



THE **wesleyan** CHURCH  
**GENERAL BOARD REPORT**

**May 2021**

**Communication & Administration**

Reporting: Janelle Vernon, Executive Director

Preparing for launch of the TWCHub, the new denominational database, and the April 16 opening of the FY21 reporting season was the focus of the Communication & Administration (C&A) team during the past five months.

The past two reporting seasons were extremely disappointing and challenging for our local pastors and failed to meet the C&A team's expectations for user experience. The C&A team, IT (under new leadership), IT subcontractors, The Wesleyan Church (TWC) representatives and district administrators spent countless hours identifying, prioritizing and testing database and reporting needs. An "unseen" benefit of the effort has been the strengthened relationships between C&A, IT and the district administrators.

Initial responses from districts opening their reporting season on April 16 were positive and the database appears to have achieved the desired project goals. Users were able to submit the reports with ease and district administrators reported minimal assistance was required. Both of these reporting components were high priorities required for the launch to be deemed successful. This accomplishment was truly a team effort; one we hope restores credibility and confidence lost among local pastors during the past two reporting seasons. Our goal has always been to ease, not impede, reporting season experiences allowing pastors to focus on their missional activities.

Digital media communications added to its ongoing virtual events calendar by producing:

- Annual Service Report (ASR) and Local Church Statistical Report (LCSR) training documents and videos
- April 17 Marketplace Multipliers launch webinar
- General Superintendent "Conversations" video series
- May 23 TOGETHER: Filled and Sent virtual prayer event
- Live Sent post-event communication strategy

An updating of wesleyan.org is progressing. It is scheduled for completion this summer. The updates will allow users to have easier search capabilities and expanded language translation assistance.

A new resource, <http://www.wesleypedia.com>, is also nearing completion. The brainchild of Pastor John Howell, wesleypedia is designed to have a fully developed, indexed and searchable Wiki that allows pastors to search and pull up resources from "The Wesleyan Church Discipline" and corresponding writings from other Wesleyan resources. Pastor Howell, known to his colleagues as an outside-of-the-box thinker and practitioner, offered his idea and technical skills to partner with the C&A team to help further expand pastoral resources.

In conjunction with the Risk Management Committee of the General Board, a new microsite focusing on Religious Freedom and The Wesleyan Church was added to the TWC Resource Center: <https://resources.wesleyan.org/religious-freedom>. The site exists to inform Wesleyans about religious freedom issues, emerging policies, legislation and court cases that impact Christian churches, ministries and educational institutions. The executive director began participating earlier this spring in a weekly Christian public relations group call that monitors and navigates U.S. legislative activity related to religious freedom. Periodic updates are provided to the General Superintendent, the Executive Cabinet and the Risk Management committee chair.

The emergence of sexual misconduct lawsuits and reported situations prompted a legal update of The Wesleyan Church Child Protection Policy. The final policy will confirm TWC is current with North American legal definitions and procedures. This work is being undertaken to confirm, as best we able, that our local church leaders are equipped to provide safe environments for the children and youth we are privileged to know and serve.

An in-depth review of communications begins this spring and will culminate with a revised and expanded communications strategy for general C&A communications and for the General Superintendent. With the continued expansion of outsourced design, videography and editorial support, C&A is better able to sustain more agile and responsive approaches to changing communication needs.

The 14<sup>th</sup> General Conference of The Wesleyan Church has been rescheduled for May 22-25, 2022. Plans provide for a full, onsite conference experience, as well as an expanded virtual experience. The conference theme remains [“Unleashed: So All Can Be Made New.”](#)

FY22 priorities include successfully hosting General Conference, publishing the subsequent *Discipline*, finalizing the sexual misconduct with a minor policy, and maintaining strategic communications that elevate and reinforce an unleashed Kingdom Force equipped to address the Gospel Gap. Focus will remain on assisting IT with data storage and reporting systems development through the summer.

It remains our sincere honor to serve God’s Kingdom through serving The Wesleyan Church.

