



## *A brief history of the Wesleyan Holiness Consortium*

1. The concept was birthed in late 2002, at a breakfast meeting with Kevin Mannoia, Don Dayton and David Bundy who, in the course of conversation lamented the lack of recognition in current discussions of the influence of the Holiness message on the global Church over the past century. They discussed the idea of an event for scholars to meet and discuss this history by means of papers and dialogue. Mannoia subsequently decided to probe the idea further however determined that two significant factors must be established:

- a) That any event should be endorsed and sponsored by church leaders to ensure that it was a church project thereby securing its relevancy and mitigating separation between the church and academy;
- b) That it must be a series of events focused on the future mission of the Church.

2. Over the course of the following 12 months of dialogue between Mannoia and various denominational heads, plans were laid for the first of a series of three annual events under the title "Wesleyan Holiness Study Project." Mannoia requested the denominational leaders who captured the vision to commit to three things:

- a) To seek approval from the top level of their denomination for participation;
- b) To send \$3000 each year for three years to cover expenses;
- c) To name three scholar/leaders from their denomination to participate yearly.

3 On May 10-11, 2004, the Inaugural meeting of the WHSP was held on the campus of Azusa Pacific University with representatives from: Nazarene, Free Methodist, Brethren in Christ, Missionary, Salvation Army, Evangelical Friends, Church of God. America's Christian Credit Union also committed to creative support of the effort as part of their mission. The most visible commitment from the Credit Union came in the form of Fawn Imboden, a staff member assigned to support the work of the fledgling Study Project. She has continued each year with the support of the Credit Union president, Mendell Thompson, to support the work of the Consortium with creativity and passion. This represents perhaps the single most important contribution to the effort. Likewise Azusa Pacific University has played a valuable part in support of the WHC by celebrating and encouraging Mannoia's leadership.

4. . Recognizing that a truly Wesleyan and Holiness emphasis always finds expression in practical ministry Mannoia began networking with the regional leaders (Superintendents, District Superintendents, Divisional Commanders, etc.) to consider how the Study Project might bring the influence of its reflective thought to local pastors. In the summer of 2004, Regional Leaders in Southern California from these denominations met to create the Regional Leaders Network and to plan the first Holiness Pastors' Day. The first event was held in conjunction with the next WHSP event in 2005. This gave practical expression to the thinking of the WHSP in the pastoral work of local churches.

5. Study Project scholars made clear the need to include in the conversation those from a Pentecostal tradition in order to truly represent the completeness of the Holiness movement. Throughout the year Mannoia engaged this subject with some of the national leaders with the result that the effort was expanded to include churches in the Pentecostal tradition with Holiness roots. This included Foursquare, International Pentecostal Holiness, Shield of Faith, Church of God in Christ. Since that time we others were also invited including the Church of God Cleveland, C&MA and others. Plans also include inviting representatives of the UMC sympathetic to this purpose.

6. On May 2-3, 2005, the second meeting of the WHSP occurred followed immediately on May 4 by the first Holiness Pastors' Day in southern California. Regional Leaders bore the entire expense of the day for their pastoral teams. Resource persons included Rev. Jack Hayford, Bishop George McKinney along with WHSP leaders. Representatives of the Pentecostal tradition were involved in both possibly marking for the first time in a century a re-uniting of elements of the black and white Holiness movement, as well as elements of the Pentecostal and Revivalist groups – all with a common focus on Holiness in the Wesleyan tradition. (Appendix 2 & 3)

8. On February 6-7, 2006 the third meeting of the WHSP was held, followed by the second Holiness Pastors' Day on February 8. Resource persons for the Pastors' Day included George Barna, Robert Schuller along with WHSP leaders. (Appendix 4 & 5)

9. On August 10, 2006, approximately 35 young leaders (under 30 years of age), named by their district leader in Southern California, met at ACCU for a day to capture relevant insights for the future, and to generate ideas for the coming Pastors' Day. Regional Leaders attended with their young leaders. (Appendix 6)

10. Since the original commitment to the Study Project was nearing an end, on September 15, 2006, Mannoia convened the heads of 8 of the participating denominations in Dallas to consider the outcomes of the WHSP as well as any possible future that would be desired. At that meeting, the Wesleyan Holiness Consortium was created in order to facilitate:

Ongoing theological dialogue among groups with common heritage and message;

Events that would gather young leaders and other groups around Holiness;

Multiplication of regional networks and pastors' days centering on Holiness.

Subsequently, the WHC was adjusted to have a Steering Committee to which churches would give involvement and support rather than an organization to which they would belong. The WHC would give itself to guiding efforts and projects focused on:

- Holiness in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century for pastors,
- Unity within and among the participating churches,
- A Holiness voice to the broader Church,
- The importance of Holiness in the future mission of the Church.

11. On December 11, 2006, Mannoia convened Regional Leaders in Indianapolis for lunch to discuss the possibility of a Holiness Pastors' Day. A decision was made to plan it and a subsequent meeting in February considered the program and emphasis.

12. Because there were still funds available and sufficient work to complete the denominational heads supported a fourth WHSP meeting. This was scheduled on March 26-27, 2007 followed by the Holiness Pastors' Day on March 28. Resource persons for that day were Fr. Al Baca, the ecumenical officer for the Catholic Diocese of Orange, CA, a panel of young leaders along with WHSP leaders. (Appendix 7 & 8)

13. Outcomes of the Study Project are too numerous to list, a few specific ones were intended and are worthy of mention:

1. Fellowship and camaraderie among church leaders and scholar/leaders of multiple denominations with a common heritage and commitment to Holiness for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century;
2. THE HOLINESS MANIFESTO – a two-page document representing the consensus of the 38 Scholar/Leaders that was used at the Holiness Pastors' Days repeatedly as well as with multiple denominations for pastoral training and vision casting; (Appendix 10)
3. FRESH EYES ON HOLINESS – a two-page document created by the 38 Scholar/Leaders to help local pastors consider the major issues that must be engaged as they look to the future in leading their congregations in deeper embodiment of the Holiness message. (Appendix 11)
4. Two Regional Networks of denominational overseers – Southern California and Indiana;
5. Young Leaders' Hangout concept;
6. Manuscript for a book "The Holiness Manifesto" later published by Eerdmans; (Appendix 12)
7. Formation of the WH Consortium as a means to coordinate and oversee future events, publications, and networks in order to raise the awareness and relevancy of Holiness in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, and to provide a Holiness voice to the broader Church;
8. A strong relationship between the WHC and ACCU primarily as Fawn Imboden continued to be present at and provide administrative support for every step along the way.

Greater awareness of the Holiness message and increased profile of the Holiness churches in the evangelical movement, the ecumenical movement, and the world church.

14. The first meeting of the newly formed Steering Committee met on December 7, 2007 on the campus of Life Pacific College, a Foursquare college, to discuss next steps and to shape the future of the Wesleyan Holiness Consortium. The Steering Committee consists of the former WHSP Steering Committee plus representatives from participating denominations designated by their highest officers. Members at the first meeting were:

David Kendall	Free Methodist Church of North America
Dan Copp	Church of the Nazarene
Gary Miller	Salvation Army
Terry Samples	International Church of the Foursquare Gospel
Bernie Van de Walle	Christian & Missionary Alliance, Canada
Barry Callen	Church of God Ministries, Anderson
David Bundy	Fuller Theological Seminary
Lisa Dorsey	Shield of Faith
Tom Arminger	Wesleyan Church
Don Thorsen	Azusa Pacific University
Sheryl Colter	Wesleyan Holiness Women Clergy

William Kren  
Roger Green  
Steve Land  
Lynn Thrush  
Kevin Mannoia

The Evangelical Church  
Salvation Army  
Church of God, Cleveland  
Brethren in Christ  
Azusa Pacific University

Support:

Fawn Imboden  
Bob Moss  
Ray Doane

America's Christian Credit Union  
Indiana Regional Leaders' Network  
Southern California Regional Leaders' Network

15. The first Holiness Pastors' Day in Indiana was held on September 18, 2007 at the Adam's Mark Hotel with over 250 pastors attending. Resource persons included Eric Simpson as well as WHC leaders. (Appendix 9)

16. After numerous conversations between Kevin Mannoia and Bill Eerdmans at meetings where both were participating, Eerdmans decided he would very much like to publish an edited book entitled The Holiness Manifesto. Mannoia asked Don Thorsen to help edit the papers from the WHSP. Eerdmans eliminated a lot of red tape at the publishers in order to have the book out by the Wesleyan Theological Society/Society for Pentecostal Studies in March of 2008. Since then the book has sold well at Pastors' Days and other events. Denominational leaders are using it for their pastors. It can be found in Eerdmans catalog or on the Consortium website [www.HolinessAndUnity.org](http://www.HolinessAndUnity.org) or Amazon.com.

17. In August of 2008 Mannoia conducted a first exploratory meeting of Regional Leaders in the NYC/NJ/Eastern PA area was held on the Campus of Somerset Christian College – of the Pillar of Fire. It is an appropriate setting given the history of the Pillar of Fire and the influence of Alma White on the Holiness history. The Regional Leaders expressed desire to create a new Regional Network to plan Holiness Pastors' Days but felt more should be present. On November 20 a second meeting was held at the same place and general consensus was to begin the process of creating a Regional Network and planning a Holiness Pastors' Day for late April or early May, 2009. The event and Regional Network stalled and plans to revive the idea again began in the Spring of 2010

18. As of December 2008 four Holiness Pastors' Days have been held in Southern California and two have been held in Indiana. Primary speakers include:

- a. George McKinney
- b. Jack Hayford
- c. George Barna
- d. Robert Schuller
- e. Al Baca
- f. Jim Cymbala
- g. Kevin Mannoia
- h. JoAnne Lyon
- i. Eric Simpson

19. In the months leading up to the Steering Committee meeting in November of 2008, Mannoia discovered a new initiative primarily among Nazarene local leaders convening events at local settings and planned by local leaders. These Holiness Summits were intended to provide preaching and inspiration centered on Holiness for local people and area pastors. Although originally intended to be multi denominational, the events to that point were primarily among Nazarene people. Upon discussion with Dan Schafer and Louis Bustle who were helping as catalysts for these initiatives, Mannoia determined that the WHC was the perfect group to provide the interdenominational validation and networking. At the November 14 Steering Committee it was agreed to bring the Holiness Summits into the WHC representing the third focus of the WHC – *a) Academic Reflection; b) Pastoral Resourcing and Networking; and with the Summits, c) Preaching and Inspiration.*

20. During a speaking engagement with Wesleyan denominational leaders at their annual weekend gathering in Indianapolis, Mannoia proposed a new initiative to gather the presidents of Universities and Colleges within the denominations of the Consortium. Strong support from the denominational leaders compelled him to proceed in planning the first Presidents Meeting in January of 2009 in conjunction with the Council on Christian Colleges and Universities meeting in Washington D.C. 16 presidents attended and urged further meetings. The second such meeting is scheduled for February 2010 in Atlanta, also in conjunction with the CCCU Forum. 28 presidents are planning to attend. CCCU president, Paul Cortis, was a great help in cooperating with plans in coordination with his board schedule.

21. A third Regional Network was formed in the wake of a luncheon meeting planned by Mannoia among 8 regional leaders. David Shrouf, Executive Director of the Church of God in Oregon agreed to serve as local coordinator and plans for the first Pastors' Day have been laid for May 4, 2010. Likewise, each of the other Regional Networks has identified a local Coordinator thereby shifting primary initiative and guidance from Mannoia and Imboden to the regional leaders. Jerry Ferguson, District Superintendent of the LA district of the Nazarenes leads the Southern California Network; Richard Amick, Divisional Commander of the Salvation Army Division in Indiana leads that Network.

#### CONCLUSION – January 10, 2010

Mannoia has repeatedly declared, "There is no master plan. No one has a grand strategy, least of all me." What started as a simple desire on his part to convene and think together seems to have met a deep desire to pursue God and His nature of Holiness at all levels. There does indeed seem to be afoot a hunger and a fresh move of God centered in Holiness. Interest in both the message and the newly forming Consortium continues to rise. This is truly a work of God in weaving the energy and hearts of His people together around this Scriptural theme that reflects the very nature of God.

#### NEXT CHAPTER – July 2011

In the previous 18 months a great deal of activity resulted from the WHC initiatives. Momentum grew and circles of engagement and involvement expanded. New relationships were

built and the movement picked up momentum. Here is a list of the major occurrences and formative actions of that time.

1. The Southern California Regional Network – the first created and the oldest – continues to meet and conduct Holiness Pastors’ Days. The last two have been held on the campus of Azusa Pacific University and utilized the Men’s Chorale to open the meetings with a spirit of worship. George Barna and Kevin Mannoia served as the primary resource persons at the latest HPD on February 15, 2011 and released their new books. “Maximum Faith” by George Barna, and “Masterful Living” by Kevin Mannoia.
2. The Portland Regional Network of the WHC has solidified over the last year. The first Holiness Pastors Day was held on May 4, 2010. Dr. Diane LeClerc and Pastor Jim Garlow were the key speakers. Kevin Mannoia also led in group discussion and laid the foundation for the event and the broader context of the WHC. It was held at a local Nazarene Church and the spirit was strong. 175 pastors attended and the evaluations were highly positive – as were the evaluations of all Holiness Pastors’ Days. The Regional Network in Portland has become quite strong and the relationships among the leaders cemented nicely. This Network meets multiple times during the year for fellowship and planning. On April 27, 2011 the second Holiness Pastors’ Day was held on the campus of Warner Pacific College where the president, Andrea Cook, welcomed the group of pastors with strong support. George Barna and Kevin Mannoia were the primary resource speakers here also addressing the content of their recently released books – “Maximum Faith” and “Masterful Living.”
3. Mannoia’s initiative to create a publishing initiative has yielded a cooperative effort with Barna and the two books listed – “Maximum Faith” and “Masterful Living” – were published as a joint effort by “WHC Publications” and “Metaformation” which is the Barna initiative. With much of the effort coming from Barna’s contacts, knowledge and capital investment, the initiative was intended to prove that books could be published and a system established to publish more in fueling the WHC movement. Both books Maximum Faith by Barna, and Masterful Living by Mannoia have been well received.
4. At the Fall 2010 meeting of the Steering Committee at the Canadian Headquarters of the Christian & Missionary Alliance in Toronto Canada, Dr. Franklin Pyles hosted the group. Significant actions were taken:
  - a. To proceed with incorporation of the WHC;
  - b. To proceed with forming a publication initiative;
  - c. To proceed with multiplying Regional Networks and Affinity groups;
  - d. To proceed with the creation of a Board of Directors.
5. During the following months all of these were completed or initiated.
  - a. In the Spring of 2011, after receiving incorporation in the State of California, the WHC received tax exempt status as a 501(c)3 charitable organization from the IRS. This required various exchanges between the IRS and Mannoia to attempt to clarify the nature and work of the WHC. Interestingly, during these exchanges the agent handling the case was in the middle of a family crisis and Mannoia spent time talking to her personally and praying with her.
  - b. After release of the first two books Maximum Faith and Masterful Living, at two Holiness Pastors’ Days – in the LA Area and the Portland Area – Mannoia continued to work with connections established through that process to develop a complete system of publication and in June of 2011, he secured the commitment

of five individuals to serve on a Publications Board. (Barry Callen; Stan Toler, George Barna, Don Thorsen, and himself as Chair of the WHC). Charged with oversight for acquisitions, operations, editorial process, and final decisions on any works published, they would begin with their first meeting on August 19, 2011. Mannoia developed an proposed guiding principles for the publications initiative and a basic structure that would include partnering with a full service operational partner so as to eliminate the need for hiring staff to handle the printing and operational elements of the publishing arm. (See Mission, Values, & Goals Document)

- c. Subsequent to the 2010 Steering Committee meeting in Toronto, Mannoia also began networking with Regional Leaders in Seattle and St. Louis. Both areas received the idea positively. After two lunch meetings in Seattle, Rev. Lloyd Moritz, of the Church of God Anderson, agreed to serve as the Regional Coordinator to plan a first Holiness Pastors' Day in February of 2012. Dr. Joe Castleberry, President of Northwest University, was similarly supportive by approving such a meeting on their campus. Similarly in St. Louis, the initial group of leaders were positive to the idea. Rev. Lucia Delamarter of the Free Methodist Church agreed to serve as coordinator for a second coordinating meeting on September 14, 2011 on the campus of Greenville College with the strong support of President Larry Linamen. Since that time, her schedule precluded her ongoing leadership as coordinator. The September meeting was cancelled and Mannoia began coordinating another meeting after Jim Spruce, a Nazarene District Superintendent from Springfield IL felt there was a strong need for such an effort. On November 30, 2011 Mannoia traveled to St. Louis and 8 district leaders met near the St. Louis Airport. This included the newly added AG representative who has since agreed to serve as the Regional Coordinator. The group was extremely energized and will be meeting again to lay plans for an HPD.
  - d. The Board of Directors was formed by the 2010 Steering Committee comprised of: David Bundy, Barry Callen- Secretary, Roger Green, Fawn Imboden (Ops Coordinator), Kevin Mannoia –Chair, Dan Schafer- Treasurer, Carla Sunberg, Don Thorsen, Vice-Chair. The Board met twice – February 24, 2011 and June 30, 2011. Minutes of the Board meetings are available as a record. Major actions included the approval of the Publications initiative and approving the recommended names provided by Mannoia to form the Publications Team.
  - e. For the first time, formal contact was made with the Assemblies of God and Regional Leaders began to engage in the planning and involvement – in Portland, Seattle, and on a national level with the new General Superintendent committing strong support at both the educational level and the regional level.
6. America's Christian Credit Union also increased its partnership in support of the WHC in the form of personnel assignments. The CEO, Mendell Thompson, and senior staff reconfigured the responsibilities of the staff to allow Ms. Fawn Imboden to devote substantially more time and focus to support of the WHC through logistical planning and operations. In her support of Kevin Mannoia, she has embodied the commitment of the Credit Union to the WHC and its mission as well as allowed Mannoia to continue to expand the activities and structure of the growing movement. Mendell Thompson also

visibly expressed strong support and involvement with the WHC by assigning a staff member to support Fawn in her work – JoAnn Johnson has similarly helped the WHC with a willing ministry spirit. These people have allowed the WHC to expand and grow in ways that would be impossible without their involvement. The WHC decided at its Steering Committee to commit \$1000 per month to ACCU in an effort to offset expenses of the staff support. Many other intangible relationships with ACCU have developed with the WHC both to the benefit of the WHC and ACCU.

7. Since the formation of the Publications Team by the Board of Directors, they have met 3 times by phone with significant progress:
  - a. Naming the Press – “Aldersgate Press”
  - b. Agreeing to a framework that would involve a single operational partner;
  - c. A three tier editorial process
  - d. A target date to launch in approximately February of 2012
  - e. Mannoia, Callen and Barna spent considerable time in working on details for the operational partner and Mannoia drafted the rationale and the initial outline of an agreement with Emeth Press as a possible option to serve as the partner with Aldersgate Press.
8. Another notable expansion of the WHC has been the proliferation of international networks. In July of 2010, Mannoia was in Brazil on other business with APU. Upon extending an invitation to a key leader in Brazil – Rev. Ildo Mello, Bishop of the Free Methodist Church in Brazil – movement began to build. Upon arrival there, Ildo had made arrangements for Mannoia to meet with 17 leaders in Sao Paulo. Some of the leaders from Rio de Janeiro realized there were many there who also would like to meet on this agenda as well and requested that Mannoia visit them instead of them going to the SP meeting. Arrangements were made to do this and the first gathering in Rio involved over 300 pastors and all of the national leaders of 8 denominations including Methodist, Free Methodist, Nazarene, Orthodox Methodist, Wesleyan, Salvation Army, Holiness, Alliance. From that meeting and the subsequent meeting with leaders in Sao Paulo, new regional networks began in both cities under the oversight of Ildo who also attended the 2011 Steering Committee and reported on the explosive growth. In February of 2011, Mannoia also visited these same cities conducting seminars and encouraging growth. He also added Brasilia where a new network began to form, though smaller than the other two. In Sao Paulo the regional leaders meet approximately every other month to educate one another on the unique contribution of each denomination.
9. In April of 2011, Mannoia also visited Argentina and met with leaders of 4 denominations to help them create a new network in the Buenos Aires area. This group has been slower in growing but has met 4 times also for educational purposes. It is guided by the Territorial Commander of the Salvation Army – Susan McMillan.
10. In May of 2011, the WHC – which they subsequently named “Fraternidade de Santidade Wesleyana” – conducted a mass gathering of approximately 8000 people at a stadium in Sao Paulo celebrating Wesley’s Heart-warming. The Brazil networks have grown rapidly and have formed a new sense of unity among the denominations. Already talk of expanding to the north has become an agenda for the leaders.
11. On November 4, 2011 the Steering Committee met again for its 4<sup>th</sup> time at the Territorial Headquarters of the Salvation Army in Chicago. Commissioners Paul and Carol Seiler



- served as hosts. Significant progress is recorded in the minutes of the annual meeting. Including support of the Publications framework and support for the strategic expansion.
12. During November and December Mannaia focused energy on getting Aldersgate Press formed and functioning in order to fuel the movement through fresh holiness writings that encourages new authors and creates a structure that is friendly to authors – including royalty rates.
  13. January of 2012 – a busy month for the WHC:
    - a. January 5 – St. Louis Regional Leaders meet to form the Network and begin planning an HPD;
    - b. January 11 – So Cal Regional Network meets for planning the Feb 16 HPD;
    - c. January 13 – Denominational Heads meet for the second time (the first being in Dallas to create the WHC) at the Foursquare Headquarters in LA;
    - d. January 17 – the first ever meeting of Regional Network Coordinators by teleconference;
    - e. January 18 – Seattle Regional Network meets to plan its Feb 2 HPD;
    - f. January 19 – Aldersgate Publications Team meeting;
    - g. February 1 – Presidents Network meeting in Washington (4<sup>th</sup> annual).

In the words of various leaders who convened at the January 13 meeting in early 2012, “This may be a prophetic indication of God’s work in the world.” (Jack Hayford). “This meeting would not have been possible ten or fifteen years ago.” (JK Warrick). “This is an historic day. It is true that the divisions of a hundred years ago are being brought back together today.” (Vinson Synan). It is quite evident that God continues to work through the submitted efforts of every leader participating in the WHC. Not for the creation of an organization, but for the cause of Holiness in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.