



FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLIES

Pursuing Christ-Centered Community

CORE LEADERS MEETING

Thursday, September 17, 2020

MINUTES

This meeting was open to all FCA members.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am MDT.

CLM 20.09.17-01 **Call to Order & Prayer:** Trevor welcomed everyone. Beverly Fawcett opened in prayer.

CLM 20.09.17-02 **Approval of Agenda:** It was Moved and Seconded that the circulated agenda for the Sept 17, 2020 meeting be approved.

Moved: Ron Short

Seconded: John Lucas

CARRIED

CLM 20.09.17-03 **Approval of Minutes:** It was Moved and Seconded that the minutes for the June 18, 2020 meeting be approved.

Moved: Ron Short

Seconded: Karen Bidell

CARRIED

CLM 20.09.17-04 **Ad Hoc Committee Report - Paul Vallee:** The current model of endorsement and credentialing churches and ministers has some issues that need to be resolved. With the issues identified, we need a strategy to move forward. If there are issues that were not identified Paul encouraged anyone to contribute those concerns.

Committee worked on identifying some of the issues.

- Ministers not registering on time
- Will our current model encourage and be sustainable with growth
- It works well when things run smoothly, but when there are problems, we don't have good ways to deal with them.
- We may need to express our values better - communicate and educate new members
- We need a method to move forward and encourage engagement

CLM 20.09.17-05 **Open Discussion:**

Rolston Evans: stated that he didn't know there is an issue and we need to get the word out because the solution is probably there.

Wilson Kadavil: Under our older system, the churches had more communication with the endorsing ministers. We should shift accountability back to the endorsing church

and allow them to handle the renewal again. Or at least have the office communicate to the endorsing church if their endorsees are in good standing.

Trevor Hoskins responded that the website will have all that information connected to the endorsing churches account and they will be able to see the status of each endorsee.

Okeyes Ononiwu: One issue is that a minister will go to more than one endorsing church, if one will not endorse, they go to another. He suggested that all endorsing churches receive notice when a minister wants to join in order to screen & support if there has been a previous relationship.

Duane Siemens: He has hired someone who is from Africa and has a significant network of African pastors in Winnipeg. He anticipates an increase in ministers joining the FCA as a result, and the expectation is that he will have an endorsing team within his church that will be able to form more relationships among those who join.

Beverly Fawcett: She stressed in interviews with new ministers that it was a partnership - ministers from churches support each other and visit back and forth. It's important that churches support one another.

John Lucas II: He knows of one person who left his original endorsing church, and acquired another endorsing church without informing the original church.

It was noted that there is an affirmation form that is specifically for ministers that have been previously endorsed.

Trevor Hoskins: The office should be informed.

Brad Montison: The handbook states on Page 18 and following that a minister is to inform a previous endorsing church and office if they change their endorsing church. There is also a form for ministers who leave the FCA and come back. It's important that we follow procedure.

John Lucas II: He is aware of a situation in which a minister left another denomination to join the FCA and failed to inform the previous denomination. There is a problem in that churches are endorsing without relationship.

Glen Forsberg: They have, but have not consistently used, a report card that asks if the minister has contacted their previous endorsing church or ministry. If someone from another denomination wants to join us, they must inform their denomination of their intent to leave.

Trevor Hoskins: Accountability is the issue; growth and increase in size is great, but we can't maintain the current model of accountability. The time and expense that is involved in the process of renewals is far greater than it needs to be. Ministers and endorsing churches must keep up to date and adhere to the manual.

Terrance Sellen: There are 2 issues that should be separated, but we are combining them.

1. Credentials - stream line this only get the bare essentials
2. Fellowship/Endorsing - ministers need to recognise the history and understand what is involved in belonging to a fellowship

Glen Forsberg: We need to have a kingdom view. Changing endorsing churches should be handled with integrity whether the changes from one church to another within the FCA, or from another denomination to the FCA.

Dennis Boettger: This is not just an administrative issue, but it is a spiritual issue. We need to address it with intercession.

Trevor Hoskins Let's raise the bar.

ACTION: A discussion with Ron Short to incorporate the prayer ministry in this specifically.

Glenn Breitkreuz: In his experience with men's ministry, men tend to be independent operators (his discussion was not to the exclusion of women, simply discussing his experience). First step in accountability is to observe and catch, but you can't do that with someone who is unwilling, or is willfully choosing to make poor choices. You can't police and enforce accountability. The minister shouldn't be policed but rather have access and get help from their endorsing church - otherwise you risk legalism. He posed this question for consideration: In your experiences, what prevents you from having a relationship with those you endorse?

Beverly Fawcett: Sometimes we don't know the whole story; we need both sides of the story. She cautioned that we should understand a more complete picture of a circumstance before we repeat it in order to ensure unity.

Brad Monteson: He stated that he wanted to hear Mitch Seeley's thoughts as he has lots of experience. Mitch lived in Ontario, and has recently located to western Canada.

Mitch Seeley: Part of accountability is a contribution to development and a commitment to learning and conversation. It's more important to consider how the parties contribute.

Jim Reimer: "You can't expect what you don't inspect." We have a great model of relationships, and we shouldn't throw it out, we need to include better accountability. We don't need to be afraid that it will sacrifice autonomy. The reality is that ministers endorse ministers, it's not the churches, this becomes a problem when a pastor leaves or retires - there is no remaining relationship. Church members have not even met the ministers that their churches have endorsed.

Trevor Hoskins: We need to proceed to making plans and solidify the playing field and we need to find out who is committed. Regional Coordinators and Elders are relatively new roles. We need to augment the implementation of envisioning meetings. They are complex issues and we need to connect regularly to be prepared to make decisions.

CLM 20.09.17-06 **Closing:** Trevor Hoskins closed in prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 AM MDT. Minutes submitted by Leslie Pamenter, Recording Secretary.