



Notes on February 24, 2010
WHC Presidents' Meeting

Dear friend,

It was good to see many of you in Atlanta at the Wesleyan Holiness Presidents' meeting last week. I pray that you were encouraged by others and found a deeper sense of confidence in your leadership.

More than ever, securing the identity of our Universities and Colleges seems to be an important priority for addressing the diversity of concerns, pressures, and distractions from around us. Our time in Atlanta provided an opportunity to speak briefly to the issue of an identity rooted in a long-standing tradition that emphasizes a broadly inclusive educational process. Here are a few notable outcomes from that conversation:

1. Having the centering thoughts from Sandra Gray as well as David Kendall was helpful in getting our conversation started and focused. (see website for these comments)
2. The internal threat to identity is most often the primary obstacle to maintaining security. That is, internal strife on how faculty and staff treat one another, as well as how Christian church leaders see or represent what our schools do;
3. This spiritual heritage has deep implications to learning and leadership in the educational context;
4. The Wesleyan Holiness tradition is not different from the Gospel, but adds meaning and distinctive focus to the gospel consistent with the predisposition of our heritage;
5. A Wesleyan Holiness framework is not "better than" but "different than" other traditions which shape institutions of higher learning;
6. Perhaps the most important way to invite Holiness into the community is to model a grace filled atmosphere;
7. Significant questions for future discussion are:
 - a. What difference does Holiness make in faculty meetings?
 - b. How do we invite Christ-likeness into the environment of our campus?
 - c. How does this tradition influence our approach to conflict?
 - d. How is a Holiness posture in my leadership and the university distinct?
 - e. Do we teach and learn differently because of our tradition?
8. The idea of each president bringing a student so as to provide a student-centered perspective was of great interest for a future meeting.
9. 2 or 3 presidents may engage in helping to prepare and focus the next gathering of this group.

I am sure each of you took from the half day other more personal insights or conclusions. We'll begin to make arrangements for a similar meeting next year preceding the CCCU. Feel free to contact me if I can be of any help to you.

Kevin