

October 28, 2019

I am excited to report to you in the wake of a most fulfilling and productive Steering Committee meeting in London! Fifteen years ago, I convened the first gathering of the Wesleyan Holiness Study Project which resulted in three years of papers, dialogue, and significant relationships among 48 persons designated by you or your predecessors. We published *“The Holiness Manifesto,” “Fresh Eyes on Holiness,”* and Eerdmans published our first book, The Holiness Manifesto. Three years later I met with some of you or your predecessors in Dallas and we created the WHC. Since that time God has brought amazing expansion, influence, and freshness to the Wesleyan Holiness stream of the Church.

We gathered in London on this anniversary and made important decisions and celebrated by visiting key sites associated with the beginnings of the Salvation Army and Wesley’s early ministry. We are grateful to the General and Chief of the Staff at the International Headquarters for hosting us. And we are grateful to Dr. Deirdre Brower-Latz, of Nazarene Theological College for providing some resourcing to our time. I thank you for your participation in person or through your delegate. This year our focus was on *“Holiness on Earth as in Heaven.”* Attached is an outline by that title that I shared with the Steering Committee to set our tone.

I thought you’d like to know some significant decisions made by the Steering Committee, who are the corporate members of the WHC:

1. **Year of the Bible**: In response to the request of the American Bible Society, we endorsed the plan for 2020 to be the Year of the Bible in an effort to raise Bible engagement. I’d like to encourage you to participate in raising the priority and participation among your people with Bible reading and engagement. You will see the WHC logo attached to future program items as a way of encouraging Wesleyan Holiness people.
2. **Prayer Initiative**: In collaborative dialogue with New Room/Seedbed, we want to initiate a Prayer Initiative that will utilize various channels of calling people globally to intentional, travailing prayer. This WHC Prayer Initiative channels the New Room priority to our denominations, schools and people and signals intentional discussions toward New Room/Seedbed as an Affinity group under the spiritual umbrella of the WHC.
3. **New Board Members**: Two new board members were elected by the Steering Committee – Bishop John Richardson (COGIC), and Rev. Ryan Thorsen (Evangelical Church).
4. **Leadership Future**: For a few years I have urged the Board and Steering Committee to focus on the future leadership of the WHC so as to ensure that it grows beyond me and extends past my leadership. I am attempting to release some leadership and step back allowing new leaders to assume growing influence. The Board met various times without me to reflect on this matter. The Steering Committee accepted the Board recommendation to alter my title to Executive Director thereby taking a step to broaden leadership involvement and to ensure that the future of the WHC transcends a person. I am thrilled at the way both the Board and the Steering Committee has taken real ownership of the WHC future beyond its founding leadership.
5. **Other items**: The Steering Committee spent quality time addressing the impact of various other WHC initiatives including: Aldersgate Press, Regional Networks, Higher Education influence in engaging culture, and the significance of the holiness message in today’s pluralistic culture. Our colleges and universities remain actively working on institutional identity, engagement with LGBTQ pressures, and other issues that are informed by the WH identity. Please continue to pray for these ongoing priorities

As always, I am grateful to America’s Christian Credit Union (ACCU) and Azusa Pacific University (APU) for their support of the WHC. I look forward to being in touch with you soon after the new year and am deeply thankful for your affirmation and support of the WHC. Please let me know if we together or I may be of any help to you. It is an honor to see the unity the Spirit brings through our commitment to bringing Holiness on Earth as in Heaven.

Blessings,

Kevin

*Kevin Mannoia*

*Founder & Executive Director*

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