

Definition of Fellowship:

Opportunity to get together and share socialize for mutual encouragement

Good time together, getting together on one wave length for glory of God, planning together, open to what the Lord leads, Christian faith-based life sharing, common ground, encouragement, all people will know are disciples, way to disagree, formal, informal, over the phone

Spending time outside regular activities, getting together that results in caring and nurture, World needs to experience the fellowship of Xian people

In the context of our Association... what is going on concerning fellowship of our churches currently?

Pastors meet some, pastors and wives sometimes, lay pastors going to pastor another congregation drawing congregations together, combined services (evening), interdenominational fellowship as well, baptisms

Christmas and Easter gatherings, seminars in CABC, Bible studies, Ladies' meetings, ABW

*Some ministerials, some joint hymn sings, special events drawing people together
VERY REGIONAL, SPECIFIC PEOPLE, FORMAL AND INFORMAL DIFFERENCES, THEOLOGICALLY BIASED OR BASED?
FRAGMENTED, NO OVERALL FELLOWSHIP*

Do we need to make changes in how we currently fellowship together?

Yes, Yes, Yes but...

What changes can we make or implement as an association?

Other questions need to be asked before we can go forward, need to analyze our target (what group(s) do we want to involve in more fellowship), large churches have youth groups that smaller churches can support, good to have the larger churches, smaller churches, may have a fortress mentality which needs to change, competition among churches, need to look at both small church churches and association which need to work together, look at fellowship at church, local and assn. level—maybe build from the grassroots up, too many under-functioning little churches

Need changes not in terms of time but in what we do, gathering once a year and making it more attractive, cluster groups one or more a year is good, need for continued on-going ed. of congs. re assn. Difficulties: small churches with over-worked people, are larger churches interested in the association—do they feel they need it? Do they see their responsibility to the larger body? Need assn. to keep us in the mainstream of the faith.

Council could meet more often but on a social level with no agenda, become initiators to promote more fellowship in smaller churches, get more input from all churches to allow for wants and needs, needs to be flexible, times that we meet need to be looked at because of the needs of pastors, part-time pastors and so on, if want cong., then times must be in evening or weekend, need to make it easier to fellowship