

## 2014-2015 Wesleyan Center Annual Report

### I. How the Wesleyan Center Fulfills the Purposes of PLNU

The Wesleyan Center currently serves a number of different functions within the PLNU community:

1. Lead discussions within the university about the Wesleyan heritage of the university, assisting faculty, staff (and, to a lesser extent students) to develop a richer understanding and deeper appreciation for this heritage, which is a pivotal aspect of the university mission. There were several ways that the Wesleyan Center fulfilled this function over the last year:
  - a. Supporting PLNU faculty scholarship (especially in contributing to our understanding of our Wesleyan tradition and the implications of this tradition for a variety of fields and disciplines: **resourcing the professional development of faculty to better serve the university mission**). To this end, the Center provided funding for the following faculty members and their scholarly projects:
    - **Dr. Carol Blessing (Scholar):** Journal Article: *A Wesleyan Trilogy: Three Projects to Increase Awareness of Early Methodist History, Its Importance in Relation to Women, and Its Connection to Literature*
    - **Dr. Rob Gailey (Scholar):** Book: *A Wesleyan Theology of Compassion*
    - **Dr. Arianne Jansma (Scholar):** Journal Article: *Analysis of the Interaction Between Viral Proteins and PDZ Domains*
    - **Dr. Maria Lam (Scholar):** Journal Article: *Better Moral Ecology in a Digitized Global Market Economy Through Empathetic Practices*
    - **Dr. Lindsey Lupo (Scholar):** Journal Article: *Rethinking Apathy: The Impacts of Deliberative Democracy Facilitation on America's Youth*
    - **Dr. Kara Lyons-Pardue (Fellow):** Journal Article: *A Later Ending Reclaims Mark's Faithful Women*
    - **Dr. Bettina Pederson (Fellow):** Journal Article: *The Redemptive Possibility Offered by the Convergence of Feminism and Christian Faith*
  - b. *PLNU as a Means of Grace: The Implications of Our Wesleyan Tradition*

*for our Life together as a University* white paper: This document was completed during the summer of 2014 and distributed in the Fall of 2014 among faculty and staff for educational purposes. I had meetings with several faculty and staff individuals/offices to help them unpack the implications of this document for their own work. This paper was also published in the online journal *Didache* in hopes that it might assist other colleges and universities (**external constituents**) in the Wesleyan tradition to think about how they fulfill their distinct missions in similar ways.

2. **Libros Pelicanos:** Translation of important Wesleyan Holiness theological texts in Spanish in support of Nazarene and other Wesleyan churches in the Spanish-speaking world (**external constituents**). Books translated and published this year include: Michael Lodahl, *Las Historia de Dios*, H. Orton Wiley, *Teological Cristiana* vol. 3.
3. **Visiting Scholars:** Each summer the Wesleyan Centers hosts several visiting scholars who are brought to campus to work on their own scholarship and enrich intellectual discourse on campus. This year we hosted five scholars (Rusty Brian, Lindsey Morgan, Ken Oakes, Peter Forsaith, and Xochitl Alvizo), each of whom gave a public presentation to the PLNU community.
4. **Fides et Historia:** This was our fourth and penultimate year of publishing the official journal of the Conference on Faith and History, including a fall and spring edition. We worked it out that, following the 2015-16 year, responsibility for publishing the journal will pass to Pepperdine University.
5. **MWRC:** The Wesleyan Center continues to be pivotal in supporting the work of the Manchester Wesleyan Centre. We help fund the work of the center, I serve as a member of the advisory board, and we continue to send PLNU faculty scholars (this year, Carol Blessing and Robert Gailey) to participate in their summer scholar program.
6. **Word Made Fresh:** In collaboration with Azusa Pacific University, the PLNU Wesleyan Center organizes and funds this program at the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion at which this is the only non-fundamentalist public Christian event each year. In 2014, AAR took place here in San Diego, and presentations were made by our own Darrell Falk, and John Walton, recent author of "The Hidden World of Genesis" and professor at Wheaton College. As always the event was well attended.

**II. Alignment of the Center/Institute with the University:** It almost goes without saying that the Wesleyan Center aligns with the mission and core values of the university. Indeed, I consider the Center absolutely vital to fulfilling the mission and core values of the university insofar as the university is committed being an intentional Christian community that lives out its Nazarene heritage and Wesleyan

theological perspective and strives for excellence in teaching and learning. When I was hired, I was led to understand that assisting the university in understanding and fulfilling its Wesleyan was the cornerstone of the Center, and I have always taken this role seriously.

**III. Advisory Board:** Members of the board include Michael Lodahl, Karl Martin, Bettina Pedersen, Karen Sangren, Rebecca Flietstra and Ken Martin. The board typically meets once per year to select Wesleyan Center scholars and fellows and discuss any additional information or decisions related to the functioning of the center. Board members, of course, always serve to provide input and advice to the director on an as-needed basis.

#### **IV. Capacity and Resources:**

##### **A. Allocation of Resources**

The annual operating budget of the Wesleyan Center is \$48,919.

As an administrative faculty member, the Director is on a full-time, year-round contract at a salary a little over \$100K/year, although half of his time was dedicated to teaching and running the honors program and first year experience, so is essentially a faculty member with half-time release for Center duties.

The center also employs an assistant whose job description includes support for the other academic centers. The salary for the assistant was \$40K this past year, and probably about 1/5 of her time was dedicated to specifically Wesleyan Center activities and events, the rest being split between other academic centers, the Honors Scholars Program, the First Year Experience, and the production of *Fides et Historia*.

As for benefits, I'm not entirely sure of numbers, though I do know that both the director and assistant are full-time employees and therefore receive regular full-time benefits packages.

##### **B. Use of Monies**

A basic (and rough!) rundown of expenditures of Wesleyan Center's is as follows:

- Funding annually dedicated for Wesleyan Center Grants: \$28,000
- Travel by the director to various conferences and membership in professional societies related to the mission of the center: \$2306
- Sponsoring conferences, luncheons, and other events related to the mission of the center: \$805
- Funding the translation of Wesleyan theological texts into Spanish (Libros Pelicanos) in collaboration with Nazarene publications international and maintaining supply of PLP texts: \$2400
- Word Made Fresh: \$1306

- General office supplies, mailing, printing, etc.: \$2317
- Expenses related visiting scholars and guest speakers (apartments supplies, honorariums, travel, etc.): \$3055
- Annual dues to support MWRC: \$2700
- Supporting other campus entities whose work relates to the mission and goals of the Wesleyan Center (e.g., PLP books purchased all students attending Women's Studies spring senior retreat), providing scholarships for students to attend 'Come to the Water' women in ministry conference, scholarships for students to attend annual Spring Break Civil rights pilgrimage, co-sponsoring events with other centers (CJR Brewed, Wiley Lectures Awakenings), etc.: \$1900
- Misc. other expenses (student wages, data plan, printing, postage, use of Zipcar, etc.): \$1156
- Money transferred to discretionary account for use of 2015/16 conference (which has been a regular practice dating back before I even came): 2974.

### **C. External Funding Efforts**

None during 2014-15. However, in 2013-14 I was part of a team that applied to a BioLogos for an RFP related to Evolution and Christian faith. We were awarded approximately \$130K, the lion's share of which went to developing the 'Nazarenes Exploring Evolution' website and a book of the same title. In addition, \$15K was designated to holding a conference here at PLNU which I co-organized with Tom Oord and was titled 'Nazarenes Exploring Origins'. The grant allowed us to cover expenses beyond the expenses of a regular conference, including paying for several guest speakers to attend, and helping to subsidize the travel and attendance of several Nazarene pastors from the SW region. I would consider this event a substantial success in many ways. It was well attended, and a spirit of true Christian fellowship was experienced by nearly all those present. Altogether, I believe that the event has been a pivot point in helping the Church of the Nazarene to overcome some of the divisiveness that has arisen in recent years around this topic.

### **IV. Effectiveness: Services and Community Engagement**

What are the connections of the Institute/Center's work to the larger University and to the Institute/Center's Learning Outcomes? How effective are these connected programs and activities?

- A. Name and describe the programs and activities of the Center/Institute in the past academic year: Many of these have already been named above since all Wesleyan Center programming and activities are intended also to support and fulfill the mission and purpose of the university:
  1. Lead discussions within the university about the Wesleyan heritage of the university, assisting faculty, staff (and, to a lesser extent students) to develop

a richer understanding and deeper appreciation for this heritage, which is a pivotal aspect of the university mission. There were several ways that the Wesleyan Center fulfilled this function over the last year:

a. Supporting PLNU faculty scholarship (especially in contributing to our understanding of our Wesleyan tradition and the implications of this tradition for a variety of fields and disciplines. See above for names of scholars.

b. *PLNU as a Means of Grace: The Implications of Our Wesleyan Tradition for our Life together as a University* white paper: This document was completed during the summer of 2014 and distributed in the Fall of 2014 among faculty and staff for educational and implementation purposes. I had meetings with several faculty and staff individuals/offices to help them unpack the implications of this document for their own work.

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## **B. Assessment plan and activities:**

The only assessment we have done was for the Nazarenes Exploring Origins conference, from which we received almost universally positive response. Otherwise, I cannot think of any other official and deliberate assessment that we have made.

## **C. Links to Academic Programs**

Wesleyan Center collaboration with Academic Programs is activity-focused. We have been involved in collaboration and support for other academic centers (I cohosted a visiting scholar with CID, co-sponsored a Brewed Awakenings with CJR, provided free books for the students participating in the Women's Studies annual retreat, and provided support with the Wiley Lecture series). I also participated in an occasional meeting with a department (I met with at least one to help make sense of the Wesleyan documents and their implications).

Additionally, perhaps the most significant support for academic programs comes through Wesleyan Center grants that help faculty members to develop their scholarship (and, therefore, hopefully enhance their teaching), purchase equipment for summer research with students, etc.

Otherwise, probably the most significant connection between the Wesleyan Center and an academic program is with the School for Theology and Christian Ministry. We allow them to use our seminar room regularly for upper-division courses, and to use the library/conference room for departmental and personal meetings, for student make-up exams, and as a general lounge and/or reading space.