**Mission Directors Executive Summary of Forum**

**March 22-23, 2018**

**Missionary Church Headquarters**

**Fort Wayne, Indiana**

Persons present: Andrew Gale, Church of God Ministries; Rick Dugan, World Partners-Missionary Church; Steve Jones, President-Missionary Church; Leslie Foster, World Partners-Missionary Church; Jennifer Platt, World Partners-Missionary Church; Bill Walker, Evangelical Methodist Church; Mark Surbrook, Church of God Holiness; David Mann, World Partners-Missionary Church; Tami Swymeler, World Partners-Missionary Church; Gerry and Jan Coates, Free Methodist; Ron Duncan, Executive Director, Global Wesleyan Alliance. Unable to attend: Verne Ward, Nazarene; Dennis Jackson, Wesleyan; Jack ONeill, Evangelical Church; Deb Miller, Free Methodist.

The group started with lunch provided by The Missionary Church. After welcome and introductions, a devotion was presented by Ron Duncan. The group then shared in family conversations introducing themselves in more detail. The group had been sent eleven areas\* of interest in developing the agenda. After arrival they each selected their top three areas of interest. These were identified so as to know where to begin the discussion.

**Within the next three to five years, what are the challenges you will face?** The cost of preparation for a missionary to be in the field was identified. Many potential candidates have such large debts for education that it almost makes it impossible to consider missionary service. Secondly, if they can go to the mission field, it takes from 18 to 36 months before they are actually on the field. Most of this time is spent in raising funds.

Discussion emerged around missionary models and how developing indigenous leaders is at the forefront of all the models. This is especially true in countries with political turmoil or are closed countries. The Missionary Church in 2004 created the vision of Making and Multiplying Disciples as their strategy. This has been the impetus that has created their current design and proven to be effective. Extended discussion around the political arena, pluralism, responding to current needs with agility, developing affiliates took us to the end of the day.

A short history of the Missionary Church was presented by David Mann and a tour of the remodeled headquarters was led by Tami Swymeler. The group then met for dinner and fellowship.

Friday-8:30am

Steve Jones led the group in devotions under the theme of “unity of thought.” His presentation was provocative and brought to the forefront of our minds the need of the Holy Spirit’s power to be evident in the life of the church as God seeks to gain the attention of the world.

The group resumed their conversation around the areas of interest with **the role of social media and how it was being used in your ministry?**

All groups were involved in social media and all shared about the apps or platforms they were using to get their message out to their publics. Telling the story of your ministry on a regular basis was a theme all used because this was what the donors wanted to hear, the story of transformational change.

Resources that had proven effective were identified and shared along with books. They are:

Accelerate:Building Strategic Agility for a Fast Moving World-John Kotter

Global Teams-Jo Owen

Theology in Context of World Christianity-Timothy Tennent

Helping without Hurting-Brian Fikkert and Steve Corbett

Cultural Maps-Erin Meyer

Serving with eyes wide open-David Livermore

Whoever tells the best story wins-Annette Simmons

Leadership and Self Deception-The Arbinger Institute

Walking from east to west by Ravi Zacharias

The 4:8 Principle by Tommy Newberry

Global Leadership Summit videos on You Tube

Resources from previous GWA Forums can be found on the website:www.wesleyanalliance.com and look under resources.

**Next Steps:** The group decided they would like to meet again in 2019. The dates chosen were March 21-22, 2019, from noon to noon. Gerry Coates invited the group to the Free Methodist headquarters in Indianapolis. The group then had box lunches provided by The Missionary Church.

Respectfully submitted by

Ron Duncan, Executive Director

Global Wesleyan Alliance

\* Potential Questions for Mission Directors Forum March 22-23, 2018

1. How has recruiting of new missionaries been this year? In comparison to previous years?
2. What are the innovations in missionary training and care are your experiencing?
3. How has the political turmoil around the world impacted your work? Do you have written exit plans for your missionaries? Do you have written plans for kidnap situation?
4. What impact will the new tax code have on your ministry?
5. What do you do to keep your spiritual development growing?
6. What are some of the best practices you have applied this year?
7. Within the next 3-5 years, what are the challenges you will confront?
8. What is the level of intensity with your supporters(financially and prayerfully)? What trends do you see?
9. How will the advancement in technology alter your future and job responsibilities?
10. How can the covenant members of GWA resource one another?
11. How many are using social media? If so, which ones and how often; which days and times?