**GLOBAL WESLEYAN ALLIANCE ANNUAL MEETING**

**December 1-2, 2017 in Flowood, MS**

The seventh meeting of the Global Wesleyan Alliance convened at 9:00 am on Friday, December 1st, 2017 at Riverside Church in Flowood, Mississippi.

Those present were:

Gary Briden, (**Host**) Association of Independent Methodists

David Busic, Church of the Nazarene

Joseph Campbell, Church of Christ Holiness, USA

Jim Coulston, for Ed Williamson, Evangelical Methodist Church

Gustavo Crocker, Church of the Nazarene

Ron Duncan, (**Executive Director**), Church of God- Anderson

Brian Eckhardt, (**Treasurer**), Evangelical Methodist Church

David Graves, (**President**), Church of the Nazarene

Tom Hermiz, Churches of Christ in Christian Union

Dean Hinson, Salvation Army

Steve Jones (**Secretary**), Missionary Church

David Kendall, Free Methodist Church

Jim Lyon (**Vice President**), Church of God- Anderson

David Roller, Free Methodist Church

Wayne Schmidt, Wesleyan Church

William Sillings, International Fellowship of Bible Churches, Inc.

Carla Sunberg, Church of the Nazarene

Matt Thomas, Free Methodist Church

Ed Williamson, Evangelical Methodist Church

**Devotions and Prayer - Matt Thomas**

Bishop Matt Thomas brought devotions to the group, sharing from both Scripture and personal experiences which took place during a recent trip to China. He encouraged the group with observations about the dedication that is being displayed among those who face challenge and opposition throughout the world, and he reminded us that the message of Scriptural Holiness is one which is greatly needed. He closed with the assurance that the Holy Spirit is at work, confirming our message in sometimes miraculous ways.

A time of prayer followed for several current needs expressed by Alliance members.

**Peer to Peer Sharing**

Chairman Graves invited the member churches of the Alliance to bring updates and reports on the blessings and challenges which each has been experiencing since our last meeting. An extended time of sharing by each member followed, with pauses for prayer as appropriate.

**Business Transacted:**

**Reports**

The chairman called for the report of the secretary. The minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting were approved as presented.

The chairman then called for the report of the Treasurer. Brian Eckhardt presented the report of the Treasurer, consisting of the final financial report for 2016 and the year-to-date financial report for 2017. There was a motion to approve the report, there was support, and the motion carried.

The chairman called for the report of the Executive Director. Ron Duncan brought a written report, supplemented with verbal comments and highlights of the ministry which have taken place through the Global Wesleyan Alliance in 2017.

Included in Ron’s report was a review of the new web site, with the direction that the various documents that would be considered throughout the remainder of the annual meeting were all to be found on the web site.

In addition, each member received curriculum from Orange, Inc. as part of the Executive Director’s Report.

Our Executive Director also passed on an invitation that was extended to the entire Global Wesleyan Alliance Board to attend the 2018 New Room Conference in Franklin, Tennessee. This invitation is for September 19-21, 2018 and was presented by David Thomas and the New Room Conference.

It was moved, supported and approved that the board receive this report with gratitufe for the dedication and work of the Executive Director.

**Old Business**

1. The chairman called for the report of the Task Force assigned to conduct a review of the GWA Purpose and Objectives (“Objects”) as found in the Bylaws. The Task Force consisted of Gustavo Crocker (Chair), Steve Jones, David Kelly, and Matt Thomas. Gustavo presented the findings of the Task Force. Steve initiated a discussion of the implications of the group’s findings, and Gustavo brought items to be considered going forward. A discussion followed, which included historical perspectives on the founding of the GWA and thoughts about future direction.

There was a motion that That the ExCom review the report of the Task Force, and bring recommendations for potential changes to the Bylaws in the area of “objects” (objectives), to be brought back to the body for review. There was support and the motion carried.

1. The chairman called for the report of the Study Committee for consideration of a new Immigration Policy. The committee consisted of David Roller (Chair), William Sillings and Steve Jones. David Roller presented a proposed Immigration Policy. There was discussion regarding the policy. Several Amendments were offered to the proposed policy.

There was a motion to approve the GWA Policy on Immigration as amended. (See attached.) There was support and the motion carried.

**New Business**

1. **Ballot**

The Chair presented the proposed ballot for Executive Committee positions up for election in the 2017 meeting for service in 2018. The following names were put in nomination:

a. President - Matt Thomas

b. Treasurer - Wayne Schmidt

A motion was made to close nominations. There was support and the motion carried. A motion was made to approve by consensus the election of Matt Thomas and Wayne Schmidt as nominated. There was support and the motion carried unanimously.

1. **Calendar for 2018**

The following dates were presented for inclusion in the GWA Calendar for 2018.

1. CFO Forum-Global Ministry Center-Lenexa, KS, March 20-21, 2018 (noon to noon)
2. Mission Directors Forum-Missionary Church-Ft. Wayne, IN, March 22-23,
3. 2018 Church Multiplication Forum-Trevecca Nazarene University-Nashville, TN April 8-10, 2018
4. Wesleyan Holiness Women Clergy-YMCA, Estes Park, CO, April12-15,
5. 2018 Church Publisher’s-Warner Press-Anderson, IN, date to be determined
6. New Room Conference-Franklin, TN-Sept 19-21, 2018
7. GWA Annual Meeting-November30-December 1, 2018

1. **Wesley Bible Seminary**

Dr. John Neihof, President of Wesley Bible Seminary, brought greetings (and gifts) to the board. He reported on many encouraging things that have been taking place in recent days at the Seminary. He said, “The seminary had been on the brink of closure. God clearly told me to go there, and consumed me with it.” He also announced a new certificate program in reaching Muslims. The Lord has brought a real turn-around there at Wesley Bible Seminary, and they see the future as bright.

1. **Response to request for official connection with Center for Church Multiplication**

By consensus, the GWA leaders affirm the creation of this center recognizing this to be one of the resources for the GWA denominations in the area of church multiplication.

1. **Evaluation of Executive Director**

The chair called for discussion regarding the annual evaluation of the Executive Director. Much discussion followed, with a clear consensus that our Executive Director has been diligent and effective to do those things that are asked of him. It was agreed unanimously to ask Ron Duncan to continue on as Executive Director for 2018.

1. **2018 Budget Proposal**

The chair called for the proposed 2018 Budget. Treasurer Brian Eckhardt presented the proposed budget. There was discussion, and a motion was made to approve the budget as proposed. There was support and the motion carried.

1. Locations for GWA Annual Meeting in

1. 2018 (Nov. 30 to Dec. 1)- The Evangelical Methodist Church, Indianapolis, Indiana.

b. 2019 (Dec. 6-7)- Christian Healthcare Ministries, Barberton, Ohio

c. 2020 (Dec. 4-5)- -Churches of Christ in Christian Union, Circleville, Ohio.

By order of the chair, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. for dinner.

The meeting reconvened on Saturday, December 2, 2017 in the same location, and the chair called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

**Devotions and Prayer—Wayne Schmidt**

Wayne Schmidt, General Superintendent of the Wesleyan Church, brought devotions to the group. He spoke about his recent study of the life of Nathan, one of the most pivotal (and yet unsung) prophets in the Old Testament. His remarks centered around Nathan’s use of affirmation, and yet his willingness to use confrontation wisely in the context of the crucial conversations that we are all called upon to initiate. He reminded us of the importance of entering into those crucial conversation with courage, humility and reliance upon the Holy Spirit.

A time of prayer followed.

**Presentation by One Mission Society**

Chairman Graves declared the business portion of the meeting adjourned, and the Alliance members moved to the sanctuary of the church for a presentation of One Mission Society by Dr. Bob Fetherlin and Dr. Roger Skinner. Through the use of video and porwerpoint presentations, Drs. Fetherlin and Skinner informed us of the Billion.Global Vision and challenged us to consider how our organizations might take part in the challenge to reach one billion people with a presentation of the gospel. A time of question and answers followed. Appreciation was expressed for this stirring vision.

Our time together concluded with a season of corporate prayer at the altar. Gary Briden and Tom Hermiz, (who are concluding their terms of service in their respective denominations, were asked to pray for the continued blessing of God on the Global Wesleyan Alliance.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Jones