**Global Wesleyan Alliance**

**Annual Report**

**December 1-2, 2017**

**Jackson, Mississippi**

I have just finished reading Paul DePalma’s book, “Becoming Adept-applying leadership strategies for lasting change.” He states after twenty seven years serving as a consultant on leadership development and organizational change “one of the biggest realizations for me has been that the difference between a successful organization and one that is not successful is their people’s ability to change and adapt.” Most of us could very well relate to his statement and know most assuredly when we invest time and resources into “our people” we are going in the right direction for future growth and development.

When the Global Wesleyan Alliance formed officially in December 2011, the press release written by Dr. Jerry Pence stated: “*the Alliance is designed to increase interdenominational cooperation without the necessity of formal, corporate mergers. Its initial objectives include:*

*-creating greater community through intentional relationship building;*

*-collaborating to pool resources, share best practices and ministers, and generate new ideas and tools;*

*-convening events to promote personal experience of holiness and collective ministries for discipleship, church health and multiplication, leadership development, prayer and networking;*

*-communicating with one another more intentionally and addressing contemporary issues and public concerns with a more united voice.”(press release Dec 5, 2011).* Later in our agenda, we will be looking at these initial objectives and updating them for the future.

This past year one of the common themes coming from all the forums has been the need for continual updating skill sets of leaders and the ability to adapt to the times with our great message of hope and holiness. The forums have provided the “iron sharpening iron” principle for the numerous leaders from your tribes. You have already received the Forum reports for the Mission Directors, the CFO’s and the Church Multiplication-Church Planters. The Church Publishers/Curriculum Forum did not occur because of calendar issues with the participants. We are rescheduling for next year.

All of the Forum Groups have scheduled meetings for 2018 and these dates and places show up on our newly inaugurated web site(www.wesleyanalliance.com).

We have one action item from the Forum groups. At the Church Multiplication Forum Group Dr. Bill Wiesman shared with the group one of his new endeavors at Trevecca Nazarene University in Nashville. He and the University are in the process of developing a Center for Church Multiplication and Church Planting. He invited any of the GWA covenant members to be part of such an endeavor. The representatives at the Forum expressed strong interest in seeing this developed and would urge GWA covenant leaders to affirm this development. The center would offer training, resource sharing, and connection with other like minded organizations interested in church multiplication. He has already offered one training opportunity in October of 2017. The Church Multiplication Forum will be meeting there next year(April 8-10) for some DCPI(Dynamic Church Planting International) training along with the follow up on the “ethos” surrounding a Wesleyan model of church planting and church multiplication.

I would strongly urge you to read and reread the Multiplication Forum notes and especially the questions raised for senior leaders. It is my observation that this group could be the catalyst for a nation wide revival because they are focused on bringing persons into a relationship with Christ and creating dynamic communities of faith.

In connection with the Church Multiplication and Church Planting emphasis, I would say once more that some attention should be given to assisting, training, shaping leaders and churches in dealing with the ethnic cultural transition occurring in our nation. Many of our churches are homogeneity in make up. In the next twenty years most of our communities especially in the city are or will be very ethnically diverse. This change must be addressed sooner rather than later.

Two additional challenges I would place before you for thought and consideration. With the ethnic unrest in our country demonstrated in so many different ways, it would seem that our message of hope, holiness, openness to all should inform our members and churches how to respond to and in their communities. How are we doing? What are we doing? Are we silent? Our nation needs positive and proactive dialogue in regards to racial reconciliation. Should the GWA address this issue at least through a Forum structure in 2018?

Finally, I think in 2018 we might want to consider growing GWA with some new member groups. There are denominations with the Wesleyan bent that we can learn from and they can learn from us. They are showing up at other events around the country such as the New Room Conference in Nashville each year. I would recommend you appoint a couple of people to further pursue this goal with me.

Thank you again for the opportunity to work with some of your finest leaders and servants. It has been an enriching year for me.

I will take your questions and then we will look at the web site development.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald V. Duncan, D. Min.

Executive Director