

For Immediate Release

**October 25, 2020 – London –** In a step designed to move the Wesleyan Holiness Connection into a new phase of growth, the Steering Committee unanimously approved a recommendation from the Board to change Dr. Kevin Mannoia’s title to Executive Director and elect new officers. The move comes at his urging to consider steps that will begin moving the WHC onto a broader leadership platform. After nearly a year of discussion, the Board took action thereby opening up the possibility of new leadership to grow into influence after 15 years of expansion and ministry.

“For a number of years, I have recognized that the WHC must empower new leaders so as not to be completely dependent upon my personal leadership.” Mannoia states. “I am thrilled at the way the Board and Steering Committee have taken deep ownership of this future. I can see the day when my role will be as more of an ambassador at large for the WHC while other new faces step into leadership.” As founder, he has shaped the formative 15 years by convening denominations and leaders around the uniting call to holiness in the 21st century. More recently, with the influence of George Barna and others in the WHC, he led in the creation of Aldersgate Press as the publishing arm of the WHC.

By re-titling his role, the Steering Committee is able to keep Mannoia as a member of the Board while electing new officers to gradually assume more influence. Two new members of the Board include: Bishop John Richardson (COGIC), and Rev. Ryan Thorson (Evangelical). In their first meeting after the annual Steering Committee, the Board elected new officers: Dr. Dan Schafer (President of WGM) as Chair, Dr. Carla Sunberg (Nazarene) as Vice Chair, Dr. Mari Gonlag (Wesleyan) as Treasurer, and Rev. Ryan Thorson as Secretary. Kimberly Dirmann (Foursquare) and David Han (Church of God) are also board members.

New Chair Dan Schafer says: (\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*).

The Wesleyan Holiness Connection is a relational network of denominations, leaders, and schools with a common Wesleyan Holiness heritage and a united commitment to a fresh articulation of holiness. The WHC consists of nine Regional Networks in the U.S., 12 in Brazil, 2 in the U.K. as well as Affinity Groups including 58 college/university presidents, Human Trafficking activists, and others. It also serves as the umbrella for the Wesleyan Holiness Women Clergy and America’s Christian Credit Union. Aldersgate Press is the publication arm providing books consistent with the WHC mission.