**Church Multiplication GWA Forum**

**August 29, 2022**

**Houston, Texas**

The Forum was held at the Houston Church Planting Network offices at 4701 Dickson Street. Chad Clarkson the executive director was our host. Chad provided the background formation of HCPN, its vision and values, and two individuals who shared about their experience of going through the training phase offered by HCPN.

From their website you can access detailed data about their mission. The HCPN is a network of networks committed to strengthening church planters to multiply churches to reach every man, woman, and child in the greater Houston region.

The beginnings of HCPN happened at Clear Creek Community Church located south of Houston on I-45 in Clear Lake.

Chad shared that the greater Houston region has over 7million people , 235 people groups , and 185 languages.

To summarize what they do he said, We Gather, We Train, We facilitate. Currently they have 125 churches in the Houston region working with them toward a goal of 400 or 10% of the 4,000 churches in the area. They see the task of reaching the 7 million people of the Houston region with the gospel is done through planting churches that plant churches that make disciples who make disciples.

After Chad’s presentation the group asked questions and clarified a few points.

In the afternoon, the gathered group looked at issues which they wanted to discuss. The first issue was a discussion of the pipeline for church planters and the current need for pastors to fill the pulpits of established churches. Several noted that currently 10 percent of their pulpits were unfilled. One group has money and resources for planting churches but no candidates. A general consensus was there is a high level of fatigue of pastors currently in our tribes. Discussion continued around “cultivating a culture of calling.”

A second discussion centered around the planting of “traditional churches” and “fresh expressions or alternative church plants”. The trend today is about equal but the projection is that the next ten years the alternative will be in the majority. Discussion followed concerning this trend and how denominational headquarters will need to explore what all this means in regards to the disciplines of the denomination.

The third area focused on the major cities of the USA and the Wesleyan presence. How can GWA facilitate a network of GWA members as they seek to do a new work within the city? Reference to the Detroit networking for Mosaic was made.

A fourth area of concern was Gen Z and how are we relating and thinking about their lack of involvement currently.

Finally, the individual members highlighted what has been happening in their ministry area since we last met together. Fellowship time and two meals were included in the day.

The group did discuss about next year and identified two options one at Wheaton and another in Nashville. No decision was made until additional information is known.

Representatives present were Ed Love, Wesleyan Church; Dustin Weber, Free Methodist; Mark Van Valin, Free Methodist; Bill Wiesman, Nazarene; Mark Bane, Nazarene; Tom Planck, Church of God; Efrain Cirilo, Church of God; Jervie Windom, Wesleyan, and Ron Duncan.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Duncan