

**GLOBAL WESLEYAN ALLIANCE
YOUNG LEADERS' FORUM
September 2-4, 2015 - OKC**

1. Chris Holcomb (Nazarene)
2. Andrea Mosshart (Nazarene)
3. Tim Hahn (Nazarene)
4. Kenneth Russell (Wesleyan)
5. Jordan Brown (Wesleyan)
6. Clint McBroom (Church of God)
7. Keith Maynor (Salvation Army)
8. Jeff Wolheter (Evangelical Church)
9. Mark Sundstrom (Church of God)

David Busic and Ron Duncan were facilitators of the meeting.

September 2, 2015

The group stayed at the Fairfield Inns and Suites airport in Oklahoma City. We met on the campus of Mid-America Christian University(affiliated with the Church of God). David Busic provided an excellent devotional drawing our attention to the bedrock guiding principle of Catholicism, Calvinism, and Wesleyanism. The group shared personal prayer concerns with each other and then had a season of prayer.

Ron provided an overview of GWA and the purpose of this event and how it connected to the initiatives of the GWA. As part of the getting to know one another, each was asked to share major successes in their ministries this past year. This was a rich time of rejoicing in the successes of one another.

After the break, we took some time to identify the major challenges facing your ministry in the coming year. This discussion led to challenges facing the church at large and recorded below.

In placing challenges in perspective, each was asked to remember what was their greatest challenge ten years ago. The point of the exercise was that rarely do challenges we face last a life-time, but have a short shelf life.

COMMENTS REGARDING THE CHALLENGES OF THE USA CHURCH

The church is not the center of culture anymore. What does a church in exile look like? How do we influence culture when we aren't the center, or even barely marginal? Exile can strip us of our idols. What a time for the church?

Moral relativism is our biggest challenge.

Do we have an adequate ecclesiology for the current cultural context?

Economics of supporting a denomination.

Doctrinal, theological shifts in national issues. SCOTUS decisions. Shift of certain groups within denominational circles toward more liberalism.

LGBT issues. Best Christian response?

We have put far more emphasis on the government impacting the culture. The church has put more focus on how to change laws that will impact politics, rather than how the church can affect culture.

Materialism is our god. We focus too much on “stuff.”

Dichotomy of mind and spirit – academy and church – deep learning and faith.

We are complicit with the power structures of the world. Exile can produce a remnant, but exile is also the result of faithlessness.

INTRODUCTION TO THE MENTORING CONVERSATION

General informational discussion was held seeking to identify the large issues to discuss the following day.

The group had an excellent dinner at BJ's followed by ice cream at Braums.

September 3, 2015

Cliff Sanders Devotional (professor at Mid-America Christian):

“Grace is both for pardon and power. We need both. We need forgiveness of sins and we need power for living.

We probably need to stop talking about legalism, because no one under 50 even thinks that way anymore. We need to be talking more about antinomianism. That is the new struggle of young adults who have been raised in the church today. Those outside the church may struggle more with aspects of legalism.

I don't use the phrase spiritual disciplines because the church historically has never called them that. They are called “the means of grace.”

Wesley described the providential grace of God and the instituted grace of God.”

The group really enjoyed the energy and presentation of Dr. Sanders.

After devotions, the group reassembled to begin work on the conversation around mentoring. After a few minutes of clarifying direction, two groups were formed to follow

up on the stated questions in the agenda. After a hour of group work, then the two groups reassembled to share their thoughts. Some of those thoughts are captured below:

REPORTS FROM SMALL GROUPS: *How do we define mentoring? Is there a difference between mentoring and discipleship?*

It's difficult to separate mentoring and discipleship. Many mentoring models outside the church.

Our scope is for young church leaders

Mentoring is a relational experience in which one person empowers another by sharing God-given resources. It's a relational process whereby information and development is transferred to a mentee.

Pursuing purpose through prophetic and productive partnerships.

I seek mentors who have a skill that I want to expand my knowledge or expertise.

What is the difference between mentoring, discipleship, and education?

What models for mentoring you have seen?

Upward – downward – peer mentoring

Do mentors seek out mentees or do mentees seek out mentors?

Both – and.

Some are formal arrangements

Some are informal arrangements and more organic

ALL are intentional

Why is there a need for mentoring?

What are the conditions for effective mentoring?

There needs to be some mutuality based on relationship, trust, and confidence. There needs to be confidence in trust. Clari trusted and believed in me and my potential – and I trusted and admired him.

Intentionality

Mutual respect

Mutual trust

Similar temperament

Similar affinities (otherwise there is a big gap)

Likability

Shared non-professional interests

Hope for something more

Goal or objective the mentee has a desire to learn or change

Accountability

Two-way street

Relationship has to be able to grow – evolve from teacher, to friend, to colleague, etc.

Attraction – drawn to the mentor and mentee

Responsiveness – willingness to learn and to change

Accountability

A beginning and an ending (mentoring has seasons)

What would be your need to be included in a mentoring model?

How would you construct an effective mentoring model?

Sustainability is important.

What about succession planning?

Who are the “invisibles” that are not being mentored because they are not like us?

Who is not like me? What happens to those who are not connected, without a pedigree or legacy?

Introverts and Extroverts. Emotional intelligence.

Developmental Phases of an Effective Mentoring Model

What is the felt need?

Database?

Something like an eHarmony?

1. Telling the story/Painting picture of the need. Telling story in multiple ways and angles (rural, urban, etc.). Couch the presentation through story.
2. Each story told can be told an organizing image. Teacher; big brother; boss; etc.
3. Denominational leaders must model it.

4. National Survey for each denom? Research? How will this translate into organizational effectiveness? What research already exists? How will it be measured?

Take inventory?

Analyze the problems and needs?

Connect or address whatever those needs are?

Identify a test population? Measure it?

What has worked for you?

1. Where I as the mentee could help set the agenda, versus the ones that were more rigid.
2. Those when the mentor had a personal interest in me.

Category of retired ministry assignment – Could become official mentors

Periscope

Group Meet

Group Shadowing – Side events

Cohort model/group might work best who meet together annually. Maybe once a quarter.

Collaboration between universities regarding mentoring.

WHAT IS OUR MESSAGE TO GWA?

We affirm that mentoring is incredibly valuable and universally needed. After significant discussion we believe further research is needed to provide current data to draw on. This data can help determine necessary structural changes and programs for the future. Furthermore, we recognize that there are certain ministry contexts that lend itself to more organic and “informal” mentoring, including multiple staff ministry and college/university settings. However, because this represents a small minority of our pastors, and because the vast majority do not have the benefit of these mentoring contexts, the need for intentional mentoring is heightened. Many GWA pastors have expressed feelings of isolation and disconnectedness. Therefore, we recommend that the GWA consider an initiative on leadership mentoring with a task force that would design, recommend, and offer guidance to implement steps toward a formalized mentoring ministry across denominational lines. The task force may draw on current denominational resources and programs that are already in place. Finally, we want to express our deep appreciation to the GWA for providing a way for us to meet and trusting us with this important conversation. HUNGER GAMES

A trans-denominational mentoring program could consider the following conditions for an effective mentoring ministry:

- Clear intentionality

- Mutual respect, trust, and likability between the mentor and mentee
- Similar temperaments and affinities
- Shared non-professional interests
- A relationship that can evolve
- Responsiveness – willingness to learn and to change
- Accountability as a “two-way street”
- A defined beginning and an ending to the mentoring relationship
- Flexibility in meeting times
- Mutually beneficial for both mentor and mentee
- The mentoring design should not dependent on familial connections within the denomination
- Elevate the idea of mentoring from the highest levels of leadership
- To make leadership development/mentoring a strategic priority

Respectfully Submitted,

Young Leaders’ Forum on Mentoring
September 2015

We gave the participants a time to share any message they wished with the national leaders of the GWA.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO SAY TO YOUR GWA LEADERS?

Technology may outrun the church. We need our leaders to be in tune with the future of technology.

Our leaders need to better communicate the church’s position on LGBT issues, including the offers of forgiveness and hospitality.

Christian higher education seems to be in decline due to rising costs. What will our colleges do to deal with LGBT issues, including Federal funding.

Find creative ways to facilitate mergers (churches; districts; colleges; etc.) for kingdom stewardship purposes.

Develop a healthy theology of work.

How do we as the church speak into issues of immigration?

How can we continue to be aware of issues in racial reconciliation?

How can we re-engage social issues that can affect cultural change? Change our motivations from fear or offense, to learn to fight the right fights and not too fight the wrong fights.

September 4, 2015

Resources to Share

Evernote – cloud based storage
Planning Center
NTS Center for Pastoral Leadership
Ministerial Alliance
Safe Kids Programs from Bethany First Nazarene

Recommended Books:

“Mondays with My Old Pastor”
“Fresh Wind – Fresh Fire” – Jim Cymbala
“The Way to Heaven” – Stephen Harper
“Blessed Connections” Judith Swanz
“Moral Vision of the New Testament” Richard Hayse
“Holy Trinity – Holy People” Thomas Noble
“Center Church” Tim Keller
“Homiletical Plot” Eugene Lowry
On Being – Krista Tippett (podcast)
iTunes University

Closed with communion