**Global Wesleyan Alliance Inc**

**The Wesleyan Church Clergy Transfer Considerations**

**Subject:** Transfer of Credentials among Covenant Partners or Utilization of Ministerial Assets of the Alliance

**Date:** November 10, 2014

**TWC (The Wesleyan Church): We view a clergy transfer arrangement among the members of the Global Wesleyan Alliance to be a positive development and one we will work with as an initiative to the betterment of the broader alliance movement. Our key partner in this initiative is the Education and Clergy Development Division, where Rev. Russ Gunsalus serves as Executive Director. The following responses to the ideas of the Alliance are developed in conjunction with his leadership and comments below.**

**Temporary Assignments**

A temporary assignment is viewed in duration of less than a year. During the temporary assignment no transfer of credentials would be necessary or required. The authority of credentials would remain with the credentialing group. The minister would still be required to maintain contact with the original group and follow the essential requirements of the group. Any discipline or legal action would be the responsibility of the original group issuing the credential. The minister would need to work out with the original group any pension considerations.

**TWC: Agreed. We already view the credentials of Alliance members with general favor in our system for such appointments, although this could be formalized through this kind of initiative. And if possible pension contributions during this time would be sent to the fund of the originating denomination.**

**Permanent Assignment**

A permanent assignment is viewed in duration of more than a year. It would seem reasonable that all assignments would start with the status of temporary assignment. If nearing the end of the temporary assignment it was ascertain a more permanent assignment should happen, then the following steps would be followed:

**TWC: Ministers could transfer directly to permanent assignment.**

1. A letter of approval from the responsible district or state that the minister is in good standing and no cases or charges had been made against him/her.
2. The minister would facilitate with the appropriate pension group his/her status. This is the responsibility of the minister not the outgoing or incoming group.

**TWC: For this to be possible, the respective pension funds would need to have MOUs for possible roll over of pension funds from one group to another. This would require pension fund directors to be at the table for deliberation in this initiative.**

1. The minister would take the appropriate seminars or courses the receiving group would require before the minister was authorized permanent status.

**TWC: It would be helpful if those courses/events and expectations would be exchanged and reviewed for mutual revision and comment, with particular attention to theology and denominational practices and ethos. This would be published along with the over-arching transfer MOU.**

1. The minister would surrender existing credentials, to be held in abeyance by the departing group, and then would receive credentials from the receiving group. The receiving group would now be responsible for discipline and any legal action.
2. If the minister wished to return to the original group after the permanent assignment, then the process above would be followed.