GLOBAL WESELYAN ALLIANCE

Annual Meeting

Global Ministries Center

The Church of the Nazarene

Lenexa, Kansas

2-3 December 2016

The sixth meeting of the Global Wesleyan Alliance convened on Friday, December 2, 2016, at The Church of the Nazarene Global Ministries Center

**Call to Order**

President David Graves called the meeting to order at 9:20 a.m.. Members present introduced themselves, their church, and where they live. They were as follows (18):

David Graves, President

Ron Duncan, Executive Director

David Kendall, Secretary

Jerry Porter, Church of the Nazarene

Gary Briden, Association of Independent Methodists

William Sillings, International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc.

David Roller, Free Methodist Church

David Kelly, Salvation Army

Wayne Schmidt, Wesleyan Church

J. K. Warrick, Church of the Nazarene

Bob Moss, for Jim Lyon, Church of God Anderson

Steve Jones, Missionary Church

Eugenio Duarte, Church of the Nazarene

Lindsay Jones, Church of God Holiness

Jim Coulston, for Ed Williamson, Evangelical Methodist Church

Brian Eckhardt, Evangelical Methodist Church

Matt Thomas, Free Methodist Church

Gustavo Crocker, Church of the Nazarene

David Busic, Church of the Nazarene

Adam Godbold, Association of Independent Methodists

**Devotions**:

General Superintendent J. K. Warrick shared a devotional message on the reconciliation of Christ’s love, from 2 Cor. 5. The love of Christ reconciles us, v. 14; the ministry of reconciliation occupies us, v. 18; and the message of reconciliation shapes us, v. 19. He then led in prayer lifting several prayer concerns shared by members of the Alliance.

The chair invited member churches of the Alliance to share updates and reports as to recent activities, blessings, and challenges of the mission.

Many wonderful victories as well as common challenges were shared.

Break at 11:00 a.m.

The Alliance reconvened at 11:20 a.m. Members of the Alliance received a gift bag, with appreciation, from the Board of General Superintendents of the Church of the Nazarene.

Members of the Alliance continued sharing for their respective communions.

We recessed for lunch at 11:55 a.m.

The Alliance reconvened at 1:10 p.m.

President Graves introduced several members of the Sr Leadership Team of the Global Ministries Center.

Reports from member communions continued.

At 1:45 p.m. President Graves led us into a time of consideration of several items of business.

**Brian Eckhardt reported** on the finances of the GWA. A report 2015 and 2016 (through November 23) was presented. See attached. The reports were approved as distributed.

**Dr. Ron Duncan, Executive Director of the GWA, reported** on his work during the year. The report was distributed prior to the meeting. In his report, several matters were highlighted and several were added. Some of our member communions have benefited from the reciprocal credentials action of the GWA.

Young Adult Forums have brought some recommendations, among which was to create mentoring structures for young leaders. An initial mentoring cohort could be initiated to explore whether a cross-denominational effort will really work. The plan is to have a cohort of 36 persons including both mentors and mentees.

Incarnational City Ministry events have yielded good outcomes, with a report sent to GWA members earlier this year. In Detroit Wesleyans and Free Methodists in particular, long with Salvation Army and Church of God, are joining together to launch a joint initiative for incarnational ministry in the city.

Ron reported on research he has done over the last year.

What will the church look like 20 years from now? We must be concerned to plant multi-ethnic churches because our society is becoming increasingly multi-ethnic in nature. Mega-Churches today are filled with people from all walks of life, great diversity. In Ron’s inquiries, he wondered how they became this kind of church. He has found that these churches do things traditional church has not done. For example, we move quickly to include people so they almost immediately develop a sense of belonging and also to include them in some part of the church’s life of service and ministry. This practice helps churches embrace people effectively. So he proposes we convene a forum of our best practitioners in church planting to train and encourage the planting of multi-ethnic, economic churches.

On another front, Ron proposes an initiative to consider how to transform a homogeneous congregation.

Ron also proposes that we convene meeting of top leaders of GWA leaders to determine what new competencies will be needed in the church today but especially going forward.

**The Executive Committee presented** a revision of the By-Laws of the GWA. “Proposed Amendments” were considered.

On Motion, The GWA amended the by-laws to say that (4.3) the secretary is to be elected in even years and treasurer in the odd years.

The revisions to the By-laws of the GWA as amended were approved.

The Executive Committee nominated:

Jim Lyon to serve another term as Vice President (2018)

Steve Jones to serve as secretary (2018)

Both were elected as nominated.

Next year the Executive Committee will bring nominees for President and Treasurer.

The GWA returned to the recommendation from Ron Duncan to convene a forum for developing Mentors and Mentees of younger leaders. The plan is to train the Mentors who will mentor young leaders. GWA leaders will need to provide names of persons who become Mentors and persons who are mentored.

Discussion ensued as to the appropriateness of the Alliance generating programs or systems as such, or whether it is better to share best practices.

On motion GWA decided to respond to young leaders groups that the GWA received their report, discussed it, appreciate their input and believe the best way to respond is to commit the need to each denomination to work toward solutions appropriate for each church’s mission and vision.

Ron Duncan was excused, so the Alliance members could discuss how best to guide his activities in the coming year, and respond to the recommendations he has made.

On motion the GWA expresses its deep appreciation for Ron Duncan’s leadership and the way in which he has helped the Alliance to add value to member churches. The GWA will ask Ron to serve as Executive Director for the coming year.

GWA named a Task Force to make suggestions as to the purpose of the GWA and the directions for future plans and activities. Gustavo Crocker will serve as convener, with members to include Steve Jones, David Kelly, and Matt Thomas.

On motion, we ask the Executive Director to convene leaders of Church Planting sharing best practices and resources, considering whether there is a Wesleyan way to plant churches, and whether a church planting forum might be helpful and how.

In view of the work of the Task Force that has been organized, we wish to defer action on other recommendations pending the report of the Task Force.

The Alliance considered the proposed Budget for 2017. On motion, GWA approves the bottom line and the Director, in consultation with the Executive Committee, will approve the specifics of line items that will be funded.

The GWA will meet next year 1-2 December 2017 in Jackson, MS., hosted by the Association of Independent Methodists.

The GWA recessed for dinner.

On Saturday, December 3, 2016 The Global Wesleyan Alliance reconvened at the call of President David Graves at 8:35 a.m.

Dr. Jerry Porter shared from the word on God’s love for Immigrants, God’s commands to his people to offer care, protection and welcome to immigrants. This is God’s word.

We are all immigrants. Hebrew Ger; Greek Xenos. He traced the clear and consistent focus in the Scriptures on love for and care of the immigrant.

There is difference between what is legal and what is moral and consistent with God’s kingdom values. We regularly break laws of the state in various parts of the world to witness to Jesus and carry out his mission.

The deepest work of the Holy Spirit is to cleanse us of racial prejudice and bigotry. This is sorely needed in our day. Often our people are supporting laws that are abusive.

Jesus yearns to fill us with the Holy Spirit and cleanse our hearts from racial prejudice.

God calls us to respect, protect, assist, evangelize, disciple, and love the immigrants near us!

Holiness is love for Jesus!

We concluded our attention to God’s word by praying for heart cleansing from racial bias and filling with the love of Jesus for all.

Both the power point and the content of Jerry’s message will be distributed to members of the GWA.

After prayer discussion followed about what responses the GWA might make in light of the Scripture’s teaching.

On motion a task force was named to draft a statement on the scripture’s call to care for immigrants and to commend appropriate teaching materials to member churches. The Task Force will consist of David Roller, Steve Jones, and Bill Sillings. David Roller will serve as convener.

After a brief break, the GWA welcomed Dr. Christopher Cottrell of “CrosspointCEO” (Crosspoint Communicating Effective Outcomes) who presented on mediation processes. See the packet of materials he distributed.

In the closing moments of our gathering several others shared with the group news and updates from their respective communions.

The Global Wesleyan Alliance adjourned after prayer at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

David W. Kendall, Secretary