**GWA CFO Zoom Meeting-May 28, 2020**

Seven CFO’s joined the meeting to address these areas: How are you doing during the COVED-19 pandemic?, How is your denomination doing during the pandemic?, What insights have you gained?, What problems are unresolved?, and What strategic decisions are in the near future? Those present were Kevin Batman-Wesleyan Church; Don Williams-Missionary Church; Cindy Foley-Salvation Army; Keith Cox-Nazarene; Jo Lammey-Free Methodist; Jen Neal-Church of God; James Coulston-Evangelical Methodist.

A summary of the conversation:

Changes within each denomination’s functioning has occurred. All the national headquarters are doing some form of working from home and/or alternating days for a few employees. All are following the guidelines provided by the authorities. Most have revised budgets and sought to provide some relief to church or district assessments.

Many report giving has declined but less than expected while others like Salvation Army has experienced increased giving. Salvation Army has been on the front lines providing support to first responders and providing food for the unemployed and others.

Some of the denominations participated in the PPP of the Cares Act. This has helped those without deep reserves to weather temporarily the decrease in giving. Many are offering help to middle judicatories and local churches especially those who have church loans.

One person reported that many of their churches have now instituted online giving. They had been recommending this for months, but in less than three weeks, churches had established the process. This was sighted as one positive of the pandemic.

Another positive mentioned was that personnel because of the change of location for work had been “released for innovation.” The ability to use technology has been leveraged exponentially. Many reported that local churches who have gone online with worship services are ministering to more people than normally attended worship. Giving from persons who are not on any roll has occurred.

The forecast for how we do our work in the future is wide open. The working arrangements of staff is still to be determined, but likely will see an increase in at home assignments. There will be changes around travel for this year due to budget reductions and COVID which may carry over for several years.

Since Zoom and other software have emerged many of the future meetings will be virtual. Designing effective meeting formats will be an area for development. Most are still functioning as if they are in the same room. This may be the most effective, but research is just coming online as to how to facilitate the best virtual meetings. A side note relates to updating equipment to accomplish all that is needed. Many groups have IT personnel, but few have those specializing in analytics which will be necessary in the Virtual world to measure effectiveness.

The group also addressed the proposed meeting of the CFO’s in Ft. Wayne, Indiana in the fall. Because some have cut travel budgets and we don’t know the status of pandemic by then, it was agreed to have an extended virtual meeting(2-3 hours) as our fall gathering. We would address the current issues at that time and learn from one another.

Meeting adjourned with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Duncan, D. Min.

Executive Director

Global Wesleyan Alliance