



WESLEYAN THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
 A FELLOWSHIP OF WESLEYAN ARMINIAN SCHOLARS • UNIVERSITY PARK, IOWA

June 11, 1966

Reverend Merne A. Harris
 Vennard College
 University Park, Iowa 52595

Dear Brother Harris:

Your letter of April 27, with a memorandum dated June 1 from your secretary, reached me the fore part of this week (Monday) when I returned from a week-end trip to Canada. Martha Bielefeld's memorandum cleared up the mystery concerning your reply to my letter of April 23, and I understand fully. She explained that commencement responsibilities and the typing of your dissertation "made it impossible to get this list prepared any sooner." I deeply appreciate the complete list of the membership for W.T.S. My sincere thanks to you and to your secretary for it.

By the way, have you received your doctor's degree? If so, CONGRATULATIONS!! I hope the implications of your secretary's memorandum means that your work has been completed.

It has now been cleared that the Second Annual Conference of W.T.S. will be held on our campus next November. You suggested in your letter of April 27 that I should write to Dr. Ralph Thompson about his opinion on this matter. In the file of correspondence that Dr. Taylor sent to me in April there was a letter (undated) from Dr. Thompson to Dr. Taylor in which he stated: "I am in favor of accepting the invitation to go to Asbury for the next meeting of the WTS if satisfactory lodging and transportation can be arranged." In the light of this statement, I did not think it was necessary to write him. In your letter of May 30, 1966, which arrived prior to your letter of April 27, I observe that you made the preliminary announcement that our next conference would be on ATS campus. It was the letter advising me about the approval of my application for membership, and I assume that this has also been sent to other applicants as well.

I appreciate your comments and suggestions concerning the proposed theme for the conference ("Some Contemporary Theological Issues in the Light of the Enduring Word"). One of the phases we will consider is the "new morality." Dr. J. Kenneth Grider has kindly consented to present a paper entitled "The New Morality: A Wesleyan Estimate" (his suggestion for the title). Dr. Charles W. Carter has been asked to read a paper ~~relating~~ on "The Reality of the Divine Moral Order." To round out the presentation, we would like very much for you to present a paper on the new morality from the standpoint of the Christian sociologist. I do hope it will be possible for you to do this. Dr. Grider would give the theological perspective, you would present a view from the standpoint of sociology or the social scientist, and Dr. Carter (if he can accept) primarily from the Biblical point of view. Dr. Gilbert James who joined our staff this last academic year and who is teaching in the area of "The Church in Society" could serve as moderator of the panel. I shall await your reply.

I would also appreciate your suggestions concerning this particular panel. How long, or what time limit for each paper? How much time for discussion following the papers? Any suggestions will be helpful.

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You will be interested to know that another phase of the program will be a consideration of the current emphasis on universalism. Professor J. L. Mercer of Azusa Pacific College has consented to read a paper on "The Eschatology of John Wesley." Professor Mercer's master's thesis was in this area. Dr. Arthur M. Climenhaga has been asked to read a paper on the contemporary emphasis on universalism. I have not received his acceptance yet. There will be only two papers on this subject. Dr. Wilbur Dayton of our staff has consented to read a paper on St. Paul's (or the New Testament, perhaps) conception of sarx. To my knowledge this topic has never been dealt with in any of our holiness seminars.

One more item. I observe there was a public service on Friday night of the First Annual Conference. Do you have a suggestion or suggestions for a speaker for that occasion. I note that President Logan was the speaker last year.

I shall await word from you about the paper on "The New Morality." I hope it will be possible for you to take that assignment.

Cordially, in our Saviour's Service,

William M. Annett

Chairman, Program Committee