

# Global Fellowship - Looking to the Future



**This discussion paper is to be considered by all Members and Regions of Global Fellowship (GF) in preparation for the GF Council in 2004. We invite your thoughts and comments during the first quarter of 2004 so that the Executive Committee can benefit from your guidance at their meeting next April. If you wish you can use the questions below as a basis for discussion. Responses should be sent by post to the GF Office or by e-mail to [gf@globalfellowship.net](mailto:gf@globalfellowship.net)**

## **Our Common Vision**

The member organisations of GF are diverse as a result of different local circumstances and culture. However, we all share the vision of advancing Christ's Kingdom among the youth by offering opportunities for young people to be enriched and to grow spiritually, socially and physically.

The role of Global Fellowship in this is to encourage the member organisations to maintain a global perspective on Christian mission and Christian sharing. GF will do this by serving as a coordinator and hub of communication and by providing a common global image.

## **Reforming our Fellowship**

The Executive Committee of Global Fellowship, in continuation of the current Strategy adopted in 2001 intends to suggest further reforms. A reviewed strategy for Global Fellowship and the Regional Fellowships should be considered and approved by the GF Council of Regional Representatives, which will take place in Finland from 21-28 August 2004. With this we invite all Members and Regions to start discussions without delay in order to prepare for decisions to be taken at Council.



## **Regional Fellowships as the main agents**

The GF Constitution, approved by Council in 2001, emphasizes more than before the role of the Regions. The Executive strongly believes our future as a global family to be vested in empowered, self-sustained and effective Regional Fellowships. At the same time it is realised that a Global office and staffing at the current level can no longer be sustained by our membership. For consecutive years, GF budgets have displayed annual deficits with income, including payment from the membership, declining. This will have to be rectified by balanced budgets no later than 2005. As a result, for the strategy from 2005 the Executive suggests that we increase the responsibilities, economy and programmes of the Regional level of our Fellowship at the expense of the Global level at an even greater speed than we have done so far.

The suggested reform of our organisation requires viable and effective Regions as a prerequisite. Currently, GF is made up of 11 Regional Fellowships. The Executive finds

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that a reform leading to fewer and potentially stronger Fellowships is required. The Executive has the constitutional powers to alter the number and composition of regional fellowships after due consultation (Clause 16 of the GF Constitution). At this time the Executive suggests the following revised pattern of Regional Fellowships for the future, with the number of Regional Representatives at Council, based on membership statistics.

<b>Fellowship</b>	<b>Representatives</b>	<b>Member Countries</b>
East Asia	2	As per the existing structure.
Eastern and Southern Africa	2 (close to 3)	All the current members of East Africa, Central Africa and Southern Africa.
Europe	5	As per the existing structure.
Pacific	2	As per the existing structure.
South Asia	2	As per the existing structure
The Americas	1 (plus Observer)	All the current members of Eastern and Southern Caribbean, North America and Bermuda and Western Caribbean.
West Africa	3	As per the existing structure

## **Regional Fellowships after 2005**

- GF would continue to serve in a coordinating role mainly between Regions; it would operate as a centre for communication and maintain a programme of financial support to Member Organisations and Regions who are in need.
- Expenditure on GF core activities should not exceed investment income from the existing capital fund. Income for grant purposes from member organisations or external sources would still play a role, but is not likely to increase from the current level.
- GF would have fewer resources at its disposal. In real terms, GF would basically serve as a communication point; publish a magazine; maintain a website and manage a grants programme. The employed staff would be reduced.
- National organisations would become members of a Regional Fellowship rather than of Global Fellowship. The Executive suggests that Members, as of 2005, would continue to pay annually at the present level, but mainly to the Region rather than to Global Fellowship.
- The Regional Fellowships in turn would become members of GF and pay an annual contribution to GF, deriving from the member organisations of the Region.
- Grant applications from national organisations as well as from Regional Fellowships would be accepted for consideration. Applications would be invited on an annual basis only.
- Member organisations with resources to share would still be encouraged to support sister organisations in developing countries through the GF Grant Programme.
- Global Fellowship would continue to have an Executive Committee elected according to current constitutional provisions. The Executive would appoint an Honorary Treasurer as usual.
- The Executive would, in future, meet only once every year
- The Global Fellowship Council would still convene every third year.
- The day-to-day work in future would be done by a Staff consisting of one part time employed Chief Executive only; reduced from the present two full time Staff. *(If any of our member organisations would have particular candidates in mind for such a post, we would appreciate to hear from you).*

## **Some suggestions for future activities**

- Direct communication between Regions would increase.
  - Regions would invite other Fellowships to attend their annual meetings.
  - Young people would be invited for events, camps and trainings in other Fellowships.
  - Study tours would be organised between Regions or directly between individual countries with the Regions in a facilitating role.
  - Chairmen and Secretaries of Regions would come together regularly for colleagues' conferences.
  - Volunteer work stays of young people, leaders or staff would be organised in conjunction with headquarters in other countries or in connection with projects.
  - Member organisations on a regional level would work together on producing common resource materials and on providing uniform and other equipment in a cost effective way.
  - Regions would coordinate extension and development activities and some would seek support for these activities from sister organisations in other Regions.
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## **Questions for Discussion and Feedback**

1. Do you agree that we, the Members of Global Fellowship, should base our activities in future on the Regions rather than on a central global structure?
2. The Object of Global Fellowship is about global Christian mission and sharing of resources between rich and poor. What would it take for the Regions to maintain this perspective in future? And what would it take in terms of a basic global structure/office even after a reform?
3. How should direct links between Regions be developed and maintained?
4. We might see a future of quite diverse Regional Fellowships. What would be your attitude to this?