

Protocols of the Conservative Grace Brethren Churches International

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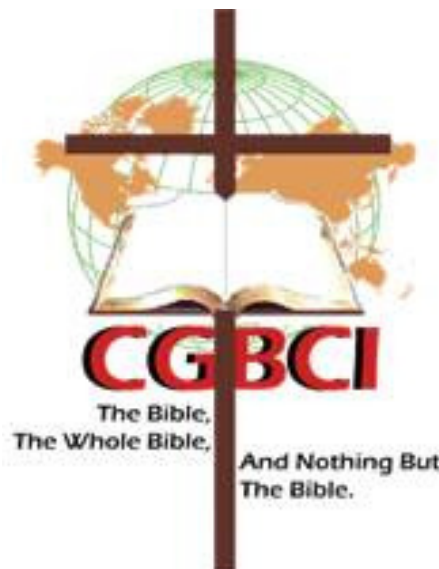
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I. *Protocols for the Fellowship of Conservative Grace Brethren Churches International*

1. Membership Requirements for Autonomous Local Churches

Affirm belief and demonstrate practice of the Statement of Faith.

Congregational Form of Church Polity.

Measurable participation in the CGBCI, such as attendance at conferences, seminars, retreats, and meetings of the fellowship, support of projects and payment of credential fees.

Each member church shall be represented by its pastor(s) men who are recognized by the International College of Pastors and by one lay delegate for each ten (10) members or major part of the ten.

Each member church shall have as its pastor(s) men who are recognized by the International College of Pastors (Transitions between pastors where this principle is temporarily infringed, but being pursued in good faith, shall not be construed as a violation of it.)

2. Servants of the CGBCI

President – A one year honorary position – Elected by CGBCI Membership

1. Duties and Term of Service-

Preside at all Fellowship meetings

Spokesman for the CGBCI to the Christian community and secular world.

Continue to serve as Assistant to the President for one year after the presidential term as the Conference Coordinator.

The President will appoint workers to keep necessary minutes and records of all official meetings and determine a central location for preserving minutes and records, allowing access to such minutes and records.

Responsibility of the CGBCI to the Honorary President-

Will pay an honorarium for the one year of presidential service.

Will reimburse for all expenses associated with the duties of the President, Vice President and Assistant President according to the reimbursement

policy of the CGBCI [see page 6]

3. Planning Team

The Planning Team consists of-

The Senior Pastor of each Member Church. (The Senior Pastor may designate a colleague on his Pastoral Staff to serve in his place as long as the designate is internationally recognized as an Ordained Pastor.) The local Church will appoint one lay consultant to serve along with the Senior Pastor.

The Planning Team will meet with the President, Vice President and Assistant President at a time prior to a major Conference.

Duties of the Planning Team-

The Planning Team will approve the Conference Agenda, determine the theme and set plans for future conferences at least five years in advance.

Conference Purposes will include-

Prayer
Preaching and teaching the Word of God
Reporting and communication
Planning and unifying for CGBCI projects
Encouragement and provoking one another to good works
Continuing Education for Pastors, Deacons/Deaconesses & Saints
Expanding and enjoying Christian friendships
Exposing Local Church Christians to the International Ministries

Responsibilities of Local Churches-

To provide for pastor's expenses and per Diem as set by the Planning Team. (A pastor whose church is "under care" can receive funds from a special Benevolent Fund to pay pastor's expenses and per diem).

4. Procedure for Changing the CGBCI Protocols

{Revised July, 2006}

Changes in the Protocols should be taken first to the College of Pastors, then to the Conference for approval by a 2/3 majority vote by ballot. The Conference vote would be taken at the following business meeting.

5. Procedure for Changing the CGBCI Statement of Faith

{Adopted July 7, 2008}

- 1) Any delegate wishing to see the conference amend the content of the Statement of Faith must present a printed copy of the proposed

amendment to the College of Pastors in a previous College of Pastors Mid-year Meeting at which it must pass by an at least three-fourths (3/4) majority vote before the proposal is presented in the form of a motion from the College of Pastors. Format changes may be made by the College of Pastors with the approval of that year's conference.

- 2) If the conference delegates sustain a 3/4 majority vote in favor of the proposed amendment to (the content of) the Statement of Faith, the proposal shall then be sent by the conference secretary to all of the churches who are listed as member churches in that year's conference minutes.
- 3) Each local church receiving a copy of the proposed amendment shall vote on the proposal within ten months.
- 4) Before the call to order of the first business session in the next year following the initial conference proposal, each church receiving a copy of the proposed amendment to the Statement of Faith shall have submitted one vote per church to the conference secretary.
- 5) At least a 3/4 majority of the churches responding must favor the proposed amendment before a second reading of the amendment is permitted, thereby allowing the conference delegates to place on the floor a properly supported motion calling for the adoption of the amendment to the Statement of Faith. A 3/4 majority vote of the conference delegates shall be sufficient to sustain the motion, thereby incorporating the amendment into the CGBCI Statement of Faith.

II. *Protocols for the College of Pastors of the CGBCI The International Ministerium*

1. Membership

Comprised of Internationally recognized Pastors-

Who affirm belief in the Statement of Faith

Who sustain qualifications according to 1 Timothy 3, 1 Peter 5 &
Titus 1

Who continue to engage in pastoral ministry

*** Note:**

- a. Voluntary cessation of pastoral ministry for one full conference year shall require an appeal to the College of Pastors through its president to continue membership.
- b. The College president shall direct the Pastoral Recognition Panel to discern what might be necessary to continue that membership.
- c. The Panel shall report its findings and recommendations back to the College president for consideration by the College.
- d. Retirement due to advance age (or illness) shall NOT be considered a voluntary cessation of pastoral ministry.

{ Adopted July 4, 2004 }

After one year of willful or deliberate non-participation (non-attendance at mid-year or conference meeting of the C.o.P.) a member will be listed as inactive and he would lose the privilege of serving on a panel and participating in examinations as well as the forfeiture of the death benefit. Forfeiture of the death benefit means loss of the benevolent fund portion but the inactive pastor may receive funds from the pastors private love gift and the secretary of the Pastoral Recognition Panel will notify him of his status by certified letter to encourage him to participate and communicate with us. After two years of willful non-participation a member who still has not attended any C.o.P. meeting will lose his membership and will be notified by mail through the Pastor Recognition Panel secretary. The Pastoral Recognition Panel will make every effort to contact the inactive pastor and encourage his participation.

2. Servants of the College of Pastors

President – A one year honorary position – elected by the College of Pastors' members

1. Duties & Term of Service

Preside at Meetings

Serve as Vice President one year prior to Presidential Term.

Continue to serve as Assistant to the President one year after Presidential Term.

The President will appoint workers to keep necessary minutes and records of all official meetings and store such records in the central depository as determined by the President of the CGBCI Fellowship, allowing access to such minutes and records.

2. Responsibility of the College of Pastors to the Honorary President-

Will pay an honorarium for the one year of presidential service.

Will reimburse for all expenses associated with the duties of the President, Vice President and Assistant President according to the reimbursement *policy of the CGBCI* [see page 6]

3. Benevolent Minister – Elected by the College of Pastors Membership

Duties and Terms of Service-

a. Hold in trust and administrate dues collected for the purpose of death benefits for members of the College of Pastors and their spouses and children.

b. Direct Benevolence to Pastors/Missionaries in crisis.

The term of service is three years with only one three year term in succession.

4. Ethics and Mediation Panel-

This panel will consist of five (5) internationally recognized Ordained Pastors elected by the full membership of the College of Pastors to serve a three year term with only one three year term in succession.

Appeals to the Panel may be made by a member church or a pastor seeking a written opinion, documented by Scripture, concerning a grievance with another pastor or church. Also, a member church may appeal to the Panel when special objectivity is desired to settle a difficult internal grievance. All appeals must be in writing. (The Panel is permitted to render a **“Written opinion”** to help resolve the issue). Revised July 2001

Member Churches can be removed from CGBCI by the Fellowship members vote or in the case that a member church

no longer qualifies to be a member. The Ethics and Mediation Panel may render a **written opinion** on such matters.

5. Examination for the Pastoral Candidate-

The College of Pastors will produce an International Examination Procedure for determining the Spiritual qualifications and the training/experience requirements for international recognition of Ordained Pastors.

There will be twelve (12) Ordained Pastors who form a Panel supervising the Procedures for Ordination. These twelve Pastors will be elected by the Members of the College of Pastors for a three year term with only one three year term in succession.

It is the duty of the Supervising **Pastoral Recognition Panel** to provide a “Manual of Pastoral Ethics”. It is required that for the Ordination Examination a candidate must show proficiency in knowledge and practice of the teachings of Pastoral Ethics. In the event that a member Pastor does not follow the commonly accepted and Biblically detailed Pastoral Ethics, his case can be referred to the Ethics and Mediation Panel for a **written opinion**.

6. Pastoral Care Panel-

Pastoral Care Panel will consist of seven (7) pastors elected by the membership to assist and advise local churches concerning the changing needs of their pastors. All members of this panel will serve a three year term with only one three year term in succession.

7. Foreign Mission Enlistment, Endorsement, Evaluation and Administrative Panel

{Adopted at the 2007 Conference}

This Panel shall consist of seven (7) ordained and internationally recognized pastors who shall stand for re-election every 3 years, and shall be able to serve, if re-elected, two more terms, for a total of nine successive years. The pastor of any sponsoring church, if elected to the FMP, shall be a member of the panel; but cannot preside in matters concerning missionaries sponsored by that church, or field. The local church of the elected pastor will appoint one lay consultant to serve along with the pastor. This lay person will also be a voting member. The purpose of this panel shall be to assist the local church and the Fellowship of churches in the following areas:

- A. To promote the great commission in our churches.
- B. To work with local churches and the Fellowship to see workers raised up for the harvest with special emphasis on career church planting missionaries.
- C. To endorse men and their plans when they meet the established criteria and to work with the sponsoring church in evaluating those plans annually.
- D. To endorse or not endorse a church which requests sponsorship of a field. That church will then superintend that field.
- E. To lead our Fellowship in the establishment of guidelines for the cooperative effort of churches seeking to plant CGB churches overseas. In the event that a particular field has missionaries from more than one church in the CGBCI, the endorsed sponsoring church shall superintend that field.
- F. To work with sponsoring churches in the establishment of written plans, particularly financial plans and the administration of funds for missionaries/mission work.
- G. To evaluate men and their plans in conjunction with the sponsoring church(es). Per the guidelines, FMP endorsement may be revoked.
- H. To assist the sponsoring churches in giving oversight to the work on the field.

8. U.S.A. Home Missions Pastor Evaluation and Endorsement Panel-

{ Adopted July 6, 2010 }

This Evaluation & Endorsement Panel consists of seven (7) ordained and internationally recognized pastors who shall stand for re-election every 3 years, and shall be able to serve, if re-elected, two more terms, for a total of nine successive years. The local church of the elected pastor will appoint one lay consultant to serve along with the pastor. This panel will assist U.S.A. Home Missions Pastors as they perfect their Written Plan of operation.

The Written Plan will qualify for endorsement by this panel when it addresses at least the following issues:

The spiritual needs of this field

The personal skills and experience on the part of the Home Missions Pastor that are necessary to survive and function on the field

The financial requirement satisfied

The physical health of each family member

A solid Home Church support for the ministry and the Pastor

A clear understanding of the Biblical definition of a local church and a plan to establish such churches on the field

An evaluation from Pastors already on the field.

III. Protocol for Pastoral Standards

1. Professional Standards

The Pastor's work is sponsored by the "Divine Call" of the Holy Spirit.

There are Biblical Requirements listed in the New Testament.

The Pastor is a trained worker on the professional level-

Training should include sufficient background in:

- b. Content of the 66 books of the Bible
- c. History of Israel and the Church
- d. College or Theological Practorium or Seminary level theological data.
- e. Working knowledge of the Bible Languages
- f. Training in interpretation of the Biblical text for teaching and preaching
- g. Instruction in preaching
- h. Special instruction in the Biblical beliefs and practices of the Conservative Grace Brethren Church tracing, our Biblical Brethren heritage back to German origins

❖ **Note: The Theological Practorium has a written manual explaining the minimum academic requirements that should set the pattern for the practical measuring of the training standards listed above.**

There are clear ethical standards that each pastor must follow which are defined in the Pastoral Ethics Manual.

2. Professional Treatment of Pastors

Faithful pastors are to be honored for their role-

Pastors are to be "remembered" {Hebrews 13:7}

Pastors are to be “obeyed” {Hebrews 13:17}

There are many stresses on pastors and their families. It is absolutely essential that congregations pray regularly and fervently for their pastors.

Pastors are to be paid {1 Timothy 5:17-18}. One burden of the pastor does rest upon the congregation’s shoulders. Pastors are to be “generously” paid for their labors.

Pastor’s business expenses must be reimbursed by their congregation as the cost of doing the ministry:

Examples:

Professional books and material, continuing education for the ministry, church entertainment of members and visitors and visiting ministers and missionaries, conferences, staff retreats, parking lot fees and tolls, travel {overnight with appropriate meals}, professional dues, business long distance tolls, required church activities and outings, baby sitting for required activities where wife is needed.

Family medical coverage with the church covering the deductible

Insurances for the protection of the family

Church auto provision covering all business use

Housing that allows for the pastor to purchase a home or be able to do so at retirement

Utilities on home

Full retirement program that will provide a living income at retirement

Annual cost of living adjustment

A salary that reflects the dignity of the work and the experience level attained

Note: The congregation is not Biblically required to build a church house, buy a bus or sponsor a ball team, but the congregation is Biblically required to pay their pastors.

IV. Protocol for the CGBCI Foreign Missions

1. International Missionary Pastors-

Pastors who are called by the Holy Spirit to found local Grace Churches in foreign countries or assist in the continuing existence of indigenous churches are missionary pastors.

A missionary pastor must be an internationally recognized ordains pastor.

2. Candidate Procedure for the Missionary Pastor-

A missionary pastor must present a “Written Plan” detailing

Spiritual confirmation of support for his decision to serve as a missionary pastor on a particular field.

A carefully worked out overview of the need that God is leading him to solve:

His Plan for achieving the objectives

His wife’s and family’s convictions about missionary service

His financial support plan

This “Written Plan” will be presented to home supporting church(es). The local church will endorse the Missionary and the mission field by approving the Written Plan. There will be an accountability to the local church(es), and reports will be made to the local and supporting churches. If it is necessary to consult on the field or in the case that discipline is needed, a pastor from the local church or supporting churches will be authorized by the local church to visit the missionary on the field.

A missionary pastor can seek help in developing his plan:

By consultation with missionary pastors already on the field.

By consultation with the CGBCI Foreign Missions Pastor Evaluation and Endorsement Panel of the College of Pastors.

Endorsement of a missionary pastor comes through the Evaluation and Endorsement Panel of the College of Pastors. A Missionary Pastor may submit his Written Plan for evaluation and endorsement to the Panel of Evaluation and Endorsement, so as to receive International endorsement for his service.

A missionary pastor will be regarded with the same respect as any Holy Spirit called pastor. He will not be subjected to any ecclesiastical hierarchical control, either in his homeland or on the foreign field.

A missionary pastor will be considered to be on the working staff of his homeland and sending churches and will make reports of his progress as do local church pastors. If endorsed by the College of Pastors Foreign Missions Evaluation and Endorsement Panel, a copy of pastoral reports will be sent to the President of that Panel.

A missionary pastor is part of the homeland local church(es), and will seek support through the usual channels of the local church(es), and not go to members directly without the approval of the Senior Pastor and congregation. His support level will be determined by the local congregation under the leadership of the home pastors.

Special workers who are not Internationally Recognized Pastors must be sent to the field under the direction and sponsorship of a Recognized pastor and in no case will women function in the place of pastors on the foreign field.

v. *Protocol for U.S.A. Home Missions*

1. National {U.S.A.} Missionary Pastors-

Pastors who are called by the Holy Spirit to found local Grace Churches in foreign countries or assist in the continuing existence of indigenous churches are missionary pastors.

A missionary pastor must be an internationally recognized ordains pastor.

2. Candidate Procedure for the Home Missions Pastor-

A missionary pastor must present a “Written Plan” detailing

Spiritual confirmation of support for his decision to serve as a missionary pastor on a particular U.S.A. field.

A carefully worked out overview of the need that God is leading him to solve

His Plan for achieving the objectives

His wife’s and family’s convictions about missionary service

His financial support plan

This “Written Plan” will be presented to home supporting church(es). The local church will endorse the Missionary and the mission field by approving the Written Plan. There will be an accountability to the local church(es), and reports will be made to the local and supporting churches. If it is necessary to consult on the field or in the case that discipline is needed, a pastor from the local church or supporting churches will be authorized by the local church to visit the missionary on the field.

A Home Missions Pastor can seek help in developing his plan:

By consultation with other Home Missions Pastors.

By consultation with the CGBCI Foreign Missions Pastor Evaluation and Endorsement Panel of the College of Pastors.

Endorsement of a missionary pastor comes through the Evaluation and Endorsement Panel of the College of Pastors. A Home Missions Pastor may submit his Written Plan for evaluation and endorsement to the Panel of Evaluation and Endorsement, so as to receive Home Missions Pastor’s endorsement for his service.

A Home Missions Pastor will be regarded with the same respect as any Holy Spirit called pastor. He will not be subjected to any ecclesiastical hierarchical control.

A Home Missions Pastor will be considered to be on the working staff of his homeland and sending churches and will make reports of his progress as do local church pastors. If endorsed by the College of Pastors Foreign Missions Evaluation and Endorsement Panel, a copy of pastoral reports will be sent to the President of that Panel.

A missionary pastor is part of his support church(es), and will seek support through the usual channels of the local church(es), and not go to members directly without the approval of the Senior Pastor and congregation. His support level will be determined by the local congregation under the leadership of the home pastors.

Special workers who are not Internationally Recognized Pastors must be sent to the field under the direction and sponsorship of a Recognized pastor and in no case will women function in the place of pastors at the newly founded field.