

WESLEYAN THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

JUNE 3 - 4, 1983

All members of the Executive Committee were present as the special called meeting was ordered begun by the President, David L. Thompson. Donald Dayton led in prayer, as the meeting began at 2:10 p.m., Friday, June 3, 1983, at the Red Roof Inn, Room 153, I-465 at Clairmont, Indianapolis, Indiana.

The Executive Committee Minutes of April 20, 1983, were approved as composed and distributed. Discussion was given to the items of the Agenda (see agenda), with the subject of networking and affiliation at some level with groups where it might be effected, taking priority. Some of the interests included the Good News people, a non-officially related WTS in Canada, and a possible group in England and The Republic of South Africa. A letter from The Reverend Dr. Wm. Parkes of England was read by the Secretary (see copy of letter), wherein direction was requested for the organization of a "chapter" in England. The Secretary was instructed to respond to the letter and to inquire specifically as to the articles 1 and 7 mentioned in the letter of Dr. Parkes (see letter of Secretary to Dr. Parkes).

Discussion continued until 5 P.M. when dinner was taken at the Holiday Inn Restaurant, adjacent to the Red Roof Inn. The Program Chairman, David L. Cubie, together with Donald W. Dayton, Promotional Secretary, shared the composite of papers, moderators and respondents for consideration and further suggestions for vacancies on the program which need yet to be filled. The meeting then continued following dinner at 7:30 in room 153 of the Red Roof Inn.

Alex R. G. Deasley moved that all full members and only full members be required to subscribe to the doctrinal statement and that the Bylaws and application form be revised to conform. The motion was supported and approved by unanimous vote. It was agreed that this recommendation should be presented with the rationale at the annual meeting in November, inviting discussion, and that if so ordered that the necessary revisions be lined out and circulated for vote one year hence, in accord with the Bylaws which refer to constitutional changes.

Serious consideration was given to the substitution of the CHA statement of faith for the present doctrinal statement of the WTS. The positive and negative factors were discussed with candor and objectivity, with the attempt to anticipate the desire of the membership should such a recommendation be made. No decision was forthcoming.

Discussion was then given to the program of the 1984 annual meeting to be held at Emory University, celebrating the bicentennial of American Methodism and the two decades of the WTS. Thematic ideas were explored with "Wesley as a Focus for Renewal" being suggested.

David L. Thompson closed the meeting at 10 p.m. with prayer.

SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 1983

The Executive Committee breakfasted at 7 A.M. at Denny's Restaurant. The meeting resumed at 8:30 A.M. in room 153 of the Red Roof Inn. Alex R. G. Deasley read 2 Corinthians 4 and led in prayer.

Further discussion was given to the doctrinal statement of the CHA, as a substitute for the WTS statement of faith. David L. Cubie moved that we present as a recommendation the substitution of the CHA statement of faith for the doctrinal statement of the WTS, with prior circulation to the full membership in accord with the Bylaws. The motion was supported and passed unanimously.

It was further directed that in circulating the CHA statement with recommendation to the full membership that the following heading be set:

"In order to effect this statement, if approved by the voting members at the Annual Meeting, the opening sentence shall read, 'The Wesleyan Theological Society is a body of individuals which accepts,' then to continue with 'the inspiration and . . . '".

It was also observed that "Society" be substituted for "Association," in the second paragraph of the CHA statement (see copy of the CHA Statement of Faith).

Further discussion was given to the Atlanta meeting in 1984, but no formal action was taken.

The last pages of Paul Bassett's Presidential Address arrived by overnight mail at 9:25 a.m. The Editor, Alex R. G. Deasley, expressed great delight that the Journal could be published prior to his sabbatical leave.

The Secretary moved that honorary membership be limited to those who were charter members or to those who have 20 continuous years of membership in the Society prior to retirement from their active service/ministry. The motion was approved with support and vote.

Discussion was given to the desirability of electing a second vice president (2nd president elect), for the purpose of orienting the person who would become the program chairman upon succession as first vice president (first president elect), assuming that upon election the 2nd president elect would become a member of the Executive Committee. Alex R. G. Deasley moved that this matter be postponed until the November meeting of the Executive Committee. The motion was approved.

Further discussion was given to networking and establishing of lines of communication with literary groups which have parallels with the WTS, and to a special publication which might reflect something of the flavor and content of 20/200 celebration in 1984 in Atlanta. Many ideas were suggested but no formal action was taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 11 a.m. with discussion continuing at Denny's Restaurant, with luncheon concluding the sessions at

12:30 p.m. The final discussion centered on possible themes which could evolve from individuals who were likely persons who could give papers for this historic occasion, including Melvin E. Deiter, Leon O. Hynson, Albert Outler, Donald W. Dayton, David L. Cubie (Presidential Address), Dennis F. Kinlaw, Laurence W. Wood, Timothy L. Smith, et. al. No formal action was taken.

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne E. Caldwell

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Secretary-Treasurer