

June 8, 2006

Dear CFCM Members;

As national directors we have prayerfully considered our past history and looked to our future. Many of you recognize that 2005 and 2006 have been significant years of transition for CFCM. At the same time, it is clearly evident that the Lord is bringing about many changes in the face of ministry as we know it in our nation – changes to the structures, wineskins, ministries and churches that express the ministry of Christ in our land. With these changes there have been, and will continue to be major shifts in the ministry in general as we move toward the reformation of our great country.

The greatest single shift in the organization is the recognition that CFCM is called to be, and to embrace, an apostolic/prophetic foundation as we read in Ephesians 2:20 and Ephesians 4:11-16. In one respect this should be no surprise to any of us in that the “DNA” of CFCM over the years has provided the freedom and support to leaders throughout our nation, who have, and are, apostolic leaders in city ministerials, church networks, and national organizations. Yet the affirmation that CFCM is truly an apostolic organization, recognizing and empowering the complete five-fold ministry in our midst, will release the organization into a new dimension of the government of God in our nation. This apostolic seed is a precious dimension of CFCM’s purpose and assignment, and we will overcome any resistance to prevent this mandate from coming into full maturity.

Another dimension of the apostolic expression of ministry for CFCM will be the recognition of transgenerational blessing and ministry. By this we mean that CFCM will begin to work intentionally toward the integration of two and eventually three generations of ministry in the scope of our vision. Historically, our Father was known as the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – not just a one generation God. This shift will incorporate future generations into active involvement and blessing in the work of the ministry of our fellowship. In many cases this is already happening and will only accelerate. In the near future we will be sharing more about how this vision will be incorporated into the leadership structure of our fellowship.

We recognize that it is not just the man that is called into ministry but the entire family, and particularly the husband and wife together. While the husband or wife may have different personalities, gift mixes, and spiritual passions, we cannot excuse the reality that when a couple got married they became one spirit in Christ – something the Apostle Paul calls a great mystery.

In the case of married couples we recognize that there are distinct temperamental differences between men and women, for which the husband should be aware of in protecting his wife. However, this in itself does not abdicate women from playing a vital and essential ministry role together with the husband in the work of the ministry. The impact of men and women serving as co-laborers together in the ministry will have far

reaching implications in the release of authority, government and the revelation of the family of God as this pertains to apostolic ministry.

At the same time, we fully recognize the blessing of the Lord in the lives of those who are not married, both male and female and who are vitally involved in the ministry of the Lord. So often the church and religious tradition has dichotomized the roles of men and women, and has ostracized the role of the woman to that of a second class function in relation to the ministry. At times this has also occurred in the lives of those who are single and in the ministry, particularly women. It is our commitment to honor all ministers in our fellowship that carry the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ to minister, whether married or single, male or female.

True apostolic ministry recognizes and supports the role of women in ministry. In this next phase of CFCM's development we will begin to see the embracing and empowering of women in ministry. Historically this issue has been controversial, but we feel it is time to let our position be known. We are certain that as we honor and support women in various ministries, that our fellowship will enter into a new wave of blessing. In Genesis 1:28 we read that God gave dominion to Adam and Eve, and at the cross of Jesus Christ this dominion was once again restored. In Galatians 3:28 we read there is neither male nor female, for we are all one in Christ. This is also true of ministry. In Revelation 5:10 we read "He has made us all kings and priests to our God and we shall reign on the earth." In 1 Corinthians 11:29-30 we read that many are weak, sickly and die because they do not rightly discern the Lord's body. While this scripture has many applications, it is safe to say that if we fail to recognize the role of women in the church today, we have not only grieved the Holy Spirit, but we have also excluded the ministry of at least 50% of the Lord's body from potential service, and in effect shut out the grace of the Lord to the body to this same degree as well. We recognize that our position concerning this matter will continue to release new levels of redemptive blessing to the church in our nation, as women find full restoration and empowerment in their callings and assignments in the earth. If we face a battle in this regard, it will be one well worth fighting for.

In the past CFCM has strongly stood for and empowered the local church. This will continue to remain the case. For all practical purposes CFCM is a non-denominational fellowship. The organization does not control the property, the money, nor the ministry. CFCM will continue to stand upon the conviction that local churches are to be self-governing in every respect including their internal government and utilization of resources. Ordination will remain the prerogative and responsibility of the local church, which CFCM will then recognize, rather than controlling ministers through the capacity of granting and withdrawing ordination, as is the case with some denominations in our nation. CFCM has not, and will not step into the affairs of the local church unless it is invited. CFCM will continue to encourage ministers to avoid the risks of having deacon or board run churches, in which the Pastor or Apostolic team are hirelings of the local church, and limited in their authority to effectively govern and lead the local church. At the same time CFCM is deeply committed to ensuring that all members of the five-fold

ministry have an appropriate degree of accountability to their lives, to both protect themselves and the ones they are called to serve. CFCM has not dictated into any of the financial affairs of the local church, nor has financial support of the organization been mandatory, other than the standard licensing fee of \$180.00 per member. As directors we have discussed the plan to allow churches to partner with CFCM. The vision for partnership will underscore the reality that we are all working together to reach our nation. The financial empowerment that partnership will bring will significantly strengthen our apostolic capacity as an organization, to better connect and strengthen the ministries within our fellowship.

While CFCM has strongly stood for the local church, we also see that the next frontier will be that of the marketplace – the arenas of our society and a culture that must be impacted by the Kingdom of God. While it is possible that pastor led churches can become ingrown and predominately focused on their local church affairs, apostolic churches are committed to reformation. This is a radical change of heart as we have historically known the church. Rather than avoid our culture and seeing it as being secular, we are called to transform our society and the thought systems that control it. This vision will permeate our call as local churches. Five fold ministry will be encouraged to equip and thrust ministers, anointed by the Lord, into the marketplace – to fields of education, government, commerce, medicine, music, the arts, technology, agriculture, science, law and justice, to name a few. Much more will be said about this in the future. We believe that this will be a breakthrough in how churches affiliated with CFCM will view their mandate in the years ahead.

Another dimension of apostolic ministry will be how we transition from the largely theocratic role of the pastor to a cluster anointing, embracing a five-fold ministry led by an apostolic leader. This will not be an overnight transition, but progressively we will witness churches incorporating five fold ministry expressions into the leadership of the church, and more of the ministry of the house conducted out of a team spirit. As president of CFCM, this principal is something that I highly value and wish to incorporate into the governance of our organization in a much greater way. We will impart to other churches a pattern for team ministry that embraces diverse gifts, genders and generations to reach our communities, cities and nation for God. With this expanded dimension of governmental authority entering the church, we fully expect to see the influence and favor of the local church to dramatically increase, releasing new waves of spiritual harvest together with signs and wonders in the work of the Lord.

More than ever we desire to guard against institutionalizing CFCM, but rather to witness the Lord build the organization through relationships, rather than organizational structures and ministry titles. We see that the wave of future ministry associations will be less around organizational structures and more around life giving relationships. It is our belief that when two people come into relationship, and when God is given entrance into the relationship, that both individuals are enlarged by the presence of the Lord in their midst. Whereas organizational structures for national ministries have tended to operate from a top-down model, we anticipate that the future will reveal an increasing degree of decentralization in ministry as we know it. It is likely that we will witness the emergence

of many sub-apostolic spheres of influence unfold within our fellowship and in our nation. It will be imperative as a national ministry to both recognize the blessing the Lord is bringing to apostolic leaders and initiatives at these levels, as well as to support and empower them. This will also be true with regard to CFCM's association with other ministries, networks and fellowships across the nation. We have always been a Kingdom organization and this will continue to be one of our strongest commitments and values into the future.

Apostolic ministry is primarily about liberty and release, not control. Historically we have witnessed leaders in the Body of Christ embrace authority without accountability. In varying degrees we have also observed the titles of ministry offices used more for the purposes of underscoring personal authority and status, rather than ministry function from a serving spirit. Much more could be said about this. While each ministry office requires a measure of spiritual authority to effectively function, this authority should not operate independently of the other ministry offices. The presence and authority of Christ is manifested through the apostolic team as they collectively embrace an attitude of honor and respect for each other. Likewise, apostolic leaders are called to lift and honor people as spiritual foundations in the house of the Lord, and not to marginalize the body or other leaders in their service. Likewise, we believe that servant leaders are granted genuine spiritual authority in the lives of people to the degree they sacrificially give their lives to empower the destiny of others in love. Through this, the Spirit of Christ will be honored, sons and daughters will be birthed and grow in a safe spiritual environment, relationships will take preeminence over organization, and the love of God will flourish in our midst. Unity described by Jesus in John 17 comes with a great price, but with it comes the glory of the Lord.

We have seen the historic wisdom of the Lord in CFCM by establishing the strength of the organization at the grass roots level through strong area directors working in cooperation with visionary district directors, and then connected regionally through a national directorship. The national office of CFCM has largely been a serving, facilitating office to provide the administrative infrastructure and services necessary to connect this large network of churches over this vast country. The national office also coordinates the arrangements with government agencies in most provinces to provide members with licensing. The national office has served as a resource to the district and area directors as well as to every member of CFCM as the need arose. We have been able to do this with a relatively small budget, given the size of the organization, in that we did not wish to intrude into the financial affairs of churches.

It is probable that many of the issues we outlined bear witness in your spirits, for the Lord has already been speaking in our lives and ministries in this regard. This indicates that there is a prophetic presence of the Lord in our midst and that we are moving together through the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Sometimes organizations can be slow to respond to change due to their size and the limited availability of people to meet together. It is our intent that we will become a more communicative organization in the future, and better able to network the resources

of our great churches and ministries to accelerate prophetic directives of the Lord in our nation.

In the future, it is our desire to invite area directors to have a larger involvement in the governance of the organization. Likewise, we want to begin to prepare a place for the next generation of ministers to be involved in the leadership of our organization. While these men and women may not yet be fully mature apostles, they will have a measure of apostolic grace evident in their lives and will relate to the national directors in a capacity much like that of Timothy to Paul. Rather than seeing a mass departure of mature, experienced leaders leaving the organization in the hands of younger inexperienced leaders, we will begin to see current directors taking an increasing role as spiritual fathers in the organization. The intent will be to form a cooperative bond between the generations, blending experience and wisdom with fresh vision and strength, to transition the organization into the next season.

Before the end of the year it will be a priority to establish a clear procedure with the counsel of national, district and area directors concerning the procedure by which leadership in our organization is appointed, and the duration to which people remain in a given function within the organization. This will include every office in CFCM including that of the president. As you can see many changes are in place which will transform the face of CFCM as we have known it, and will set the stage for a vibrant and strong organization in the future, based upon a revelation of the apostolic/prophetic foundation laid out in scripture. We are still maturing, we have not arrived. May the Lord give us grace to fulfill our mandate and assignment as an organization together with the body of Christ to the glory of the Lord.

Sincerely, in the Service of our King.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Stead', written in a cursive style.

Glen Stead
President