We provide indoor and outdoor activities to challenge the body, soul and mind . . . not to mention the bumps and bruises from the tubing hill or welts from the very popular Paintball. In addition, we provide a facility for you to bring your people so that they can participate in our “expanding fellowship . . . making disciples of Jesus Christ”. We hope you will take advantage of your facility in East Stroudsburg. As someone said: “without people, the vision will perish.”

We hope that you will support Pinebrook in the following ways: (1) Prayer; (2) Help - labor, RWRs; (3) Encouragement; (4) Financial giving. As a 1.5 million-dollar ministry we are in need of your support. Approximately 16 percent of last year’s revenues came from donations. Token support from the churches is appreciated, but we could use much larger gifts as well. Consider taking a special offering for your conference center. And as always, I’d be delighted to come to your church to represent the vision we have for Pinebrook Bible Conference.

Wishing you Joy in Jesus,  
Dan Allen

2008 - 2009 Dates of Interest (subject to change)

– Hymn Sings - April 4, May 2, June 6, Sept. 5, Nov. 7, Dec.  
5



- Ladies Refresh♥Her (4/25-27) Speakers: Rosa Maria Faulkner, Anne Beiler, Worship Leader: Euanna Pigford
- Golf Fund Raiser (5/30)
- Flower Planting Weekend (6/13-14)
- Summer Staff arrives (6/15)
- Wk 1 (6/21-27) 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration; Speaker - Brooke Solberg; Host Pastor - Jonathan Arnold
- Wk 2 (6/28-7/4) Concert & Fireworks - Calling Levi; Speaker - Jim Ayers; Host Pastor - Brian Cooper
- Wk 3 (7/5-11) Concert - Kings Army; Speaker - Steve Cornell; Host Pastor - Bill Schlonecker
- Wk 4 (7/12-18) Concert - Matt Blagg; Speaker - Wendell Calder; Host Pastor - Byron Widger
- Wk 5 (7/19-25) Concert -Gordy & Marie; Speaker - Ron Blue; Host Pastor - Alva Cassel
- Wk 6 (7/26-8/1) Concert - Katie Weiant; Speaker - Ray Pritchard; Host Pastor - Ralph Soper
- Wk 7 (8/2-8) Concert - Mark Cable; Speaker - Danna Weller; Host Pastor - Cal Reed
- Senior Saints Retreat (9/23-25) Speaker - Lynn Warner & Tom Taylor
- 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cruise (10/12-19) Speakers - Ron Blue & Don Wyrzten
- 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet (12/20) Concert - Gordy & Marie
- BFC SnoGlo (1<sup>st</sup> three weekends of January, 2008)
- March Madness Men & Boys Retreat (3/27-30)
- Ladies Refresh♥Her (4/24-26) Speaker - Ruth Solberg

**Board of Directors, Pinebrook Bible Conference,** Alva C. Cassel, Chairman & President; Charles Cole, Vice Chairman & Vice President; Charles Bomgardner, Secretary; Jay Fasnacht, Treasurer; Carl Ackerman, Jonathon W. Arnold, Sr., Clyde D. Bomgardner, Jr., Brian H. Cooper, Kermit K. Gehman, LeRoy O. Herb, Gerald Schlonecker, Hans R. Waldvogel, Robert H. Zentz Daniel P. Allen, Director; Errin G. Mulberry, Associate

**Balance Sheet**  
December 31, 2007

**Assets**

## Current Assets

Cash in Bank - Checking	\$ (8,536)	
Cash on Hand & A/R	4,147	
Payroll Account	<u>2,182</u>	
Total Current Assets		\$ (2,207)

## Fixed Assets

Land	1,239,794	
Buildings-Net of Depreciation	662,827	
Equipment	18,123	
Current Inventory	29,647	
Vehicles-Net of Depreciation	<u>11,797</u>	
Total Fixed Assets		<u>1,962,188</u>

## TOTAL ASSETS

\$ 1,959,981

## LIABILITIES AND EQUITY

## Current Liabilities

Accounts Payable	78,901	
Payroll Taxes Payable	390	
Line of Credit - Citizens Bank	49,152	
Payroll Deductions Payable	780	
Other/Loans Payables	206,449	
Sales Tax Payable	<u>865</u>	
Total Current Liabilities		336,537

## Long Term Liabilities

Mortgage	<u>157,549</u>	
Total Long Term Liability		157,549

## Designated &amp; Restricted Liabilities

Pre-paid Summer Conference	3,646	
Deposits - All Retreats	83,534	
Deposits - Summer Conference	43,044	
Restricted Funds	(935)	
Scholarship/Tip Fund	13,586	
Indoor Pool Fund	<u>156</u>	
Total Restricted Funds		143,031

## EQUITY

Equity at Beginning of Year	1,336,860	
This Year's Gain (Loss)	<u>(13,996)</u>	
Total Equity		<u>1,322,864</u>

## TOTAL LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY

\$ 1,959,861

Accounts at Citizens Bank, Stroudsburg, PA  
Books reviewed by Darian R. Allen

**Consolidated Statement  
of Income and Expenses**  
For The Year Ended December 31, 2007

INCOME	<u>Year-to-Date</u>	<u>%</u>
Summer Conferences - BFC	\$191,321.75	12.97
Retreats	859,622.81	58.29
Camp Site Rentals	8,698.31	.59
Banquets, Meals/Breaks/Pizza	23,297.07	1.58
Ladies Retreat	16,266.33	1.10
Paintball	22,917.95	1.55
Senior Citizens Retreat	922.00	.06
Men's Retreats	9,805.00	.66
Gift Store Sales	27,435.43	1.86
Snack Shop Sales	28,614.33	1.94
Vending Machine Sales	8,968.42	.61
Other Sales	28,271.12	1.92
Land Leases & Rentals	13,274.60	.90
Interest Received	156.65	.01
Terms Taken & Damage Reimb.	129.98	.01
Gifts/Offerings Received	235,122.92	15.94
Total Income	<u>\$ 1,474,824.67</u>	<u>100.00</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Gift Store Expense	\$ 27,383.33	1.86
Snack Shop Expense	24,479.12	1.66
Vending Machine Expense	2,975.00	.20
Custodial Expenses	70,031.04	4.75
Kitchen Expenses	280,753.43	19.04
Miscellaneous Retreat Costs	5,287.55	.36
Pinebrook Retreat Expenses	17,192.34	1.17
Banquets	2,305.18	.16
Sports, Paintball	13,822.37	.94
Music/Audio Visual	19,405.84	1.32
Maintenance	140,212.37	9.51
Maintenance Supplies	8,288.42	.56
Pest Control	8,601.01	.58
Water Supply Expense	1,927.50	.13
Sewer Plant Supplies/Maint.	15,747.27	1.07
Swimming Pools Expense	9,658.88	.65
Electric	109,827.04	7.45
Gas	4,152.94	.28
Oil	78,620.48	5.33
Vehicle Costs	16,924.99	1.15
Insurances	180,308.93	12.23
Payroll, FICA & Processing	205,538.67	13.94
Honoraria Paid	13,902.51	.94
Gifts to Churches (RWR)	6,987.50	.47
Summer Conference Program	24,927.56	1.69
Office Supplies & Equipment	16,315.64	1.11
Computer Expenses	6,022.32	.41
Printing, Advertising & P/R	15,336.62	1.04
Telephone	18,606.71	1.26

Postage Stamps & Meter	11,464.60	.78
Board Expenses	3,051.12	.21
Benefits, Training & Educate	3,727.38	.25
Sanitation Removal	13,297.53	.90
Medical Supplies	244.43	.02
Interest Paid	35,231.02	2.39
Depreciation/Principal Expnd	42,755.86	2.90
Principal Reduction of debt	(36,962.31)	(2.51)
Real Estate Taxes	39,548.63	2.68
General Improvements	9,278.00	.63
Other & Misc. Expenses	21,642.16	1.47
Total Expenses	\$ 1,488,820.98	100.95
Gain (Loss)	\$ (13,996.31)	(.95)



**Figure 51** Pinebrook celebrated the family in 2007  
 - a Hilly-billy family (L to R)  
 Director Dan & Vonnie Allen  
 Jen Mulberry, Will Green & Errin Mulberry (Associate)



**Figure 52** Campers from Bethlehem

***Report of the  
Study Committee: Process & Purpose  
of God's Calling People to Salvation***

The Study Committee on the Process and Purpose of God's Calling People to Salvation met five times since last Annual Conference. The committee completed its assignment as directed by the 124<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, which was to "provide exegetical studies on the proposed changes" in Articles 9-13 of our *Articles of Faith* (2007 Yearbook, p. 41). That report was distributed to the individual churches in early January 2008 as per the committee's assignment, allowing individual boards of elders to vote prior to the 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference. A copy of those materials comprises Appendix A of this report.

The vote of the boards of elders on the proposed clarifications to the articles pertaining to salvation, to be followed by the anticipated vote of Annual Conference on the second reading material, will represent a definitive resolution to the committee's work. Having fulfilled its assignment, this committee requests to be disbanded.

**Resolved**, that the second reading material pertaining to Articles 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 of the *Articles of Faith* be adopted.

**Committee to Study Articles Pertaining to Salvation:** Calvin T. Reed, Chairman; Ronald L. Kohl, Secretary; David T. Allen, Clifford B. Boone, Andrew T. Crossgrove, William G. Schlonecker, Arthur J. Simpson.

## Appendix A: Exegetical study for 2008 Annual Conference

Dear Brothers,

The Study Committee on the Process and Purpose of God's Calling People to Salvation is circulating this exegetical material on the proposed clarifications to the *Articles of Faith* in fulfillment of its assignment given at the 124<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference.

**Whereas**, there has been considerable discussion at the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the proposed changes to the *Articles of Faith* regarding salvation, and

**Whereas**, additional materials pertaining to these proposed changes are being prepared for circulation to the churches, and

**Whereas**, some Boards of Elders have already voted on the proposed changes and have reported these votes prior to the 124<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, therefore be it

**Resolved**, that any Board of Elders desiring to change its position on these proposed changes in articles 9-13 prior to the 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference be allowed to do so, and that the revised position be considered to supersede any prior communication with respect to articles 801-3 and 801-4 of the *Faith and Order*.

### Article 9 – Sin

#### *Current article in Faith & Order*

**9-1.** Sin is any lack of conformity to the will of God<sup>1</sup> or any transgression of the law of God.<sup>2</sup> Sin separates man from God, incurring His wrath and judgment, and it is manifest in the selfishness, rebellion, and total depravity of man's conduct and behavior before God and man. Sin is the cause of the curse on and defilement of the created universe.<sup>3</sup>

#### **Proposed clarifications**

**9-1.** “Sin is any lack of conformity to the will of God<sup>1</sup> or any transgression of the law of God.<sup>2</sup> Sin separates man from God, incurring His wrath and judgment, and is manifest in the selfishness, rebellion, **unbelief** and total depravity of man's **being**.<sup>3</sup> Sin is the cause of the curse on and defilement of the created universe.”<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> All wrongdoing is sin (1Jo.5:17a). Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins (James 4:17).

<sup>2</sup> Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness (1Jo.3:4). For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it (James 2:10).

<sup>3</sup> **“As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, (2) in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air. (3) All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath.” (Eph. 2:1-3). “The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness, (19) since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. (20) For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities – His eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. (21) For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened.” (Rom.1:18-21). Also Rom. 3:10-12, Rom. 8:7-8.**

<sup>4</sup> We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time (Rom.8:22). (See also Gen.3:17,18).

Scripture tells us that sin manifests itself in several ways. Selfishness and rebellion are two by-products of man’s inability to conform to the will of God and his eagerness to transgress the law of God. The Bible teaches that sin manifests itself in unbelief. Unbelief, the lack of belief, or choosing not to exhibit faith in Jesus Christ and the truths of the Gospel, is regarded as a manifestation of sin.

As Article 10-1, Human Ability and Responsibility, states that man acts “only in accordance with his fallen, sinful nature,” he is still responsible for properly responding in obedience to all of God’s commands, one of which is to believe. In Acts 16:30, the Philippian jailer asks, “Sirs, what *must* I do to be saved? In response, Paul and Silas answered, “Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved...” (Acts 16:31) While man “acts only in accordance with his fallen, sinful nature,” he is at the same time responsible for obedience. But he rejects the truths of the Gospel, choosing not to believe.

Ultimately, unbelief is a rejection of truth, a rejection of what Paul says in Romans 1 is self-evident. God has made plain His “eternal power and divine nature” by what He has created, so that men are “without excuse” for not believing (Rom.1:20). And yet

man rejects the truth in unbelief. Paul writes that God's wrath is "being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of men who suppress the truth by their wickedness" (Rom.1:18).

The sinful nature of unbelief appears elsewhere in Scripture. In 2 Thessalonians 2:12, Paul writes, "...all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness." It is not only the unrepentant sinner's pleasures in committing unrighteousness that is sinful, but his failure to believe the truth about Christ is also sinful.

Hebrews 3:16-19 adds that the punishment of those who were not allowed, at the end of the Exodus, to enter the Promised Land, was not just because they "rebelled" and "were disobedient" but because they lacked faith. The sinfulness of this absence of faith is clearly seen by the writer's statement that those "whose bodies fell in the desert" were identified as "those who sinned" (Heb.3:17). And what is his conclusion? "So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief" (Heb.3:19). Sin, then, does not just manifest itself in man's selfishness and rebellion. It also manifests itself in unbelief in the truths about God, the truths of the Gospel.

Unbelief, the rejection of truth, is a manifestation of the corruption of his intellect and will. Unregenerate man rejects that which Paul writes in Romans 1 has been revealed to him. As Paul further writes in Romans 1:25, the unregenerate have "exchanged the truth of God for a lie..."

Our clarifications assert that the total depravity of man's being affect his entire nature. Conduct and behavior are only part of the greater whole: that man's being is totally depraved. It is not the act of sin ("conduct and behavior") that makes man a sinner. He is already sinful, born with a sin nature. The Scriptures teach that we are sinful at our very core, courtesy of the failure of our original parent, Adam.

Scripture supports this in both the Old and New Testaments.

Adam's fall had serious consequence for all of mankind. In Genesis 8:21, God says of man, "every inclination of his heart is evil from childhood." The word "childhood" does not suggest that man is born without sin until childhood, but that sinful man does not have to be taught evil; he does evil instinctively, even from early in life. Evil is not a matter of environment or of poor



parenting; it comes from sinful man's sinful nature – from his very being.

David, in reflecting upon his own sins in the Bathsheba-Uriah debacle, wrote of the sinfulness of his own nature. In Psalm 51:5, he wrote, "Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me." Elsewhere, in Psalm 58:3, David wrote, "Even from birth the wicked go astray; from the womb they are wayward and speak lies."

It is not that David is denigrating this wickedness to one class of people: the wicked. He was saying that wickedness is not something that is taught but something into which one is born; all are wicked directly from the womb because all are born into sin.

This line of argumentation is strengthened and elaborated upon in the New Testament in Paul's writings.

In Romans 5, Paul drew several distinctions between the original Adam and the new or second or last Adam, Christ, to show that we bear the consequences of a sinful nature courtesy of the fall of Adam. In Romans 5:12, he wrote, "Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned..." He added, in Rom. 5:18, "...as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men."

In Ephesians 2:3, Paul provided specifics in terms of the widespread effects of sin's stain. "All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful natures and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath."

It is not just our conduct and behavior that condemn us, but our nature and our very being that are "totally depraved." Total depravity does not mean that we are as bad as we possibly could be, but that depravity has extended to every area of our nature. We act, not out of our environment or nurture, but according to our nature, which is inherently sinful.

So while sin manifests itself in man's conduct and behavior, its root is man's entire being, which produces sinful conduct and behavior. We are not sinners because we sin; we sin because we have a sinful nature.

## Article 10 - Human Ability and Responsibility

### *Current article in Faith & Order*

**10-1** In his original creation man was endowed with the ability to will and do good or evil and was accountable for his willing and doing.<sup>1</sup> But by the fall of Adam man lost his ability, apart from God's grace,<sup>2</sup> to will and to do those things necessary for a right relationship with God;<sup>3</sup> however, he is still accountable to God for obedience to all of His commands.<sup>4</sup> Man has not lost his ability to make decisions,<sup>5</sup> but left to himself, he acts only in accordance with his fallen, sinful nature.<sup>6</sup>

**10-2** Only by God's infinite grace can man will or do anything necessary to his salvation.<sup>7</sup> By that grace, God saves men<sup>8</sup> whom He causes to will and to do good; however, He does this without nullifying man's ability to act responsibly.<sup>9</sup>

### **Proposed clarifications**

**10-1** In his original creation man was endowed with the ability to will and do good or evil and was accountable for his willing and doing.<sup>1</sup> But **through** the fall of Adam man lost his ability, apart from God's grace,<sup>2</sup> to will and to do those things necessary for a right relationship with God;<sup>3</sup> however, he is still accountable to God for obedience to all of His commands.<sup>4</sup> Man has not lost his ability to make decisions,<sup>5</sup> but left to himself, he acts only in accordance with his fallen, sinful nature.<sup>6</sup>

**10-2** "Only by God's infinite grace can man will or do anything necessary to his salvation.<sup>7</sup> By that grace, God saves **those** men whom He causes to will and to do good;<sup>8</sup> however, He does this without nullifying man's ability to act responsibly.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>1</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die" (Gen.2:16,17).

<sup>2</sup> As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient. All of us also lived among them at one time, gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts. Like the rest, we were by nature objects of wrath (Eph.2:1-3).

<sup>3</sup> There is no one who understands, no one who seeks God (Rom.3:11). Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God (Rom.8:8).

<sup>4</sup> God "will give to each person according to what he has done." To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life. But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger. There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; but glory, honor and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile (Rom.2:6-10). In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent (Acts 17:30).

<sup>5</sup> Now what I am commanding you today is not too difficult for you or beyond your reach. This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live (Deu.30:11,19).

<sup>6</sup> As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one" (Rom.3:10,12). Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Neither can you do good who are accustomed to doing evil (Jer.13:23). (See also footnote 2).

<sup>7</sup> It does not, therefore, depend on man's desire or effort, but on God's mercy (Rom.9:16).

<sup>8</sup> He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created. (James 1:18) ***Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God – (13) children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. (John 1:12-13)***

<sup>9</sup> Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed--not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence--continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose (Phil.2:12,13).

In Genesis 2, after placing Adam in the Garden of Eden, God said to him, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die (Gen. 2:16-17)."

Scripture tells us that God created man, both male and female, in His image, and with this command it is clear that God created man with the ability to obey or to rebel against God. Man had the ability to will and to do good or evil. But in Genesis 3, Satan planted seeds of deception. Adam and Eve willfully chose to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 3:6). Their fellowship with God was broken, and they hid from God (Gen. 3:8). But God in His mercy found them in their hiding. He convicted them of sin, brought judgment upon them, and covered them through sacrifice (Gen.3).

The Apostle Paul wrote, “Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned”...“Again, the gift of God is not like the result of the one man’s sin: The judgment followed one sin and brought condemnation”...“...just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men (Rom. 5:12, 16, 18).” The Psalmist declared, “Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me (Ps. 51:5).” Therefore, it is clear from Scripture that *through* the sin of Adam, each of his offspring is born in sin. The changing of the word “by” to “through” in Article 10 conveys the universal effect of Adam’s sin on the entire human race.

The addition of the word *those*, so that the sentence reads, “God saves *those* men ...” flows out of John 1:12-13 and James 1:18. John wrote, “Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.” And James wrote, “He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all He created.” This wording is consistent with Article 11-2, Election, which states “those so chosen He redeems by His Son and seals by His Spirit.”

## Article 11 – Election

### *Current article in Faith & Order*

**11-1.** Election is a free act of the sovereign God in which from eternity,<sup>1</sup> for reasons known only to Himself,<sup>2</sup> and apart from any goodness in man<sup>3</sup> He graciously chose from among the fallen mankind a people unto salvation,<sup>4</sup> that they might be conformed to Christ’s image.<sup>4</sup> Those so chosen He redeemed<sup>5</sup> by His Son and seals by His Spirit.<sup>6</sup>

### **Proposed clarifications**

**11-1** Election is a free act of the sovereign God in which from eternity,<sup>1</sup> for reasons known only to Himself,<sup>2</sup> and apart from any **foreseen faith and/or** goodness **found** in man,<sup>3</sup> He graciously chose from among the fallen mankind a people unto salvation,<sup>4</sup> that they might be conformed to Christ’s image.<sup>4</sup> Those so chosen He redeemed by His Son<sup>5</sup> and seals by His Spirit.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In him we were also chosen, having been predestined according to the plan of him who works out everything in conformity with the purpose of his will (Eph.1:4,11).

<sup>2</sup> "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him" (Mat.11:27).

<sup>3</sup> **Who has saved us and called us to a holy life--not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time (2 Tim.1:9). For those whom He foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, in order that He might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom He predestined He also called, and those whom He called He also justified, and those whom He justified He also glorified. (Romans 8:29-30)**

<sup>4</sup> Until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ (Eph.4:13).

<sup>5</sup> But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth (2 Thes.2:13).

<sup>6</sup> And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit (Eph.1:13).

The present article on election states that God chose for "reasons known only to Himself." To postulate that God chooses individuals on the basis of foreseen faith is to posit the reason for God choosing whom He does. In fact, it is asserted by those who hold to a "foreseen faith" position that we as humans know the reason why God chooses whom He does, namely foreseen faith, and that the reason is not just known by God, but He has revealed it in His Word.

What is a foreseen faith position? It is the belief that in eternity past God looked down the corridor of time and chose those people to salvation whom He knew would respond in faith when the gospel was preached. For example, Henry C. Thiessen states, "By election we mean that sovereign act of God in grace whereby He chose in Christ Jesus for salvation all those whom He foreknew would accept Him" (p. 344, *Lectures in Systematic Theology*, Eerdman's, 1949). Therefore, God chose those whom He knew ahead of time would choose Him. This is conditional election. It explains the condition upon which God made His choice. His choice was predicated upon man's choice. In essence His choice did not govern man's decision, but man's choice governed God's

decision. (Note: for a classic definition of the foreseen faith position, see p. 72, *Perspectives on Election: Five Views*, Chad Owen Brand, gen. ed, Nashville, Broadman & Holman, 2006.) In C. Gordon Olson's book, p. 272, Olson states, "...it becomes clear the repentant faith is that which God foresees as the basis of the pre-appointment of His saints." (C. Gordon Olson, *Getting the Gospel Right: A Balanced View of Salvation Truth*, Global Gospel Publishers, Cedar Knolls, NJ, 2005)

**Question: Why doesn't the BFC believe that the foreseen faith position is in keeping with the teaching of the Scriptures?**

There are a number of reasons why the BFC does not believe that the foreseen faith view is in keeping with the Scriptures. We will move from the general to the specific in answering that question.

First, such an interpretation does injustice to the most basic concept of God's making His choice before the foundation of the world.

In Ephesians 1:3-6, Paul wrote, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. (4) For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love (5) He predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will—(6) to the praise of His glorious grace, which He has freely given us in the One he loves."

The very idea that God chose us before we were even created is intended to convey to us God's primacy in this choice and man's lack of involvement in God's choice. God chose us before we even existed. The thought is that we are a blessed people because God chose us. There is nothing said about our choosing God or God predicating His choice on our choice because we did not exist when God made His choice.

Furthermore, we are told in the book of Romans that God chose Jacob before Jacob and Esau were born. "Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad--in order that God's purpose in election might stand (Rom. 9:11)."

The reason for stating that God's choice took place before they were born is to drive home the fact it was apart from any goodness

that was found in them. This is communicated in the words “done anything good or bad.”

“Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad--in order that God's purpose in election might stand... (Rom. 9:11).”

This is what is meant in the article when it states that God chose apart from any goodness or faith found in man. The word “found” is intended to communicate originating in man.

The basis for God’s choice is rooted in His purpose. The reason that this choice was made before they were born is so that God’s choice would not rest in a difference between them, but solely in His purpose.

Again, Romans 9:11 says, “Yet, before the twins were born or had done anything good or bad--in order that God's purpose in election might stand:”

God had a purpose in choosing whom He chose. The distinction was found in God’s purpose, not in those whom He chose. They had not done anything bad or good to provide the basis for God’s election. His choice was not based on “merit” but on His sovereign prerogative to choose whom He would.

In Romans 9:12-13, Paul adds, “not by works but by him who calls--she was told, ‘The older will serve the younger.’ (13) Just as it is written: ‘Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated.’”

[An aside: Much has been written on this subject of God’s love for Jacob and God’s hatred of Esau. There is a sense in which God loves all humanity and there is a sense in which God has a special love (a redeeming love) for His own. In a comparative way, God’s love for all humanity seems to us like hatred in contrast to the love He has for the redeemed.

For example, note Luke 14:26 (NASB): “If anyone comes to Me, and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be My disciple.” Love for God is contrasted with love to one’s father, mother or children. The point is not that we are to fail to love our children, but rather that our love for God must surpass the love that we have for our children.

It is profound that the admonition that husbands are to love their wives is founded upon Christ’s love of the church. Eph 5:25 (NASB) stresses, “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also

loved the church and gave Himself up for her...” We know that we are to love all mankind, including our enemies. That does not, however, mitigate the fact that we are to love our own wives, in a unique way, distinguishable from our love for others, in keeping with Christ’s unique love for His church.]

Returning to Paul’s argument in Romans 9, it is significant that in Scripture, Paul anticipates the objection that if election is true, then God must be unjust. Romans 9:14 says, “What then shall we say? Is God unjust? Not at all!”

Why is such an objection anticipated? If God’s choice were predicated on knowing what mankind’s choice would be, and He simply chose those whom He knew ahead of time would choose Him, from where would the accusation of injustice come? But God did not predicate His choice upon man’s choice! That is why God’s justice is addressed.

Now, why isn’t God unjust? Note that the text, in addressing the anticipated charge that God is unjust, says nothing about “foreseen faith.” In fact, it heads in the exact opposite direction. The person who is saved does not get what he deserves. Instead, he gets mercy and compassion. Note Romans 9:15 – “For he says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.”

It is God’s sovereign prerogative to dispense mercy as He wills. Romans 9:15 says, “For He says to Moses, ‘I will have mercy on whom I have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I have compassion.’”

Why does God choose one person over another? What distinguishes one person from receiving mercy and another from not receiving mercy in God’s choice? Often the reply is, “Because one person has a faith that is foreseen by God and the other person does not.” But Scripture clearly denies that God chooses an individual for salvation as a result of knowing that such a person will desire to be saved.

Romans 9:16 says, “It does not, therefore, depend on man’s desire or effort, but on God’s mercy.” The NASB translates it this way: “So then it does not depend on the man who wills or the man who runs, but on God who has mercy.”

Literally, the whole point of the passage is that God’s choice is sovereign, independent of mankind.



Now, note the next anticipated objection. If God makes His choice independent of man's choice, and God's choice governs man's choice, then why does God find fault with mankind? Romans 9:19 says, "One of you will say to me: 'Then why does God still blame us? For who resists His will?'"

That question would never be raised if man's will or choice were the determining factor in God's choice. And if man's pre-known faith were the determining factor in God's choice, then we would certainly expect any misconception to be cleared up. In other words, we would expect the text to state, "You don't understand; man's pre-known faith is the reason that God chooses whom He does."

However, that is not where the text leads. Rather, it addresses the inappropriateness of our finding fault with God. It is not our place to pass judgment upon God. God passes judgment upon us. Romans 9:20 says, "But who are you, O man, to talk back to God? Shall what is formed say to Him who formed it, 'Why did you make me like this?'"

The text points back to a question of rights. What right does God have to make a choice that governs man's choice? That is a key issue for those who hold to a "foreseen faith" view. Notice how the Scripture answers that anticipated charge. Romans 9:21 says, "Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use?"

The Creator has the right to do what He wills with His creation. That response is not welcomed by many; however, that is what God's Word says, and who are we "to talk back to God?" (Romans 9:20)

Then, it is objected, mankind is reduced to nothing more than a puppet or a robot. Some people argue that certainly there is no question that God would not treat us like robots, thereby violating our "free will." Notice what the above text says. It likens mankind to clay, an inanimate object that is fashioned or molded by the potter, our creator God. Romans 9:21 says (NASB), "Or does not the potter have a right over the clay, to make from the same lump one vessel for honorable use, and another for common use?'"

The text does not speak of mankind's free and pre-known choices. It speaks of a sovereign God exercising His authority over an object that is made by Him and fashioned by Him.

But what is often lost in Romans 9:21 is a very important statement. That which distinguishes what becomes of the clay is not a difference within the clay. It is not that there are two lumps of clay that differ one from another. There is but only one lump of clay. The point is that there is not some intrinsic difference found in the clay. For example, one lump of clay has a faith that is foreseen and another lump of clay does not have a faith that is foreseen. The lump is the same lump! Rather, the distinction lies solely in the choice of the potter.

“Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for noble purposes and some for common use?”

Some would assert that election in this instance is not election to salvation but election to service. “All agree that the theme of divine election is the main point, but the disagreement is over the nature of this election. Specifically, is Paul talking about election to salvation or election to service?” (*Perspectives on Election: Five Views*, Chad Owen Brand, gen. ed., p. 123)

However, the entire context of chapters 9-11 has to do with salvation. Rom 9:2-5 says, “I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my brothers, those of my own race, the people of Israel. Theirs is the adoption as sons; theirs the divine glory, the covenants, the receiving of the law, the temple worship and the promises. Theirs are the patriarchs, and from them is traced the human ancestry of Christ, who is God over all, forever praised! Amen.”

Scripture speaks of a remnant being saved, not a remnant being called into service. Romans 9:27 says, “Isaiah cries out concerning Israel: ‘Though the number of the Israelites be like the sand by the sea, only the remnant will be saved.’”

In the context of the passage, Paul’s desire has to do with Israel’s salvation, not Israel’s service. Romans 10:1 says, “Brothers, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for the Israelites is that they may be saved.”

Note that the conclusion of Paul’s argument has to do with salvation, not service. Romans 11:26 says, “And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written: ‘The deliverer will come from Zion; he will turn godlessness away from Jacob.’”

This is a passage addressing the issue of God's election as it relates to salvation. It is an explanation of how God's promises have not failed. God did not promise that every physical descendant of Abraham and Jacob would be saved, but rather that the spiritual descendants of Abraham and Jacob would be saved. "It is not as though God's word had failed. For not all who are descended from Israel are Israel (Romans 9:6)."

The issue is who are God's children and who are not God's children. Note Romans 9:8 – "In other words, it is not the natural children who are God's children, but it is the children of the promise who are regarded as Abraham's offspring."

**Question: Specifically, why doesn't the BFC hold to a foreseen faith view of election when Romans 8:29 states the following:** "For those God foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers. (30) And those He predestined, He also called; those He called, He also justified; those He justified, He also glorified."

It should be noted that the text states that foreknowledge has to do with respect to individuals. "For those God foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers."

Secondly, it should be noted what is absent from the text. The text does not include the words "would believe or have faith."

**It states:** "For those God foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers."

**It does not state:** "For those God foreknew (*would believe*) He also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers." The text states that God foreknew the person, not the person's faith. The text says nothing about knowing the person's faith.

On this particular issue C. Gordon Olson writes, "In Romans 8:29 it is probable that God's foreknowledge about something about those who love God is built into the Greek, although not obvious in English. *But it is in the context, not just these verses, but the context of the whole, which strongly suggests that faith is that which God foreknows about His people.*" (Olson, *Getting the Gospel Right*, p. 272. Note: the italics are in the original.)

We have already demonstrated that there is nothing in the broader context that points to God having made His choice based on a foreseen faith residing in those whom He chose. Olson affirms that God's foreknowledge about something about those who love God is not obvious in the English. We agree that God's foreknowledge about something about those who love God is not obvious in the English. We disagree that it is probably built into the Greek. His assertion that it is "probable" that it is "built into the Greek" is wrong. It is not "built into the Greek" any more than it is present in the English. Further, Olson does not demonstrate any way that it is "built into the Greek."

Rather than adding words to the text, the text should be read as it appears: namely, that God knew people ahead of time, not that God knew *something about* people ahead of time!

The word "foreknow," like its cognate "know," has a broad range of meaning. However, in our context, the word "foreknow" has the emphasis of having an "intimate knowledge" or "relationship with" before hand.

There is a very important distinction in Scripture between God "knowing people" and God "knowing *about* people."

Note how the Bible uses the word "know" as relationship. There are people that the Scripture refers to as God not knowing. In Matthew 7:22-23, Jesus said, "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' (23) Then I will tell them plainly, I never knew you. Away from Me, you evildoers!"

When it states that Jesus never "knew" them, it does not mean that He was unaware of them or that He did not know all about them. It means that He never had a relationship to or with them. Just as there were people that Jesus did not "know," so, too, there are people that God does not foreknow. Romans 8:29 says, "For those God foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers." If there are people that God foreknew, that He also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His Son, and if not everyone is predestined to become conformed to the likeness of His Son, then there must be some people that God did not foreknow.

There are people who God does uniquely know. Jesus speaks of them in John 10:14-15. “I am the good shepherd; I know My sheep and My sheep know me – (15) just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father – and I lay down My life for the sheep.”

The text does not simply mean that the good shepherd “knows about” the sheep. The way in which Jesus “knows” the sheep is likened unto the way that the Father “knows” His Son and His Son “knows” the Father. “...Just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father--and I lay down My life for the sheep.”

Jesus is not simply stating that He is cognitive of the Father or knows something about the Father. He is speaking of an intimate, personal relationship with the Father – in the same way that He “knows” conveys an intimate personal relationship with His sheep.

Furthermore, the idea of being “known” by God as referring to relationship is seen in Galatians 4. “But now that you know God--or rather are known by God--how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable principles? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again? (Gal.4:9)”

When Paul speaks of the Galatians knowing God, he does not mean that they know about God but rather they have a personal relationship to God.

We often use the terminology “to know” in reference to “an intimate, personal relationship.” We might say to someone, “Do you know the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior?” or simply, “Do you know the Lord?” What we mean is, “Do you have a relationship to the Lord?” We do not mean, “Do you know something about the Lord?”

Now look at the emphasis of Galatians 4:9. It is not so much that you have a relationship to God but that God has a relationship to you. “But now that you know God--or rather are known by God--how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable principles? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again? You are known by God. The clear implication is that there are some who do not know God, and – more importantly – He does not know them. He does not have a saving relationship to them.

Again, the word “foreknow” is used of relationship in Romans 11. “God did not reject His people, whom He foreknew. Don’t

you know what the Scripture says in the passage about Elijah – how he appealed to God against Israel...”

Again, note what the text does not state. It does not state, “God did not reject His people, whom he foreknew (*would believe*).”

There is nowhere in Scripture where the term “foreknow” is followed by the words, “would believe” or “have faith.” Thus the obvious reading of the verse makes very good sense.

We should not read into the text the words “would believe” when the text makes very good sense as written. Furthermore, to supply the words “would believe” leads the text of Romans 8:29 into a whole different arena. “For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers.”

The text is to be understood as those whom God knew ahead of time, not those whom God knew *about* ahead of time. It is a description of the relationship that God had to a people even before He created them.

Wherein does this relationship consist? Again, look at Romans 8:29-30. “... He also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. (30) And those He predestined, He also called; those He called, He also justified; those He justified, He also glorified.”

The explanation for our salvation is that God chose to have a relationship to the elect even before the foundation of the world. Those with whom He chose to have a unique relationship, He predestined, called, justified and glorified. The text is not intending to convey that, before the foundation of the world, God knew who would have faith and who would not have faith, and thereby chose between individuals on that basis.

The BFC in general and the committee in particular realizes that there are differing views on election within Christendom. That is one reason for the need to declare ourselves clearly as to what the Bible Fellowship Church’s position is on election. We hold our view not out of ignorance of other views or a lack of consideration of the Scriptures. Quite to the contrary, knowing that there are other views, and that this subject is of great importance, the clarifications are offered.

It was our intention to address a basic understanding of Romans 8 and following passages to demonstrate that the “foreseen faith” view is inconsistent with an exegesis of the passage. This study was not intended to be exhaustive. There are many excellent sources that are available for further study. Two books that the Committee recommends are *Chosen by God* by R.C. Sproul and *Perspectives on Election: Five Views* (Edited by Chad Owen Brand with five contributors). In the latter work, various views on election are presented and critiqued. The various contributors interact with each other in a helpful manner. Chapter 1 represents the view held by the Bible Fellowship Church.

## Article 12 – Salvation

### *Current article in Faith & Order*

12-1. Salvation is offered in the gospel to all men<sup>1</sup> and is received by grace through faith and the instrumentality of the Holy Spirit,<sup>2</sup> apart from works or human merit.<sup>3</sup> Salvation centers in a person, Jesus Christ, and receiving Him<sup>4</sup> includes the remission of sins on the grounds of His shed blood,<sup>5</sup> the imputation of His perfect righteousness,<sup>6</sup> the reception of the Holy Spirit,<sup>7</sup> and the impartation of eternal life.<sup>8</sup>

### Proposed clarifications

12-1. **Salvation is the work of God<sup>1</sup> in which He reconciles fallen men to Himself,<sup>2</sup> ultimately removes the consequences of the curse,<sup>3</sup> and bestows upon His redeemed Creation<sup>4</sup> the riches of His grace, all to His glory.<sup>5</sup>**

12-2. Salvation is offered in the gospel to all men<sup>6</sup> **and is accomplished in all the elect.<sup>7</sup>** It is received by grace through faith and the instrumentality of the Holy Spirit,<sup>8</sup> apart from works or human merit.<sup>9</sup> Salvation centers in a person, Jesus Christ, and receiving Him<sup>10</sup> includes the remission of sins on the grounds of His shed blood,<sup>11</sup> the imputation of His perfect righteousness<sup>12</sup> the reception of the Holy Spirit,<sup>13</sup> and the impartation of eternal life.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Therefore He is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them. (Heb. 7:25) Also Eph. 2:4-5, 8-9.

<sup>2</sup> **“Through Him to reconcile all things to Himself...” (Col. 1:20) For if, when we were God’s enemies, we were reconciled to Him through the death of His Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through His life! (Rom. 5:10)**

<sup>3</sup> **No longer will there be any curse. (Rev. 22:3)**

<sup>4</sup> **I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. (Rom. 8:18-25)**

<sup>5</sup> **I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions, for my own Sake, and remembers your sins no more. (Isaiah 43:25)**

<sup>6</sup> For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).

<sup>7</sup> **All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. (John 6:37) No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up at the last day. (John 6:44) For you granted him authority over all people that He might give eternal life to all those you have given him. (John 17:2) When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all those who were appointed for eternal life believed. (Acts 13:48)**

<sup>8</sup> When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment (John 16:8).

<sup>9</sup> For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God--not by works, so that no one can boast (Eph.2:8,9).

<sup>10</sup> Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God (John 1:12).

<sup>11</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace (Eph.1:7).

<sup>12</sup> It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God--that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption (1 Cor.1:30).

<sup>13</sup> And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ (Rom.8:9b).

<sup>14</sup> And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. (1 John 5:11, 12).



The original article in the *F&O* presumed that everyone who read it had a working knowledge of what salvation really is. The original authors of this article were not alone, for many systematic theologies do the same thing. Since this current committee was charged with making clear our understanding of the various aspects of soteriology (the doctrine of salvation), this particular article was noted as missing a foundational definition. The definition that was added became the first paragraph of the article as the previous wording assumed a working definition of salvation.

There was only one change made within the previous wording, and that was simply to make sure that all who read it would understand that God's work and God's will shall ultimately be accomplished here on earth, just as it is in heaven. The explanation of this expanded definition of salvation will be done phrase by phrase, as found in the new Article 12-1 – Salvation.

### **[1] Salvation is the work of God**

What is salvation? It is a work of God. It is not an act of mankind. There are no less than 158 verses within the Bible that speak to this fact. From Genesis 49:18 (NASB), "For Thy salvation I said, O Lord" to Revelation 19:1 (NASB), "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God," this theme is repeated.

That salvation from God was understood can be seen in Jonah 2:9, where within the belly of the great fish, Jonah said, "Salvation is from the Lord." The writers of the Psalms knew this, as three times we read similar thoughts, among them, "Salvation belongs to the Lord" (Psa.3:9), and "Let the God of my salvation be exalted (Psa.18:46, KJV), and "He only is my rock and my salvation (Psa.62:2)." Whether it be physical, temporal or spiritual, "my salvation comes from Him" (Psa.62:1, NIV).

When Simeon held the incarnate baby in his hands, he said, "Sovereign Lord...my eyes have seen Your salvation," (Luke 2:28-29, NIV). The apostle Paul, while in Rome, made the observation to his Jewish brothers that "the salvation of God is sent unto the Gentiles" (Acts 28:28, KJV).

To the church in Rome, Paul wrote that the gospel of Christ "is the power of God for salvation to every one who believes," (Rom.1:16, NASB). It was the apostle John who was given a glimpse of the future in heaven, where 144,000 Jewish men "cried out in a loud voice, saying, 'Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb,'" (Rev.7:10, NIV).

Both the Hebrew word for salvation (*jeshua*) and the Greek word for salvation (*soteria*) carry a meaning that includes the concept of someone who is able, rescuing someone who needs help. It is God who provides salvation. This can be clearly seen in the three verses selected to substantiate this statement. Hebrews 7:25 says, “Therefore He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, because He always lives to intercede for them.” Ephesians 2:4-5 says, “But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved).” And in Ephesians 2:8-9, Paul writes, “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.”

## **[2] In which He reconciles fallen man to Himself**

What exactly is God doing in this work called salvation? He reconciles sinful men to Himself. Several questions could be asked: What is reconciliation? Why do fallen men need reconciling? And who gets reconciled to whom?

The answer to the first question is found in the definition of the word *reconcile*. The simple dictionary definition of this word is “to restore to friendship or harmony” (Webster’s New Collegiate Dictionary). That seems to be straightforward. The harmony that man had with God was lost in the Fall. Our *Faith and Order*, Article 8-2, states, “Our first parents did not remain in the glorious and happy state of their original creation, but, through the subtlety and deception of the devil, they disobeyed and transgressed the command of God the Creator, incurring on themselves and their posterity the sentence of spiritual and physical death.” Thus they lost friendship and harmony with God.

Fallen men need reconciling because they are enemies to God. The sin of Adam, inherent within all of his descendants, separates fallen men from a holy and righteous God. In Adam, all died. Romans 5:12 says, “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.” There is nothing that we can do to remove this sinful nature. So God provided the means of reconciliation through Jesus Christ. Romans 5:17 says, “For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one, much

more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.”

God reconciled the world to Himself. 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 says, “Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.” God has made reconciliation possible through the death of His Son. The two verses selected to illustrate this point, Colossians 1:20 and Romans 5:10, clearly illustrate God’s action in reconciliation which was the provision of salvation for sinners, for fallen men. God planned and provided salvation as the means of reconciliation for sinful men.

### **[3] ultimately removes the consequences of the curse**

When Adam sinned, the original creation was subjected to the effects of that sin. God told Adam and Eve, “Cursed is the ground because of you...both thorns and thistles shall grow for you...till you return to the ground, because from it you were taken; you are dust and to dust you shall return” (Gen.3:17-19).

The consequences of the curse were felt throughout the world. All creation has suffered as a result. Romans 8:20-22 says, “For the creation was subjected to futility; not of its own will, but because of Him who subjected it...its slavery to corruption...the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.” When God’s plan of salvation, of reconciliation and of restoration is complete, the curse will be lifted and the earth returned to its original condition.

### **[4] and bestows upon His redeemed Creation the riches of His grace**

The apostle Paul wrote, in Romans 8:20-21, “For the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.” He certainly expected a day to come when God’s redemption would be complete and the abundant riches of God’s grace would be provided to mankind as well as all of God’s creation. For God’s original creative acts were seen by God as “good.” Someday, it will all be “good” again.

**[5] all to His glory.**

The plan of salvation that God purposed in His heart before the foundation of the world has as its chief end His glory. God's provision of a Savior, His only Son, will someday be exalted and His name will be above every name, "that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth, and under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" Phil.2:10).

In Article 12-2 (currently Article 12-1), there is only one phrase added to the existing paragraph – "***and is accomplished in all the elect.***" The study committee added this phrase to bring clarity to the paragraph. The phrase is in keeping with the articles on Election, Human Ability & Responsibility, and Perseverance of the Saints.

Salvation as an act of God is a certainty for those who are drawn by the Father and believe. In John 6:37, Jesus says, "All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and whoever comes to Me I will never drive away." Those whom God gives will most assuredly be saved; this is the foregone conclusion of this phrase.

Acts 13:48 says, "When the Gentiles heard this, they were glad and honored the word of the Lord; and all who were appointed for eternal life believed." This speaks of God's appointment, calling, or election of individuals unto salvation. There was no one who had been appointed for eternal life who failed to believe. The point of this passage is that salvation is not just for Jews but also for Gentiles. God is indeed working salvation in the Gentiles as well as in the Jews, and not one Jew or Gentile who was appointed for eternal life failed to believe.

The word *appointed* in Acts 13:48, in the original Greek, is a perfect passive plural participle. Perfect tense suggests a completed past act whose effects carry to the present. In other words, *appointed* is a one-time act whereby God determined, or set in place, salvation for these individuals. They believed because they were appointed. They were not appointed because they believed. The certitude of their salvation rests in divine appointment. The individuals who believed were appointed in a one-time act of God's choosing, resulting in them being brought to the point of exercising faith. The Father appointed, or chose, these Gentiles for salvation. He gave them to Jesus, and they believed.

John 17:2 says, “For You granted Him authority over all people that He might give eternal life to all those You have given Him.”

This phrase (“and is accomplished in all the elect”) completes and affirms all that is written in our *Faith and Order* about God’s election, man’s responsibility, and perseverance of the saints.

## Article 13 – Repentance

### *Current article in Faith & Order*

**13-1.** Repentance unto life is a voluntary act of man,<sup>1</sup> accomplished by the convicting power of the Holy Spirit through the Word of God. Repentance consists in a knowledge of sin,<sup>2</sup> a sense of guilt and corruption that results in the confession and forsaking of sin and a turning to God.<sup>3</sup>

### **Proposed clarifications**

**13-1.** Repentance unto life is a gift of God<sup>1</sup> and a voluntary act of man,<sup>2</sup> accomplished by the convicting power of the Holy Spirit through the Word of God. Repentance consists in a knowledge of sin,<sup>3</sup> a sense of guilt and corruption that results in the confession and forsaking of sin and a turning to God<sup>4</sup> that results in loving, obedient service.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> **Or do you show contempt for the riches of His kindness, tolerance and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness leads you toward repentance? (Rom. 2:4) When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, “So then, God has granted even the Gentiles repentance unto life.”(Acts 11:18) 2 Tim. 2:25 “correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of truth . . .”**

<sup>2</sup> And repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem (Luke 24:47). In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent (Acts 17:30).

<sup>3</sup> When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment (John 16:8).

<sup>4</sup> For they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God (1 Thess.1:9).

<sup>5</sup> **For we are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. (Eph. 2:10) We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thess. 1:3)**

In a previous paper distributed by the committee, it was shown that the two wording additions that the committee is suggesting are indeed consistent with other statements found in the *Faith & Order*. We now turn our attention to the exegetical support for these wording additions.

The exegetical support for the wording change “a gift of God” can be seen in the meaning of the word “grant” or “granted,” and in the Scriptural occurrences of that word in conjunction with the idea of repentance. The word “grant” or “granted” is from the Greek word *didomi*. The straightforward meaning of this word is “to give” or “to grant.” There is no reason found anywhere in the New Testament which suggests any alternate meaning to the word.

In four verses, the word “granted” or “grant” is used in reference to repentance.

John 6:65 says (NASB), “And He was saying, ‘For this reason I have said to you, that no one can come to Me unless it has been *granted* him from the Father.’”

It is our understanding that repentance is involved in “coming to Christ.” Thus, repentance would be included in Jesus’ statement in John 6:65. The “coming to Christ” is a gift – it is given by the Father.

Acts 5:31 says of Christ, “He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to *grant* repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins (NASB).” This verse shows that the exalted Christ gives repentance to Israel. Repentance is given – thus, it can be considered a gift.

Acts 11:18 says (NASB), “When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, “Well then, God has *granted* to the Gentiles also the repentance *that leads* to life.” This verse expresses the fact that repentance is given by God to Gentiles. Thus again, repentance is given – and therefore it can rightly be considered a gift.

Finally, 2 Timothy 2:25 says (NASB), “... with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may *grant* them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth...” This verse expresses the idea that repentance is granted by God to individuals – and thus is a gift of God.

So “coming to Christ” is given by God (John 6:65); and repentance is given by God (Acts 5:31; 11:18; 2 Timothy 2:25).

Possible objections to the above-stated biblical justifications for inserting the words “a gift of God” into our statement on repentance are as follows:

1. Some suggest that repentance is not implied in the process of “coming to Christ” that is referred to in John 6:65. If both faith and repentance are considered necessary for entering into a saving relationship with God through Christ, then repentance is indeed included in “coming to Christ.”
2. Some suggest that Acts 5:31 is referring to a general offer of repentance given to the nation of Israel and thus does not refer to individuals. See #3 below.
3. Some suggest that Acts 11:18 is an acknowledgment by Jewish converts that the Gentiles also have been given repentance – and therefore they were not referring to individuals receiving repentance as a gift, but to the Gentiles as a group receiving the same offer that the Jews had received. It is true that this reference is speaking of the Gentiles as a whole, and Acts 5:31 is speaking of Israel as a whole, but it is predicated upon examples of individuals in whom the Spirit of God clearly worked and brought to faith. Our point is that repentance is explained as being “granted.” Thus, even in the context of speaking of groups of people, repentance is explained as something that comes from God and not from within the people who repent.
4. Some would then argue from Acts 5:31 and Acts 11:18 that if repentance was granted to groups of people, it must not be a repentance that is effective in the elect. They would further argue that if the whole group is granted repentance, then it must be referring to an offer of repentance, not actual personal repentance. But there is nothing in either of these texts that says the whole group, either Gentiles or Jews, is granted repentance. Rather, the texts demonstrate that a Gentile in whom the Spirit of God has granted repentance is to be accepted as part of the people of God.
5. Some suggest that 2 Timothy 2:25 is referring to heretical teachers and not to normal individuals, therefore it isn’t applicable to everyone. We answer this with the reminder

that all members of mankind are “in opposition” (2 Tim.2:25, NASB) to the Gospel until God savingly works in them. Nowhere in Scripture are heretics considered fundamentally different from the rest of mankind and therefore in need of a different and unique path to salvation. This objection suggests that heretics are granted repentance as a gift, but other sinners are not. No other passage of Scripture supports such a view. 2 Timothy 2:25 certainly does support the understanding that repentance is a gift to individuals from God.

6. Some suggest that the command to repent presupposes an ability to respond and therefore it is a mockery to say that we are to command repentance from all men while knowing that God grants repentance only to the elect. It is important to note that this suggestion and resulting conclusion does not come directly from Scriptural exegesis, but rather from the logic and thinking processes of those who hold that view. Our response to this suggestion is to refer to Article 10, Human Ability & Responsibility, in which the BFC has acknowledged both man’s inability to make decisions except in accordance with his sinful nature and man’s accountability for obedience. It is not the committee’s intent, nor is it within the purview of our assignment, to explain how these apparent contradictions are resolved in the mind of God in reference to repentance. We merely contend that the Scripture does indeed present repentance as being given to individuals by God and is therefore a gift of God.

We conclude from the passages in Scripture which join the concept of repentance with the word “grant” that repentance is indeed a gift from God to individuals, both Jews and Gentiles.

The exegetical support for the wording change “that results in loving, obedient service,” although evident in many Scripture passages, is especially notable in the following three verses:

Matthew 3:8 – “Produce fruit in keeping with repentance...”

Luke 3:8 – “Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for



Abraham.”

Acts 26:20 – “First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and to the Gentiles also, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and prove their repentance by their deeds.”

In the above three passages, the person who is professing repentance is required to exhibit fruit or deeds. The fruit or deeds are described as being “in keeping with” or “appropriate to” repentance. Thus, there is no such thing as genuine repentance that does not have with it appropriate fruit. We chose the words “loving obedient service” as that which succinctly summarizes the essence of the fruit.

We conclude from the passages of Scripture that join the concept of repentance with the necessity of fruit and noticeable deeds that it is important and entirely appropriate to include the words “that results in loving obedient service” in Article 13.

The members of this study committee unanimously approve this report.

## ***Report of the Steering Committee***

The Steering Committee was established at the 124<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in order to formulate policies and procedures as to how a proposed Executive Board and Executive Director would be elected and how they would function. It was to work with the Board of Directors and the Strategic Planning Committee and then write legislation in order to implement those policies and procedures. The committee was tasked with steering any proposals through the legislative process and providing answers to the questions that might arise along the way.

The Steering Committee met on June 9<sup>th</sup>, September 29<sup>th</sup>, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, December 15<sup>th</sup>, January 12<sup>th</sup>, February 16<sup>th</sup> and made its presentation to an Adjourned Session of Annual Conference on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Following the organizational meeting, the committee formed into sub-committees to work on the various issues that needed to be resolved. One of the sub-committees was tasked with investigating other denominational structures and met with representatives of those denominations. As the sub-committees reported their findings to the whole committee, it became clear that discussions with representatives from various churches needed to occur prior to the presentation at the Adjourned Session of Annual Conference. The results of those discussions were helpful in constructing the final presentation and the preparation of this report.

We trust that the information contained within this report, coupled with the presentation made to the Adjourned Session of Annual Conference, will be beneficial as the BFC considers restructuring and establishing an Executive Board.

**Steering Committee:** Randall A Grossman, Chairman; David T Allen, Secretary; Carl C. Cassel, Raymond R. Dotts, Robert T. Evans, Jay H. Fasnacht, Ronald W. Reed, Robert A. Sloan, Jr., Hans R. Waldvogel, J. Robert Vaughn, Timothy D. Weaver, Robert H. Zentz.

## I. INTRODUCTION

A number of years ago (more than ten), Annual Conference

approved a Strategic Planning Committee, which has been active through last year. The reason was a growing sense that we as a denomination are stuck. A few years ago, following Annual Conference there was an email circulated expressing concerns about the relatively low number of baptisms, an opinion that does get expressed periodically. Recently, in a similar vein there was another email about conversions. All in all these and many other similar observations express a growing frustration that we are not more effective than we are.

A few years ago, Annual Conference adopted a new vision statement that we would become (or are) “... *an expanding fellowship of churches united to make disciples of Jesus Christ.*” While this more directive vision more clearly states our purpose, as discussions were held in various places to implement the statement, it became clear to many that structural changes were needed denominationally. Changes that would help us as agencies and churches to move more strategically in a common direction. Changes that would enable us to be more efficient in doing our business but also more effective in expanding the kingdom. Changes that would enable us to adapt our aging infrastructures and collectively regroup for future opportunities. Changes that would enhance our ability to come alongside those churches and agencies that are in need of help. Changes that would allow us to be good stewards of the resources the Lord has provided and of the legacy He has given us.

As the Steering Committee met, prayed and discussed implementing the decision of Annual Conference to move toward an Executive Board and an Executive Director, we always kept in the forefront the necessity of the autonomy of the local church. We kept in mind the desire we all have to be consistent with the Word of God and with our *Faith and Order*. (*F&O*) And, although we are sensitive to the traditions of our past, we also kept in mind that there are some things that need to change and that any change can be difficult. In soliciting opinions from a large percentage of the churches, one of the prevailing responses was that we have to do something and probably have to do it soon. We believe that the changes that are being proposed are consistent with the Scriptures and the *F&O*, that they are financially possible though requiring sacrifice by all; that they are driven by our vision and that they are absolutely necessary.

## II. CONSISTENCY OF THE RESTRUCTURING WITH THE *FAITH & ORDER*

This restructuring of BFC on the fellowship wide level is consistent with our understanding of the church and its governance expressed in the *F&O*.

This material below from the *F&O* claims to give a biblical basis for fellowship wide church government, but it directly quotes little Scripture. However the claim is valid because of the biblical evidence for church government was studied intensely by the Annual Conference with reports preserved in Yearbooks 1963 (pages 47-61, 74B and 74C), 1965 (pages 37-47), 1967 (pages 14-41). The Annual Conference expressed approval of the material and directed that legislation be written on the basis of these studies (Yearbook 1967, p. 41). The legislation included in this report is quoted from the material developed on that directive.

The Steering Committee reviewed the biblical basis and the legislation to determine if in the intervening years a better understanding of Scripture has developed. The only place where the Committee decided improvement was needed is where a change is proposed.

1. In seeking to be founded on the Word of God in practice as well as doctrine, the BFC sets forth this form of government as that which is in its judgment is most clearly in keeping with the Holy Scriptures **(201-1)**.

2. The formulation of faith and practice must be in submission to the Holy Scriptures because God has not bound the conscience to the doctrines and commandments of men when they exceed or contradict His Word **(201-2)**.

3. Every union of particular churches shall have the right, in harmony with the preceding principles, to formulate a F&O that shall seek to provide a basis of fellowship always in submission to the written word of God **(201-3)**.

4. This form of government shall seek to make this body a church that operates by written standards, which is not, however, to be understood as being opposed to love or spirit, but rather opposed to disorder and injustices that can so easily pervert right human relationships when authority is personal or when there is not an accepted way of deciding issues that inevitably arise among

men, however deeply they may be committed to Jesus Christ and to one another **(201-4)**.

5. Jesus Christ has established His rule on earth in the church. The universal church consists of all those persons, in every nation, who make profession of faith in Christ and yield submission to Him and His rule. Because this multitude cannot meet in one place for worship and fellowship, the Scripture indicates that these believers shall be divided into many particular churches **(202-1.1)**.

6. A particular church consists of professing believers voluntarily associated in submission to the Holy Scriptures, for divine worship, godly living, and evangelism. The particular churches seek to demonstrate their participation in the church universal by forming union with other particular churches that have a similar understanding of doctrine and organization **(202-1.2)**.

7. By providing spiritually qualified overseer, called Elders, Christ enables each particular church to govern itself **(203-1)**.

8. But although the churches are autonomous, they are not independent, because they are a part of a fellowship of churches. The basis of this fellowship is mutual conviction of the body of truth set forth in the Scriptures **(203-2)**.

9. The authority of the fellowship is secondary, being derived from the Particular Churches, and is limited to matters that pertain to the church in fellowship or to common concerns that churches agree to take care of together **(203-3)**.

10. All authority in the Church, whether in particular churches or in the denomination, is moral and spiritual, ministerial and declarative. It is moral and spiritual, negatively, in that the church is unable to use civil force to compel obedience, and positively, in that obedience is incomplete unless it is inward and real as well as outward and apparent. All authority in the church is ministerial and declarative in that the Holy Scriptures are the only rule of faith and conduct, and all decisions and laws must therefore be understood as being servants of the Word, announcing what the body believes the Scripture to teach with the constant recognition that “councils may err” through frailty inseparable from humanity **(203-4)**.

11. The church consists of many congregations, which need mutual counsel and assistance to preserve soundness of doctrine and discipline, to enter into joint effort for the advancement of the work of Christ, and to prevent infidelity, error and immorality. From this arises the importance and usefulness of assemblies of

### Particular Churches (203-5).

12. The following materials are designed to define how the assembly of particular churches proposes to accomplish its work in a manner in keeping with the biblical principles previously stated.

## III. STUDY OF OTHER DENOMINATIONS

Part of the committee's work was to look at how our brothers in other church bodies have organized themselves. We looked at various denominations: the Conservative Baptist Association, the Evangelical Congregational Church, the Presbyterian Church in America, the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, the Fellowship Bible Churches, the Christian Reformed Church, Brethren in Christ, the Evangelical Free Church, Sovereign Grace Ministries, and others. The duties and authority of each body's executive/administrative board vary. The body that seems most similar to ours is the Evangelical Congregational Church (ECC) based in Myerstown, PA. Though the ECC has a nominally Episcopal government, practically speaking, its structure is similar to what we envision for the BFC: an executive and executive committee giving guidance to the larger body, with boards/commissions under the executive committee, and with the churches retaining much autonomy. That said, our intention is not to pattern our structure after any one body, but to learn from what our brothers are doing and trust the Lord to guide us into the structure that best suits the BFC's needs.

## IV. PROPOSED LEGISLATION

The following recommended changes to the BFC Principles of Order are to implement the creation of an Executive Board. They are presented in logical order, not the order of their appearance in the *F&O*.

1. The first block of material has to do with the Annual Conference. The current Annual Conference will be replaced with the BFC Conference. The proposed legislation defines the BFC Conference, explains its authority, and describes its work.
  - a. Replace current **501-2**, **501-3**, **501-4**, and **501-5** with:

**501-2** The BFC Conference performs the legislative function of our denomination. As such it alone has the power to amend and authoritatively interpret the *F&O*. By this means it governs the affairs of the Particular Churches on a denominational level, serves the health of the Particular Churches, and receives requests and petitions from the Particular Churches. Although it has these powers, it shall not subvert the autonomy of the Particular Churches.

**501-3** The BFC Conference also exercises final oversight of the judicial function of our denomination. In this capacity, it examines, licenses and ordains candidates for pastoral ministry, provides counsel in the calling of pastors to Particular Churches, supervises the resignation and removal of pastors, examines and approves or censures the records of Particular Churches, elects judicatories and serves as a final court of appeal in matters of discipline.

**501-4** The BFC Conference also provides for the executive function of our denomination. As such it elects a President and BFC Executive Board, ratifies the Executive Director, and approves the direction and planning proposed by the BFC Executive Board. To provide for this executive and administrative leadership, the BFC Conference has the authority to assess the Particular Churches a percentage of their offerings.

**501-5** The BFC Conference shall meet annually in performance of its responsibilities outlined above. Officers and committees shall be elected and appointed each year in order to conduct its business in an efficient manner. The purpose of the annual gathering is to govern the BFC through the *F&O*, promote unity and fellowship between the churches, and to focus our vision on unified goals for our churches and their joint endeavors.

**501-6** The proceedings of the BFC Conference shall be conducted according to the Business Rules of BFC Conference (see **508**). It shall keep and publish a record of its proceedings and make it available to the membership of the churches

- b. **203-6** replace “Annual Conference of the Bible Fellowship Church” with “Bible Fellowship Church Conference.”
- c. Replace “Annual Conference” with BFC Conference”.  
**302-3.2, 302-4.1, 302-4.2, 401-1.7, 403-1.4, 403-1.5, 405, 405-1, 405-2, 407-4, 500, 501, 501-1, 501-2, 501-3, 501-4, 501-5, 502-3.5, 502-4.1, 504, 504-1, 504-2.2, 504-2.3, 504-3.1, 504-3.3, 504-3.4, 505, 505-1, 505-2, 506, 506-1, 506-2, 506-3, 506-4, 506-5, 506-6, 506-8, 507, 507-1, 507-2, 507-3, 508, 508-4, 508-6, 508-7, 508-8, 510-2, 510-4, 510-5, 510-6, 510-7, 511-1, 511-1.1, 511-1.2, 511-1.3, 511-1.4, 511-2, 511-2.1, 511-2.2, 511-2.3, 511-2.4, 511-2.5, 511-2.6, 513, 513-1, 513-3, 801-1, 801-4, 802-1, 802-3, 802-4.**
2. The officers of the BFC Conference are to be viewed as servants of the business meeting, not leaders of the denomination. The Chairman and Vice Chairman will be changed to the Moderator and Vice Moderator.
- a. Replace **407-5** “Chairman of Annual Conference” with “Conference Moderator.” **405-2, 505-2, 506-1, 506-2, 506-5, 507-1, 508-4, 508-6, 511, 511-2.4, 511-2.6.**
- b. **507-1** Duties – omit Duties (4) (5) (6) & add to election (3)  
 The BFC Executive Director is ineligible to serve as the Conference Moderator.
- c. **507-2** replace “ Vice Chairman” with “Vice Moderator”
3. The Board of Directors of the BFC is replaced with the BFC Executive Board. The Board of Directors was strictly limited to the role of legal representative and trustee. The Executive Board will be empowered to make decisions involving the direction of the church, the deployment of its resources and the development of its potential. The Executive Board would be headed by a President elected by the BFC Conference and served by an Executive Director appointed by the BFC Executive Board.
- a. Replace **407-5** “Board of Directors of BFC” with “BFC



## Executive Board”

- b. **512-1:** “Board of Directors of the Bible Fellowship Church” shall be replaced with:

**512-1: Bible Fellowship Church Executive Board**

The Bible Fellowship Church Executive Board (BFC Executive Board) performs the executive functions of our denomination. It shall provide leadership for the BFC by proposing strategic direction to the BFC Conference, implementing direction through the oversight of the BFC divisions and agencies, and monitoring progress in the direction approved by the BFC Conference. It shall have the authority between the meetings of the BFC Conference to execute the decisions made by that body.

**512-1.1: Composition, Election, and Terms of Office:**

- (1) The BFC Executive Board shall have thirteen members: A President (who is elected directly by the BFC Conference), The Executive Director (by virtue of his office), and eleven members (five ordained ministers and six elders.)
- (2) The elected Classes shall be as follows:
  - Class I President, one ordained minister and two elders.
  - Class II Two ordained ministers and two elders
  - Class III Two ordained ministers and two elders
- (3) Each member shall be elected for a term of three years.
- (4) Each agency shall be represented by one non-voting member selected by the agency board.

**512-1.2: Meetings and Quorum:**

- (a) *Meetings:* The BFC Executive Board shall establish a schedule of stated meetings, at which any business of the board may be conducted. Special meetings may be convened by the President on his own initiative , or at the call of the Secretary when requested by five members. Any special meetings must be held with at least a seven day notice, and business must be limited to the announced purpose unless all thirteen members of the board are present and consent to transact other business.
- (b) *Quorum:* Nine members must be present to transact

business of the BFC Executive Board. If unanimous consent is required by our rules, the vote of an absent member shall be recorded on that matter.

**512-1.3: Organization:**

- (1) *President:* The President shall be elected by the BFC Conference for a term of three years. He may be an ordained pastor or an elder. The Executive Director is ineligible to serve as President.
- (2) *Other Officers:* The BFC Executive Board shall elect annually from their number a Vice President, Secretary, Financial Secretary, Treasurer and any other officers as the business of the board may require. The Executive Director is ineligible to serve in these offices.
- (3) *Vacancies:* Vacancies in these offices shall be filled as soon as possible. In the event that the office of President is vacant, the Vice President shall serve until the next meeting of the BFC Conference.
- (4) *Removal from Office:* The President may be removed from office at any time by a majority vote of the BFC Conference. The other officers elected by the BFC Executive Board may be removed from office at any time by the majority of the whole BFC Executive Board.

**512-1.4 Duties of Officers:**

*President:*

- (1) He shall chair the meetings of the BFC Executive Board.
- (2) He shall serve as legal representation for the corporation, empowered to execute all contracts, deeds, mortgages, and other documents, as the business of the corporation may require. He may designate another officer of the BFC Executive Board to exercise this power in his place. He shall report all such executions to the board.
- (3) He shall carry out all other responsibilities as are usually conducted by the president of the corporation.

*Vice President:*

- (1) He shall chair the meetings of the BFC Executive Board in the absence of the President.
- (2) If the President is unable to serve, he shall serve as

President until the next meeting of the BFC Conference.

*Secretary:*

- (1) He shall record and maintain minutes of the BFC Executive Board.
- (2) He shall provide for the safe preservation of the records and legal documents of the corporation.

*Financial Secretary:*

- (1) He shall maintain accurate records of all assets held by the and all financial transactions of the corporation.
- (2) He shall issue payment of all duly authorized financial obligations.

*Treasurer:*

- (1) He shall deposit all funds for which the BFC Executive Board is responsible in depositories approved by the Board.
- (2) He shall provide for an annual audit of all money held by the BFC Executive Board.

**512-1.5: Duties of the BFC Executive Board**

- (1) It shall provide leadership for the BFC by presenting strategic direction to the BFC Conference. It shall seek approval of the BFC Conference to pursue this direction through the implementation of strategic plans.
- (2) It shall appoint the Executive Director, subject to ratification of the BFC Conference, and oversee his performance in carrying out the work of the BFC Executive Board.
- (3) It shall appoint the directors of the agencies and establish the terms of their employment, subject to ratification of the agency boards.
- (4) It shall by counsel, advice and direction, oversee the work of the agencies in furthering the overall ministry of the BFC and shall ratify the elections of each agency board.
- (5) It shall administrate the BFC Annual Budget, and make annual recommendations to the BFC Conference concerning the Budget and Church Assessment Rate.
- (6) It shall provide for and oversee the administrative aspects of the BFC including (but not limited to education, accounting, auditing, pensions, publications,

- publicity, stewardship, and development.
- (7) It shall hold title to and have charge of all property, both real and personal, belonging to the corporation. It shall buy or sell property for the corporation only by the approval of all members of the board or by direction of the BFC Conference. It shall have the authority to borrow money, contract mortgages, or make loans against any property of the corporation by approval of all members of the board or by direction of the BFC Conference.
  - (8) It shall have oversight over all funds entrusted to it by the BFC Conference.
  - (9) It shall have oversight of all insurance programs offered by the BFC.
  - (10) It shall act as the legal representative in the name of and on behalf of the corporation known as the Bible Fellowship Church (a non profit corporation in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania ). It shall have all the rights and privileges, as well as responsibilities and liabilities, conferred by the charter creating the corporation.
  - (11) It shall report annually to the BFC Conference.

**512-1.6: Executive Director of the Bible Fellowship Church:**

The Executive Director shall be an ordained pastor or elder appointed by the BFC Executive Board to carry out the direction approved by the BFC Conference. He shall be appointed, with the terms of employment, for a term of three years, subject to ratification by the BFC Conference. He shall serve as a member of the BFC Executive Board.

**Duties:**

- (1) He shall implement the direction and strategic plans of the BFC Conference.
- (2) He shall represent the BFC in public ministry.
- (3) He shall encourage churches and pastors toward achieving the plans of the BFC Conference.
- (4) He shall encourage and coordinate BFC committees in achieving the plans of the BFC Conference.
- (5) He shall encourage and coordinate BFC agency directors in achieving the plans of the BFC Conference.

- (6) He shall oversee the daily operations of the BFC administration.
  - (7) He shall report to the BFC Executive Board and the BFC Conference.
4. The new structure also involves a major change in the way we fund our denominational administration. The following legislation provides for this:
- a. Omit **407-2** offering (6) Administrative Budget
  - b. **New 502** “ BFC Annual Budget”

*Administration*

**502-1** The BFC Annual Budget is administered by the BFC Executive Board. The Board prepares the budget and presents it to the BFC Conference for adoption. The budget provides for the executive administration of the BFC and includes (but is not limited to) salaries of the Executive Director and other employees, expenses of committees, pension obligations, administrative departments, and any other obligations or projects approved by the BFC Conference.

**502-2** *Funding*: The BFC Annual Budget is funded by the Church Assessment Rate. At the time that the BFC Executive Board presents the budget, a rate shall be recommended which provides for the funding of the budget. The rate shall be a percentage of the regular offerings received by the particular churches in the previous calendar year. The BFC Executive Board must present a balanced budget which is adequately funded by the assessment.

**502-3** *Adoption*: The BFC Annual Budget shall be adopted by a two-thirds majority of the BFC Conference. The budget shall include the Church Assessment Rate necessary to fund it, so that a vote for the budget is also a vote for the assessment. The BFC Conference shall not adopt an Annual Budget without approving the Church Assessment Rate which balances it.

Move the current Article **502** – *Procedure for the Resignation of a Minister* and Article **503** – *Retirement from the Ministry* to a new Article **509** – “*Ministry in the Bible*”

*Fellowship Church”*

c. **New 407-2: Church Assessment** The Particular Churches through their representatives to the BFC Conference adopt the BFC Annual Budget with a Church Assessment Rate each year. This rate is a percentage of the regular offering from the previous calendar year. (For instance, The BFC Annual Budget for 2006 is adopted at the BFC Conference in 2005. It includes the adoption of a Church Assessment Rate of 1.5% of the regular offerings reported for 2004. The amount is provided in the Particular Church budget for 2006 to fund the BFC Annual Budget for that year.)

**407-3: Offerings**, renumber subsequent articles.

5. BFC Conference business rules will be updated.

Replace **508-1, 508-2, 508-3, 508-5** with

**508-1 Regular Order of Business** Each meeting of the BFC Conference shall be opened and closed with prayer. Times for worship shall be provided in each day’s agenda. The parliamentary procedure shall follow the rules of the BFC and Robert’s Rules of Order. Business shall generally proceed according to an approved agenda. Minutes shall be recorded and approved for each meeting. (subsequent articles in **508** shall be numbered accordingly)

6. If the BFC Executive Board is adopted and elected, considerable change may come to other agencies, boards and committees upon its recommendation to the BFC Conference. This would effect articles **509 Agencies of Annual Conference** and **512 Boards and Committees Elected by Ballot** including **512-2** through **512-18**.

This may lead to a restructuring such as follows:

**509 Divisions of Annual Conference** - This article may be revised to reflect the new relationship between the agencies and the BFC Executive Board.

**512 Board and Committees Elected by BFC Conference**

**512-1 Bible Fellowship Church Executive Board**

**512-2 Nominating Committee**

**512-3** *Church Health Committee*

**512-4** *Ministerial Candidate Committee*

**512-5** *Ministerial Relations Committee*

**512-6** *Credentials Committee*

**513** *Boards Elected from within and Ratified by the BFC Executive Board* This section is where the agencies will be found.

**514** *Departments of the BFC Executive Board* This section might include the functions of the current Board of Christian Education, Board of Youth and Young Adults, Board of Higher Education, Board of Pensions, Historical Committee, Board of Communications. It may also add functions such as Accounting, Auditing, Publicity, and Development.

7. In reviewing the Scriptural basis and the BFC background for these proposed changes, the steering committee became convinced that Article **203-5** should be strengthened to reflect our commitment to mutual accountability. The proposed revision will not in itself increase its usefulness among us, but mutual commitment of each of us to our brethren and each congregation to all others and the body as a whole will increase its usefulness.

Substitute the following for **203-5** as it now stands:

The church consists of many congregations each in need of mutual counsel and assistance. Because this counsel and assistance is needed by each congregation, each member is responsible for and accountable to other members and to the body as a whole. However this counsel and assistance must neither violate the autonomy of congregations in the body nor negate the accountability of each member to all other members of the body. The goals of this mutual counsel and assistance are to encourage and maintain spiritual health, to preserve soundness of doctrine and discipline, to enter into joint effort for the advancement of the work of Christ, and to prevent infidelity, error and immorality. From this arises the importance and usefulness of assemblies of particular churches.

## V. PROPOSED UNIFIED ASSESSMENT

1. The need for this new board and its cost.

We believe that an Executive Board and Director will enable the Bible Fellowship Church to move ahead in a cooperative way well into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. This Executive Board will replace the Board of Directors of the BFC and will consolidate the agencies as much as feasible, while providing leadership and direction in accomplishing the mission and goals of the denomination.

Certainly, at this point, all of the costs are unknown. However, our estimates are around \$150-180 thousand dollars annually. This includes salaries for an Executive Director and clerical help, for office equipment and supplies and for travel expenses. It is anticipated that office space will be donated initially. Start-up costs may be higher, but these extra costs should be eliminated after the Executive Board office is fully operational.

2. How will we pay for the Executive Board system?

We believe that there should be one assessment made to the churches that includes the Administrative Budget, the Ministerial Retirement Fund (MRF) assessment, the Fellowship News charges and the new Executive Board expenses. One assessment per church and that is all.

The assessment would be based on the reported income for the total operating budget of each church. To get an initial perspective of how this would work, the following spreadsheet shows how part of the costs could be raised with a 2% assessment on the 2006 income as reported to the Annual Conference in 2007, (*BFC 2007 Yearbook*, pp. 238-240). That 2% assessment is shown on Column E of the spreadsheet. This amount is based on a flat 2% of Column C; however, we are aware that some standardizing and refining of the “total offerings” amounts are needed. This aspect will be addressed later in a section called “Assessable Receipts – Churches.”

Columns F-H show what is now being given and assessed for the Administrative Budget, the MRF assessment and the Fellowship News assessment. These columns are totaled in Column I and compared with the 2% assessment (Column E) in Column J. As one can see many of the smaller churches are already paying more than the 2% assessment would cost them.

3. Assessable Receipts - Churches.



From our discussions with some of our church leaders we have concluded that the reported income definition should be expanded and refined from what now appears under “VII. Receipts” in the Yearbook, (*BFC 2007 Yearbook*, p. 244). We offer the following:

- A. Assessable receipts consist of the following: All amounts received in support of the church’s operating budget, including rent, appropriations from Church Extension, unrestricted bequests, donor-designated gifts for specific expenditures included in the operating budget and investment earnings on unrestricted funds.
- B. Exclusions from assessable receipts include donor-designated gifts given for programs which are not part of the operating budget. Examples are amounts given for faith promises for missions, short-term missions trips, a memorial fund, a building fund, debt reduction, etc. Also excluded are loans proceeds, gifts-in-kind, gifts of real property, proceeds from the sale of real property and investment earnings on donor-restricted assets.

#### 4. Additional Funding.

The 2% assessment would raise about \$86,000 additional funding (Spreadsheet, Column J total) to pay for the cost of the new Executive Board system. Where would the other funds come from as required in paragraph #1 above? The present funding from the Administrative Budget (Column F) would not be available since over \$100,000 of that amount goes for additional MRF funding and the Conference Pastor costs, (*BFC 2007 Yearbook*, p. 96).

We believe that if the denominational headquarters housed the various departments of the BFC at one location with one receptionist/secretary, there would be a savings overall to the denomination. Since the agencies will make use of this aspect of consolidation more than the churches, the agencies may be called upon to contribute their savings to help fund the new system. Office savings could be realized in office equipment, secretarial duties, telephone and communications, consolidated accounting and other streamlining innovations.

Early estimates show the following:

Pinebrook Bible Conference    \$23,000

Victory Valley	13,000
Church Extension Ministries	15,000
Board of Missions	<u>29,000</u>
	\$81,000

If sufficient savings by consolidation cannot be achieved, other sources of funding would be sought by the Executive Board, including raising the church assessment rate over 2%. It is expected, however, that the assessment rate would not exceed 3%.

#### 5. Conclusion.

We believe that this is a “doable” project financially, without placing an unreasonable burden on the churches, the agencies or any aspect of the ministry of the BFC. It will require, however, the cooperation and innovation of which we believe our dynamic fellowship of churches is capable.

### IV. TIME LINE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

- March 2008: Presentation at Adjourned Session of 124<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference
- April 2008: First Reading Legislation  
Election of President and Executive Board (by Rule of Exception)  
Uniform financial record keeping for 2008 adopted
- April 2009: Second Reading Legislation  
Second Reading for President and Executive Board, assuming legal responsibility from the Board of Directors  
Assessment Rate and Budget adopted for 2010 based on 2008 offerings

### ***Missions Rally - May 8, 2008***



# FUNDING the BFC ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET

The Impact of 2% Unified Assessment vs. Current Budget Giving & Other Assessments

[A]	[B]	[C]	[D]	[E]	[F]	[G]	[H]	[I]	[J]
Church	Members	Total	Avg. Offering	2.0%	Actual	MRF	Fell. News	Total:	Increase
		Offerings	per Member	Rate (b)	A.B. Giving	Assess.	Assess.	Column	@ 2%
	(a)	(a)			(a)	[c]	(d)	F, G, H	Rate (e)
Allentown, CC	688	\$1,176,238	\$1,710	\$23,525	\$7,650	\$7,092	\$1,204	\$15,946	\$7,579
Bethlehem	453	1,054,194	2,327	8,270	2,500	4,977	793	8,270	0
Blandon	153	347,230	2,269	6,945	2,160	153	347,230	2,269	6,945
Brooklyn, NY	21	21,090	1,004	422	0	1,089	37	1,126	(704)
Camden, DE	45	92,831	2,063	1,857	500	1,305	79	1,884	(27)
Clinton Crns.,NY	28	96,625	3,451	1,933	200	1,152	49	1,401	532
Coopersburg	323	739,179	2,288	14,784	6,350	3,807	565	10,722	4,062
Denville, NJ	28	51,908	1,854	1,038	0	1,152	49	1,201	(163)
Emmaus	292	1,117,973	3,829	22,359	9,876	3,528	511	13,915	8,444
Ephrata	213	385,842	1,811	7,717	6,475	2,817	373	9,665	(1,948)
Fell. Community	23	27,136	1,180	543	100	1,107	40	1,247	(704)
Finesville, NJ	42	78,284	1,864	1,566	1,000	1,278	74	2,352	(786)
Fleetwood	63	151,594	2,406	3,032	500	1,467	110	2,077	955
Graterford	91	233,640	2,567	4,673	1,200	1,719	159	3,078	1,595
Harleysville	187	443,098	2,370	8,862	1,125	2,583	327	4,035	4,827
Harrisburg	133	325,202	2,445	6,504	2,183	2,097	233	4,513	1,991
Hatfield	138	321,768	2,332	6,435	3,375	2,142	242	5,759	676
Holmes, NY	17	19,960	1,174	399	500	1,053	30	1,583	(1,184)
Howell, NJ	19	74,150	3,903	1,483	400	1,071	33	1,504	(21)
Kutztown	49	124,120	2,533	2,482	1,428	1,341	86	2,855	(373)
Lagrangeville, NY	32	90,322	2,823	1,806	1,650	1,188	56	2,894	(1,088)
Lancaster	369	697,972	1,892	13,959	6,000	4,221	646	10,867	3,092
Lebanon	205	477,787	2,331	9,556	2,950	2,745	359	6,054	3,502
Lehighton	78	82,846	1,062	1,657	750	1,602	137	2,489	(832)
Longneck, DE	37	114,043	3,082	2,281	250	1,233	65	1,548	733
Maple Glen	39	98,621	2,529	1,972	600	1,251	68	1,919	53
Mt. Carmel	90	132,854	1,476	2,657	1,380	1,710	158	3,248	(591)
Mt. Pocono	123	246,401	2,003	4,928	2,200	2,007	215	4,422	506
Nazareth	211	193,494	917	3,870	2,900	2,799	369	6,068	(2,198)
Newark, DE	245	786,571	3,210	15,731	1,500	3,105	429	5,034	10,697
Newark, NJ	63	107,243	1,702	2,145	1,150	1,467	110	2,727	(58)

<b>Royersford</b>	115	298,578	2,596	5,972	2,000	1,935	201	4,136	1,836
<b>Shamokin</b>	93	125,485	1,349	2,510	0	1,737	163	1,900	610
<b>Sinking Spring</b>	430	1,460,371	3,396	29,207	4,440	4,770	753	9,963	19,244
<b>Spring City</b>	108	115,147	1,066	2,303	100	1,872	189	2,161	142
<b>Stroudsburg</b>	113	251,441	2,225	5,029	2,000	1,917	198	4,115	914
<b>Sunbury</b>	266	417,765	1,571	8,355	3,931	3,294	466	7,691	664
<b>Terre Hill</b>	61	110,996	1,820	2,220	650	1,449	107	2,206	14
<b>Thompson, CT</b>	29	52,516	1,811	1,050	380	1,161	51	1,592	(542)
<b>Toms River, NJ</b>	28	40,513	1,447	810	250	1,152	49	1,451	(641)
<b>Wallingford</b>	237	617,905	2,607	12,358	5,700	3,033	415	9,148	3,210
<b>Walnutport</b>	62	81,641	1,317	1,633	216	1,458	109	1,783	(150)
<b>Whitehall</b>	102	144,060	1,412	2,881	225	1,818	179	2,222	659
<b>York</b>	156	273,069	1,750	5,461	2,000	2,304	273	4,577	884
<b>Zionsville</b>	50	87,868	1,757	1,757	540	1,350	88	1,978	(221)
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>7,547</b>	<b>16,164,027</b>	<b>2,142</b>	<b>323,281</b>	<b>108,495</b>	<b>113,499</b>	<b>360,176</b>	<b>234,896</b>	<b>77,840</b>

- (a) 2007 BFC Yearbook.
- (b) \$16,164,027 offerings @ 2% produces \$323,281.
- (c) \$900 per church, plus \$9 per member.
- (d) \$1.75 per member.
- (e) If MRF & FN assessments are being paid, churches with negative numbers are currently paying more than a 2% unified assessment would cost them.

***Report of the  
Study Committee: The Millennium***

I. Our basic recommendation - Eschatological liberty:

After having spent four years in intensive study concerning the issue of the bodily return of Christ and related aspects of His future kingdom, the committee recommends that eschatological liberty be granted those holding an evangelical/orthodox understanding of the millennium. We do not believe a particular evangelical millennial view to be a test of evangelical authenticity. We understand that there is an “already / not yet” dimension to the Kingdom of God. We further believe that our recommended articles will allow for proper evangelical eschatological liberty. Also, our proposal will allow us collectively as a denomination and individually as pastors and elders, to proclaim truth by holding confidently and unapologetically to a firm Biblical understanding of the primary events associated with Christ’s return without causing harmful and unnecessary division within the body of Christ.

II. Potential New Articles (to replace current Articles 24 through 28)

**Article 24 - The Kingdom of God**

24-1. The kingdom of God is His sovereign rule over all things (1Chr. 29:10-11; Psa.103:19; 145:11-13). It is dynamically active in human history through Jesus Christ and is a present reality experienced by believers through their being united with Him and His resurrection in the New Birth (John 3:3,5; Eph.2:6; Col.1:13; 3:1). The kingdom of God is also a longed for and confident hope that awaits its fullness with the return of Jesus Christ, (Mat.6:10; 25:31-46; Rev.20-22). While believers live in this present evil age (Gal.1:4), through their Spirit-wrought union with Christ they also experience a foretaste of the powers of the age to come (Heb.6:5). The moment a believer is regenerated he possesses eternal life (John 6:47) and having been made alive spiritually he is a new creation (2Cor. 5:17). However, he is still in a mortal body, living in a fallen world, awaiting the resurrection

of the body (John 6:39,40) and Christ's final victory. Thus, a believer in Jesus Christ experiences the tension between already sharing in the glories of the Kingdom of God while yet awaiting its final and consummate realization (Rom.8:17-25 ; 2Thes.1:3-10; Heb.2:5-9).

## Article 25 - The Return of Jesus Christ

25-1. The return of Jesus Christ is the blessed hope of the believer, who waits for it with patience, endurance and anticipation (Titus 2:13). Jesus Christ will return to this earth - personally (Acts 1:9-11), visibly (Mark 14:61,62), physically (Phil.3:20,21; Luke 24:29-43), and suddenly (1Thes.5:2-3) in power and great glory (Luke 21:27); and in conjunction with His return He will gather His elect (Mat.24:31), raise the dead (1Thes.4:15-17; John 5:28-29), judge the nations (Mat.25:31-46; Rev.9:15-21), remove the curse (Rom.8:20-21), **bring to consummation** His kingdom (1Cor.15:22-28) and recreate a new heaven and earth (2Pe.3:10).

[NOTICE that we have made one change since our last report: in Article 25-1, the last sentence, we have changed **consummate** His kingdom” to now read “**bring to consummation** His kingdom.”]

25-2. The bodily resurrection of Christ is the basis for the bodily resurrection of all mankind, both the righteous and the unrighteous (John 5:28,29; 11:25). At the return of the Lord the bodies of the righteous dead will be raised, and the living believers will be caught up together with them to meet the Lord in the air (1Thes.4:14-17). Believers will, at His return, receive spiritual and immortal bodies like Christ's own glorious body (Phil. 3:20,21; Job 19:25-27).

25-3. The return of Jesus Christ is the believer's source of encouragement and comfort inspiring him to active service for Christ, and is a motive for purification and holy living (2Pe.3:1-14; 1Jo.3:3)

## Article 26 - The Eternal State

There are two final, eternal destinies for man: heaven for the righteous and penitent and hell for the unrighteous and impenitent (Mat.25:46). The judgment that brings this about will vindicate believers and condemn all of the enemies of God to eternal punishment. The righteous will enter into the everlasting joy of their Master (Mat.25:23; Eph.2:7; Rev.21:3-4); the wicked who suppressed the truth in unrighteousness will be consigned to everlasting conscious torment in hell from which there is no escape (Rev.20:11-15). The new heavens and the new earth shall be created as the final state in which the righteous shall dwell forever in the presence of God.

### III. Why approval of this proposal is good for the Bible Fellowship Church:

**A. Christ's return is our "blessed hope," not the time lines associated with it.** Too much time and energy is being spent in evangelical/fundamental churches – including the BFC – on possible time lines and the sequence of events related to Christ's second coming rather than on his actual coming and its significance. Different sequences or time lines thus become focal points of attention and discussion rather than the return of Christ. We believe that approval of this proposal will actually allow time lines and sequences to have less importance, and thereby encourage the focus to be Christ's personal return, which truly is our "blessed hope."

The Scripture declares loudly and repeatedly: we are "waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13). These words teach us that Mennonite Brethren in Christ/Bible Fellowship Church people were taking Scripture seriously in emphasizing throughout our history the anticipation of Christ's return for his people. However that emphasis has faded in the last generation. Our people continue to speak of the joy of Christ's return, but in the last generation little in-depth teaching has been given. The different opinions concerning time lines and sequences of events too often create fear of personal rejection of the teacher, or, perhaps worse yet, of splitting a church if one does not adhere to the right sequence of eschatological events.



The relationship of the rapture to the tribulation was at one time the dividing issue in our Bible Fellowship Churches concerning eschatology. The writing of Article 24 created considerable tension in the 1950's and 60's, but was approved without requiring a specific view of the relationship of the rapture and the tribulation. That liberty has come to be accepted. Today the issue is whether (1) there is a literal thousand year reign of Christ on earth following his second coming (premillennialism) later followed by the "new heavens and new earth," or whether (2) the literal millennial kingdom will be capped by Christ's return (postmillennialism) followed by "the new heavens and the new earth," or whether (3) Christ's reign over the world is now administered from His heavenly session at the right hand of God, waiting to be revealed at His appearing, followed by "the new heavens and the new earth" in which He will visibly rule over the earth (amillennialism). Adopting the material proposed here will allow us to teach different convictions about Christ's return, while encouraging us to focus more fully on our "blessed hope"—meeting Christ our Savior and being fully transformed into his likeness—and the age to come.

**B. The ways in which Scripture speaks about the end times make it difficult to interpret with finality.** The return of Christ is the one issue on which Christ himself confessed less than full knowledge (Mat.24:36). He also instructed His followers to be more concerned about dependence on the Holy Spirit than concerned about the time of the restoration of the kingdom to Israel (Acts 1:4-8).

In Old Testament passages such as Isaiah 11, the prophet begins with the anticipated coming of Christ (v. 1), Christ's ministry on earth (vv.2 ff.) with transition to Christ's return and judgment and restoration. Serious interpreters differ over where in the passage transition from Jesus' *earthly ministry* to his *return ministry* takes place. Jesus says in Luke 4:18,19 that Isaiah 61 speaks of His coming. Interpreters differ over why He stopped reading just before "the day of vengeance of our God." By stopping where He did, was Jesus making a distinction between His time of grace and His time of judgment? Or did He just stop there, having identified Himself as the subject of Isaiah's prophecy? Such claims come because just after speaking of

“vengeance” Isaiah speaks of what sounds like grace– “comfort” and of giving “the oil of gladness for mourning.” This is simply to say that interpreting Scripture regarding its eschatology is not always simple. The whole book of Revelation is so full of Old Testament imagery and apocalyptic kinds of speech that it is not easy to resolve differences of interpretation. Teaching that focuses on Christ’s personal return without being hung up on time lines and sequences will engender an attitude toward serious study of Scripture that will benefit God’s people. Adopting this proposal will allow for more open discussion of these difficult passages of Scripture without fear.

**C. There has been a premillennialism in the church since the early church fathers, but a different type of premillennialism arose in the mid-nineteenth century.** That kind of premillennialism is part of the Dispensationalism that developed through J. N. Darby and was then popularized through the Scofield Bible. This Dispensationalism is so prevalent in evangelical/ fundamental churches that most people are not aware of its pervasiveness. Coming to be conscious of different perspectives held throughout church history and the depth of influence of this Dispensational perspective on the understanding of Scripture will help people to realize that other views of Christ’s personal return (Acts 1:9-11) are not heretical and that the Dispensational perspective is relatively new. The impact of historical and exegetical discussion has precipitated significant change of convictions even among those who call themselves Dispensationalists. The BFC can benefit in similar ways. Adopting this proposal will allow greater openness to the impact of the history of the interpretation of Scripture.

### **Conclusion**

Evangelicalism’s present comparative silence on eschatology would seem to leave one of two impressions. Both are inadequate. One impression that may be left is that Christ’s return is primarily a matter of our deliverance from problems such as evil culture, tests and threats from unbelievers. This is not being careful enough with Scripture. Christ’s return is more than that. Another impression that may be left is that “this life is all there is.” But the Scripture clearly says that there is “the age to come.” To say too

little about it is also not being careful enough with Scripture. Adopting this proposal does not automatically make us more careful with Scripture, but it should greatly enable and encourage us toward that end. Thus, we believe it is good for the BFC because it allows more room for that desired greater carefulness.

#### IV. The Hermeneutical Issue:

##### *What is the controversy?*

A “Dispensational Pre-millennialist”, an “Historic Pre-millennialist” and an “Amillennialist” all take the scripture to be the inspired and inerrant Word of God. They all seek to take great pains to properly and accurately interpret the Scriptures. No one from either of these positions seeks to interpret Scripture subjectively. None wish to make Scripture say whatever they want it to say. All of them seek to put into place safeguards that protect the integrity of the Word of God. What then shapes our understanding of hermeneutics, causing us to arrive at different eschatological conclusions? Not wanting to be simplistic, but for the sake of brevity the following seems to be the basic hermeneutical issue.

A dispensational pre-millennialist believes that one must interpret the Scriptures “literally”. Of course they understand that at times scripture needs to be interpreted figuratively. However, they feel that their basic overall approach to the hermeneutical task is to interpret the text “literally”. They feel that this is the safest way to interpret Scripture. It allows God to mean what He says. It prevents someone from arbitrarily making the Scripture say whatever suits the interpreter. Therefore, prophetic promises made to “Israel” *must be* fulfilled by “Israel”.

An historic pre-millennialist and an amillennialist share basically the same hermeneutic. And this fact can hardly be overemphasized! They do not abandon a literal hermeneutic, but neither do they subscribe to the same species of “literal interpretation” that dispensationalism uses and demands. So then, what is the point of departure from their dispensational premillennialist brethren? Simply this: they both feel that the New Testament is the interpretive authority of the Old Testament. When the New Testament “spiritualizes”, or interprets the Old

Testament in a non-literal manner, when it indicates that the Old Testament promises to Israel are fulfilled in the Christian church, they bow to its authority and surrender their right to insist on a so-called “literal interpretation” of the Old Testament. They feel that this is the most humble way to approach the Scripture (i.e., because Scripture has but one Author, they therefore allow that Author to interpret what He earlier revealed) and that the best safe-guard against errant and fanciful interpretations of Scripture is to allow the New Testament to be both the interpreter of the Old Testament and the final revelation for God’s covenant community. Even with this same basic hermeneutical approach, there will be significant variations among the historic pre-millennialist and amillennialist brethren who embrace it. We are looking more at a spectrum or continuum of opinions and exegetical conclusions rather than ‘hard and fast’ categories. What we as a committee desire to see in the BFC is a natural and humble interpretation of the text which leaves room for a healthy and stimulating discussion of differences because we understand that although the text came from the infinite, holy mind of God the LORD, we read it with finite, sin-warped human minds.

Perhaps the most obvious (and annoying and unsettling?) difference between an historic pre-millennialist and an amillennialist is over the interpretation of Rev.20. If George Ladd is an appropriate spokesperson for the Historic Pre-millennial position, and many would acknowledge that he is, he freely admits that “only one passage of Scripture – Rev.20” speaks clearly and unarguably of a millennium. He states that he “can find no trace of the idea of either an interim earthly kingdom or of a millennium in the Gospels.” It is because of these declared statements that Dr. Walvoord labeled Dr. Ladd an “amillennialist” [an inaccurate and unfair label, to be sure!] Dr. Ladd further states that “the New Testament nowhere expounds the theology of the millennium, that is, its purpose in God’s redemptive plan.” Others in Ladd’s camp, and probably Dr. Ladd himself, would hasten to add, however, that although Rev. 20 is the only place which tells us exactly how long this period will be, there are other passages in the OT prophets (e.g. Isa.11:10-16; Jer.33:14-26; Eze.37:24-28; Zech.14:1-21) that speak repeatedly of a future period in history of great and glorious blessing and rule of God. But basically, other than that, the underlying hermeneutic for these two groups is generally

acknowledged to be the same. So again, it would appear that the basic difference between the historic pre-millennial and amillennial views is not one of hermeneutical approach or exegetical methodology per se, but more simply and precisely over the interpretation of Rev. 20, and similarly over what weight and understanding to give to the numerous restoration promises of the OT prophets . . . and whether the New Testament clearly and fully interprets them for us or remains relatively silent on this particular prophetic genre.

***What implications does this have for us as a denomination?***

Our committee would like to make one point and then to ask one question of Annual Conference:

First, it needs to be admitted that there already exists a significant hermeneutical division within our denomination. We all share a common conviction as to “a 1000 year pre-millennial reign of Christ,” but what goes on during that time is shaped by contrary hermeneutics. While dispensational premillennialists among us may see the literal fulfillment of certain O.T. promises, such as the rebuilding of Ezekiel’s temple, the reinstatement of the Law of Moses and the cultic sacrificial system, our articles leave out those specifics, and the historic pre-millennialists among us may see those prophecies fulfilled in the person and reign of Christ. Our point is simply this: substantive hermeneutical differences already exist within our denomination without dividing us or causing us harm.

Our question to Annual Conference, then, is simply this: With our present eschatological posture, is it possible that *we* may be guilty of unnecessarily dividing the larger body of Christ by rejecting brothers who otherwise would rejoice to serve among us? Are we unwittingly doing harm, and grieving the Spirit of Christ Who dwells in and among us? For example, should one’s understanding of Rev. 20 be a cause for censure or division within the body of Christ? In his book, The Kingdom of Christ, Russell Moore claims that “(Dr. Carl F.) Henry and his fellow post-war evangelical leaders were correct to argue that the interpretation of Rev.20 is a second-order issue, and therefore not a test of Christian orthodoxy or even of evangelical authenticity” [emphasis added]. And so we would add that if amillennialists are “orthodox” and if

they are “authentically” evangelical, then there is no *biblical reason* to separate from them or to allow this issue to be a cause of division or to exclude someone with this conviction from serving among us, especially when this type of hermeneutic is already well represented among us!

V. What is to be gained by granting greater Eschatological liberty?

***A. It will cause us to keep our focus on the Lord’s return.***

The great hope of the church, and that which purifies those who embrace it, is the coming of the Lord Jesus. The emphasis in the Scriptures is on the *fact* of His coming and the accompanying blessings for the redeemed and judgments on the rebellious. While details are important and should be studied, the hope doesn’t lie in having the correct chronology, but in living in light of the *fact* of the Lord’s return in triumph and judgment.

Allowing greater liberty will result in a renewed and rightful placement of our passions on the centrality of the Lord’s return and will encourage us to preach and teach these truths with passion and conviction.

***B. It will cause us to honor, in greater ways, our Lord’s prayer for unity in His Church.***

No one, at least not in our denomination, wants to establish unity at the cost of truth. Certainly, none of us on the millennial study committee are at all interested in unity at any cost, or unity for unity’s sake.

There are two very important concerns that are in tension with each other when considering the issue of unity. One is not more important than the other. They are both equally Biblical commands and injunctions. They are *unity* and *truth*.

And so the first question we face is: How do we maintain unity? For the sin of being schismatic is great – it hinders the viability of the Gospel (John 13:34,35), it is one of the things that the LORD hates (Prov.6:16-19). The second question is: How do I uphold truth? For the sin of heresy is equally damning to one’s soul and the life of the church! These are huge issues that deserve very serious consideration in the fact that there are over 30,000 Protestant denominations!

In the reading of John 17, one must be gripped with the Lord’s

prayer for unity among His people. The great fear in looking at this passage is the domestication of this prayer of Jesus. He is not praying for unity within particular congregations or denominations (however important and desirable that might be). He is praying for unity within the one true, visible church. He is praying for unity among those who call themselves His disciples.

But what type of unity is this? There are some helpful indicators in the text.

If I told you to paint the barn red, you might ask me, “What shade?” If I took a sample of paint and said, “Paint it the same shade of red as this color,” then you would have a tangible measurement to guide you in the selection of your shade.

Observe what the Lord does. Jesus prays that His people “may be one **as we are one**” and then the Lord prays that they would be “brought to complete unity”. What unity is Jesus expressing here? Is He praying that His followers will have the same kind of unity that exists between Himself and the Father? We think so and the tenor of Scripture seems to support this.

When considering the unity that exists within the Godhead, we know that it extends to every area of their being:

\* They are one in “essence” - and the same Spirit also indwells us.

\* They are of one “mind”. God isn’t an Arminian, but Jesus a Calvinist! It isn’t as though the Father is Amill, the Son Pre-mill and the Spirit Post-mill.

\* They are of one “love”. God doesn’t just love Hispanics, but Jesus the handicapped, and the Spirit, Jews. It isn’t that the Father loves to worship, the Son to evangelize, and the Spirit to heal.

\* They are one in “purpose”. It isn’t as though God the Father prefers foreign missions, and the Spirit church extension and Jesus a thriving nursery ministry! It’s not as though the Father loves hymns, the Son contemporary worship and the Spirit Gregorian chants!

In every way the God-head is perfectly united. They are united theologically, missionally, organizationally, corporately, affectionately and ontologically. This becomes the high pattern for the church as well. Paul specifically prays for the believers at Philippi that they would be “like-minded”, that they should have “the same love” and be “one in spirit and purpose.” Paul admonishes the Ephesians to “make every effort to maintain the

unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (4:3).

This being the case, one must ask how seriously are we to take Jesus’ prayer? What barriers or walls (theologically and practically) ought to come down to honor this request for unity “as we are one”, or conversely what barriers or walls should be erected to safeguard the sanctifying need for truth?

The “church” doesn’t belong to us. And so the question arises, where does one draw the line theologically and practically? What are legitimate reasons for division – *where is that line to be drawn?* Must it be drawn over the use or non-use of the KJV? We certainly *can* do it – in the sense of passing the appropriate motion as some denominations and churches have done – *but is it legitimate?* Knowing that the church belongs to the Lord, do I have a right to establish *my own barriers and boundaries?* Must it be drawn over the use of alcohol, polka dancing and Blue-ray digital televisions? What are the legitimate, as in *Biblical*, reasons for withholding membership or ministry among us?

Our distinctives as a denomination should always lie in the area of truth...and that at times needs to be held under a wide umbrella. We already grant eschatological liberty among two systems of theology that share a very different hermeneutic, and a very different eschatology. Dispensational Premillennialism and Historic Premillennialism agree on the core concept of a millennium and on some other items, but there are also significant differences between them that go beyond the confines of our *Articles of Faith*. Has that caused confusion among us? Or has it strengthened our pursuit of truth and holy living? We believe it has been the latter. The hermeneutic of an Historic Premillennialist is much closer to that of an Amillennialist than to that of a Dispensational Premillennialist. Therefore, we believe that granting eschatological liberty in this case would further strengthen our pursuit of truth and holy living, and would be in keeping with our Lord’s prayer for unity in His church.

### ***C. It will strengthen our grasp on Scripture.***

We believe that our proposed changes will create a biblical openness to this great subject of eschatology, which will allow for greater study by granting men the opportunity to investigate honestly, to examine without prejudice, to evaluate without fear, to admit of misgivings without feeling threatened and to listen



without having to be defensive. This will only **strengthen** our knowledge of scripture and cause us to study it more deeply and more carefully.

The claim of both Amillennialists and Historic Premillennialists is that the New Testament is the authoritative interpretation of the Old. By granting greater eschatological liberty it will encourage pastors, teachers and people alike to examine carefully how the writers of the New Testament interact with and interpret the Old and how they understand the Old Testament prophecies. This is very good.

***D. It will enable and encourage us to demonstrate to our congregations how differences of opinion should be properly handled.***

We believe that our proposed changes will provide a healthy climate and a positive venue through which we as leaders can teach our people how to interact within the body of Christ regarding areas of Biblical differences. We do this already in certain aspects of eschatology. Working properly through this issue will better equip our congregations to deal with other matters of disagreement, helping to bring **spiritual maturity** which would minimize splits and divisions that have already occurred throughout church history over issues of lesser importance.

Those words of Rupert Meldenius spoken to a council on Moderation in Frankfort, 1627, speak powerfully to us in our current situation: “In essentials unity, in non-essentials flexibility, in all things charity.”

Again – please note: *our recommendations do not prohibit, nor would they exclude, anyone from being premillennial – either historical or dispensational. It would not preclude one from preaching premillennialism – however passionately, or teaching premillennialism - however clearly, or interpreting Scripture with a premillennial grid. It would only cease to require these things for unfettered and whole-hearted membership and credentials.*

Our proposed changes would not require anyone to change their doctrinal stance.

***E. It would allow other men, from a variety of reformed backgrounds, to joyfully serve among us.***

Our concern here is that some very good men, who otherwise

would rejoice to labor among us, have not been able to serve officially among us. There are such men who agree with us on many – indeed, often all - of our doctrinal statements, except that of our eschatology.

**CONCLUSION:**

For all of the above reasons, we the committee put forth our doctrinal amendments for approval.

**Study Committee: The Millennium:** Jacob J. Susek, Jr., Chairman; Kevin W.. Kirkpatrick, Secretary; Albert J. Dommel, Robert C. Kaatz; John C. Studenroth.

Advisor to the committee, Carl C. Cassel.



*Figure 54 Series work going on! (L to R)  
Dan Allen, Mark Bickel, Dave Allen*

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## Tanzania Project

***2008 Statistical Report***  
**Pastor's Activities**

## **Membership**

**Enrollment/Attendance/Property/Offerings**

**Conference Disbursements**



**Local Disbursements**

**Local Disbursements Continued/Totals**

## *Pastor's Statistical Information*

The Annual Report of the Board of Elders to the Congregation shall be the source of information for this schedule. The report shall contain:

- I. Officers:
  - a. The number and names of all ordained pastors with Bible Fellowship Church credentials who are members of your church, including retired pastors and ordained missionaries.
  - b. The number of probationers of the BFC who are members of your congregation.
  - c. The number of Elders and Deacons in your congregation.
  
- II. Pastors' Activities:
  - a. The number of visits made by the Senior Pastor.
  - b. The number of visits made by other members of the pastoral staff.
  - c. The number of people baptized.
  - d. The number of children dedicated.
  - e. The number of weddings.
  - f. The number of funerals.
  
- III. Membership:
  - a. Received into Church fellowship
  - b. Received by transfer from Bible Fellowship Churches
  - c. Received by transfer from other churches
  - d. Total increase
  - e. Died
  - f. Withdrawn
  - g. Dropped
  - h. Transferred to Bible Fellowship Churches
  - i. Transferred to other churches
  - j. Total decrease
  - k. Net increase or decrease (**NOT BOTH**)
  - l. Total membership

**In compiling this membership report be sure you have begun with the figure for total membership shown in the previous yearbook.**
  
- IV. Enrollment:
  - a. The number of people enrolled in your Sunday School.

## V. Average Attendances: (Compute for the whole year)

- a. Sunday School Average Attendance
- b. Sunday Morning Worship Average Attendance
- c. Sunday Evening Service Average Attendance

## VI. Church Property:

- a. The number of church buildings.
- b. The number of parsonages.

## VII. Receipts:

- a. Total income
- b. Total offering

In most churches these two figures might be identical.

Total income would include, above offerings, the following: Interest, Rent, Church Extension

Appropriations, **BUT NOT** Sale of properties, loans from banks or loans from individuals.

## VIII. Disbursements; Denominational Benevolences:

- a. The amount given to the BFC Administrative Budget.
- b. \*The amount given to the Board of Missions of the BFC.
- c. \*The amount given to Church Extension.
- d. The amount given to the BFC Homes, Inc.
- e. The amount given to Pinebrook Educational Foundation.
- f. The amount given to the BFC Board of Christian Education.
- g. The amount given to Victory Valley.
- h. The amount given to Pinebrook Bible Conference.  
\* The figures which you show for Missions and Church Extension must agree with the amounts which you sent to their respective treasurers. We'll assume that the Board Treasurers' reports are correct.

## IX. Local Disbursements:

- a. Minister's Salary -- Calculated from January 1 through December 31, for the Senior Pastor.
- b. Minister's Supplemental Benefits -- This shall include: Social Security, church-paid Minister's Retirement, car allowance, book and seminar reimbursements, etc.
- c. Parsonage Allowance.
- d. Health Insurance Premium.
- e. Administrative Assistants' Salaries -- For others on Pastoral Staff -- not for secretarial staff members or janitorial staff.

- f. Administrative Assistants' Benefits.
- g. Local Christian Education program -- This shall include Sunday School, Local Youth Fellowship, AWANA Clubs, VBS, etc.
- h. Debt Service.
- i. Local Benevolence.
- j. Other Missions.
- k. Women's Missionary Society.
- m. Annual Conference Delegate.
- n. General Disbursements -- All other disbursements not already recorded.

The Pastor shall send a copy of the minutes of all Congregational meetings, which shall include the Board of Elders' Report of the Membership and Annual Financial Report to:

Committee on Examination of Minutes of Particular Churches  
 c/o Rev. Ralph M. Soper  
 418 Elm St.  
 Emmaus, PA 18049

to arrive no later than March 1, 2009 (as approved by the 114th Annual Conference).

The Delegate and Pastor shall certify the correctness of the minutes and reports and of the Pastor's Statistical Report prior to the mailing thereof, and shall include a statement of certification therewith.

The Pastor's Statistical Report shall be sent to:

Committee on Statistics  
 c/o Rev. David A. Thomann  
 151 Donerville Road  
 Lancaster, PA 17603

They are to arrive no later than March 1, 2009.

If the Pastor's Statistical Report is not in the hands of the Committee on Statistics by March 1, 2009, the statistics from that church will not be included in that year's report.

Round off all figures to the nearest dollar. Put the name of the church and pastor on each page and please follow the instructions found above.

***Schedule of Payments***  
to be made to Annual Conference Agencies

**AT ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Beneficiary Society - \$50 per member

Payment should be sent to the Secretary of the Society or paid at Annual Conference:

R. C. Reichenbach

6241 Warren Ave., Harrisburg, PA 17112

Fellowship News - \$1.75 per member - make checks payable to Board of Communications or send to:

BFC Board of Communications

12 Pinebrook Road, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

**MONTHLY:**

Conference Administrative Budget - Beginning January 1st; pledge may also be paid annually in advance. Make check payable to Bible Fellowship Church and mail to:

Horace A. Kauffman

25 E. Lemon St., Lititz, PA 17543

**QUARTERLY:**

Church Extension - make checks payable to Board of Church Extension and send to:

Church Extension Department

Bible Fellowship Church,

PO Box 753, Whitehall, PA 18052

Missions - make checks payable to Board of Missions and send to: Board of Missions

1011 Brookside Rd., Suite 145

Allentown, PA 18106-0555

Board of Pensions - Payments should be made April 30, July 30, October 30, and January 30. Make checks payable to Board of Pensions and send to:

Rick Volpe

Box 148, Harleysville, PA 19438-0148

Annual payment for the Ministers' Retirement Fund shall be on the basis of \$900 basic amount per church and \$9 per member

for the total number of members listed in the most current BFC *Yearbook*. In 2006 the rate changed to \$900 and \$9 respectively (see page 86 of the 2005 *Yearbook*) and goes to \$1000 and \$10 in 2009 (see page 179).

**BY MARCH 1:**

Victory Valley Camp - make check payable to Victory Valley and send to:

Victory Valley Camp  
7472 Sigmund Rd., Zionsville, PA 18092

**BY APRIL 1:**

Board of Christian Education - make check payable to Board of Christian Education & mail to:

Berean BFC, PO Box 208  
Terre Hill, PA 17581

Board of Youth - Make checks payable to Board of Youth and mail to:

Billy Dunn, c/o Bethel BFC,  
418 Elm St., Emmaus, PA 18094

Bible Fellowship Church Homes - make check payable to Bible Fellowship Church Homes, Inc., and mail to:

Fellowship Community  
3000 Fellowship Drive, Whitehall, PA 18052

Pinebrook Bible Conference - make checks payable to Pinebrook Bible Conference and mail to:

Pinebrook Bible Conference,  
1 Pinebrook Road, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

Pinebrook Educational Foundation - make checks payable to Pinebrook Educational Foundation and mail to:

Raymond R. Dotts  
211 Weeks Drive, Camden, DE 19934

Biblical Ad (center on page)



## *A Look Back*

Happy 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Bible Fellowship Church  
by Dr. Harold P. Shelly

The Bible Fellowship Church was born in September, 1858, in Upper Milford Township, Lehigh County, Pennsylvania, in the home of David Musselman. America was rushing headlong into a bloody civil war between the states. Revival fires were burning in the land, awakening people spiritually as they had in two previous Great Awakenings. Plain, German-speaking Mennonites rejected wars as a solution to political problems; most also took exception to revival practices, preferring nurture to emotional conversion experiences. Nevertheless, the plain, German-speaking folks in rural Pennsylvania could not remain unaffected by the fires swirling all around them.

Eleven years earlier John Oberholtzer had led a movement to adopt new ideas. A major split occurred when John Oberholtzer of Milford Township, Bucks County, pushed for certain innovations, such as a rolled collar, minutes for business meetings and a written constitution. He and his followers, dubbed “new” Mennonites, soon found themselves outside the conservative Franconia Conference of the “old” Mennonites.

Before long, three divergent factions arose among the Oberholtzer “New” Mennonites. Some were more progressive and more “light.” These progressives soon adopted Reformed Theology and founded Freeland Seminary in 1858, which later became Ursinus College. The more conservative ones insisted on the ordinance of foot washing. A third group, doubtless influenced by Evangelical revivalism,



wanted more “fire.” They longed to feel their faith and carry revival fires to others. Their cups were full and running over.



*Lucy & Jonas Musselman  
ca 1859  
Jonas as at the 1858 meeting*

Among these firebrands influenced more by revivalism than by Mennonite traditions was young William Gehman. In 1849, at age 22 he was chosen by vote and by lot as one of the preachers in the Upper Milford “New” Mennonite congregation. His preaching was spirited and contagious. He effectively used the new methods, including prayer meetings, in homes and meeting houses to bring new faith and spiritual warmth to all who would attend. As these

revivalists saw nothing unusual in this. "Through the convincing grace of God and the direction of several converted and pious Mennonite Preachers called of God," they recalled in their first church manual of faith and polity, "several of their members united themselves with them in the year of our Lord 1853, in order to pray with and for one another." Within four years the Oberholtzer “new” Mennonites felt constrained to evaluate these prayer meetings.

On May 1, 1856, the sixteenth session of the New Mennonites met at Skippack, Pennsylvania, in the midst of the swirling controversy over prayer meetings. As the day passed the council did not come to the topic on most peoples' minds. Gehman asked the council to consider the matter.

Since it was late, the chairman, Oberholtzer, asked that the matter be referred to the bishops to decide; Gehman agreed. He seemed to trust the bishops. Perhaps he reasoned, Bishop Moses Gottschall had supported him and Bishop Shelly was also a practitioner. How could the other bishops reject prayer meetings?

For the next two years, the bishops vacillated in their opinions regarding the prayer meetings. When it appeared that the bishops would reject the prayer



*David Musselman*

meetings, Bishop William Shelly submitted a formal protest which was denied. Division was inevitable.

The High Council, May 1858 struck the name of William Shelly from the “preacher-list.” Council gave the other revivalists until the October Council to recant or be dropped from the preacher-list. But they would not recant. At the 21st Council-meeting of the East-Pennsylvania Conference that met in Gottschall's Meetinghouse, near Schwenksville, Montgomery County on Thursday and Friday, October 7 and 8, the name of William Gehman was stricken from the list when he did not appear.

Two weeks earlier, frustrated in their attempt to bring enthusiastic revivalism into their Church, Bishop William Shelly, Elder William Gehman, two preachers, Henry Diehl and David Henning and three deacons, David Gehman, Joseph Schneider and Jacob Gottshall, met on September 24, 1858 at a central location in the home of David Musselman in Upper Milford Township, Lehigh County where they formed *Die Evangelische Mennoniten Gemeinschaft*. And so 150 years ago the *Evangelical Mennonite Fellowship*, now the *Bible Fellowship Church*, was born.



*Zionsville Church*



*Ephrata Delegation  
Robert Kramer & Robert Gehret*



*Elliot Ramos prays in Spanish for the  
new Mérida, Mexico, Church.  
(L) Marcos Ramirez,  
the pastor of the church.*

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\* Report is available in booklet form. Contact Board of Communications, 12 Pinebrook Rd., East Stroudsburg, PA 18301

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