

wesleyan theological society
p.o. BOX 144
wilmore, ky 40390

January 31, 1994

Dr. Barry L. Callen, Editor
Wesleyan Theological Journal
1703 Falls Court
Anderson, Indiana 46012

Dear Barry:

This is a late response to your letter concerning the actions taken by the WTS Editorial Committee in their meeting of January 7, 1994. The numbers correspond to your items calling for action.

1. During my nearly three years on the Executive Committee we have repeatedly urged the Editor of the *Journal* to include book reviews and, if necessary, appoint a "Book Review Editor." Your action to appoint David Bundy to fill this roll would seem to be consistent with these longstanding suggestions. To give this action formal approval members of the Executive Committee may cast their mail vote by returning the enclosed ballot to Bill Kostlevy.
2. The WTS in our November 1, 1991 meeting approved a change in the Constitution, Article III, in effect dropping the WTS "Doctrinal Statement." The revised article begins as follows:

While WTS members are not required to sign a statement of faith, the society works within the context of the CHA and its statement of faith / mission statement:

which follows. The practice since 1991 of including the old "Doctrinal Statement" has been inconsistent with this action and so inappropriate. It also seems unnecessary, in view of the approved change, to include the CHA statement. Furthermore, since members receive a copy of the "Bylaws" upon joining the Society, its publication in each *Journal* would also seem to be a waste of space. Thus, I concur with the recommendation of the Editorial Committee to drop both of these from future issues of the *Journal*. Members of the Executive Committee may cast their mail vote on this item by returning the attached ballot to Bill Kostlevy.

The membership application form included in the *Journal* should also be revised to reflect the existing Bylaws: The address should be that of Bill Kostlevy; there need be no member's recommendation; and there need be no signing of acceptance of a "Doctrinal Statement."

3. The rotation pattern for members of the Editorial Committee has not been intentionally changed. Elections are for three years, staggered to maintain continuity -- one of the three-member committee is elected annually. Minutes of the November 1, 1991 annual meeting indicate that Bill Faupel was elected to serve until November 1994. Barry Callen was elected in 1993 to serve until November 1996. I cannot find minutes for the November 1992 meeting to confirm my recollection that Wes Tracy was elected then for his second three year term to serve until November 1995.

I believe that the minutes of Executive Committee meeting of November 4, 1993, which refer to David Bundy's election to a one-year term, are in error. Although David was elected in 1993, his should be a two-year term, since he was elected to serve the unexpired term of Wes Tracy, who resigned. Bill Kostlevy will need to refer to his copy of the 1992 minutes of the annual business to verify my recollection. No Executive Committee action is called for at this time. As a matter of informal policy, however, we should request that the Nominating Committee provide the Executive Committee with minutes of their meetings in the future.

4. The Editorial committee proposes to provide the next index for the *Journal* in 2000.

It further proposes to contact the American Theological Library Association (*Religious Index One: Periodicals*) to see if we may make economical use of its existing database to expedite the process. May I suggest that *Religious and Theological Abstracts*, which has included the *WTJ* in its abstracts for the past five years or so, should also be contacted.

Members of the Executive Committee may cast their mail vote on these items by returning the attached ballot to Bill Kostlevy.

The Editorial Committee's suggestions for "Journal Format Features," "Editorial Policies," and "Criteria for Selecting Journal Contents" seem appropriate and do not call for Executive Committee action. I am, however, sending members of the Executive Committee a copy of your committee's report for their information.

I would suggest a couple of additional points for consideration in your "Editorial Policies." First, rather than create our own complete *Writer's Guide*, I suggest

that we simply adopt an existing form, e.g., that of the SBL / AAR, with a supplement to reflect the special problem presented by the various editions of Wesley's *Works*. Second, in addition to previously published material, we need to address the problem of simultaneously or subsequently published materials. Is the *WTJ* copyrighted? Should it be? I consider decisions on these topics to be the prerogative of the Editorial Committee.

To illustrate the relevance of the second point: In going through my WTS files I came upon a letter from Steve O'Malley (February 9, 1993). In this letter he indicated that the paper he was proposing to present to the WTS annual meeting was similar to one he intended to publish in the *Asbury Theological Journal*. Since the Editorial Committee has recommended inclusion in volume 29 of the *WTJ*, I think it would seem advisable to check with Steve on this.

5. The Editorial Committee requests that Anderson University be advanced \$150 to cover phone and postage costs of the Editor, who will give an annual account of these expenses.

The Editorial Committee also proposes to provide five complimentary copies of the *Journal* to each author of a published article and two copies to each book reviewer.

Members of the Executive Committee may cast their mail vote on these items by returning the attached ballot to Bill Kostlevy.

6. The "Publishing Schedule" the Editorial Committee proposes is delayed substantially beyond that agreed upon by the Executive Committee in November, not to mention beyond that promised by Paul Bassett in our conference call of April 20, 1993. I appreciate Barry's willingness to work with the former Editor in a face-saving effort. But Paul has failed to live up even to this delayed schedule -- as of January 27, 1994 the articles for volume 27 (1 and 2), which were to arrive at Old Paths early in January, had not yet arrived. Is anyone surprised? We're getting more of the same from Paul.

I recommend that we officially request Paul to forward to Barry immediately all papers for volumes 27 and 28. Since he has proven repeatedly that public assurances to mend his ways are not to be believed, we have no reason to expect that new assurances to meet a still later deadline mean anything. The Society cannot afford to allow one person to threaten its survival and well-being. The Executive Committee made promises to the Society when we urged them to approve increased membership dues in November that are now at stake. Members of the Executive Committee may cast their mail vote on this item by returning the attached ballot to Bill Kostlevy.

7. The Executive Committee should approve adoption of the "Annual Calendar, Writer Guidance, Notification" proposed in point VII of the Editorial Committee's report (copy enclosed) as this will directly affect the work of the First Vice President as well as the Editorial Committee. If approved, a copy of this should be sent to each person who proposes to present a paper at the annual meeting. Members of the Executive Committee may cast their mail vote on this item by returning the attached ballot to Bill Kostlevy.

8. I am reluctant to involve the Executive Committee in the decision-making process of the Editorial Committee with respect to the articles to be included in the *Journal*. That should be their job. For us to interfere or second-guess their decisions would seem to set a bad precedent. As the Program Committee Chair, I told every presenter that inclusion on the program was no assurance that his presentation would be published in the *WTJ*. The Editorial Committee has dealt with the specifics of this -- only eight of the twenty-two papers can be accommodated in a journal the size of ours -- that's reality. They have reached a consensus as to the eight that they prefer -- that's decisiveness. If I were making the same decision, in a few instances I might disagree. But that any minor disagreement probably reflects special friendships with presenters and my personal tastes. Regardless, I would feel more comfortable if the Editor can tell the presenters that the decision is entirely that of the Editorial Committee and can tell them soon. In this way, those whose articles the *WTJ* will not publish can pursue other publishing options. Members of the Executive Committee may cast their mail vote on this item by returning the attached ballot to Bill Kostlevy.

With this letter you will also find my proposed revision of the "WTS Annual Meeting Expectations of Host Invitations" (see also the enclosed copy of the existing policy). Members of the Executive Committee may cast their vote to approve this revision on the mail ballot.

Sincerely,

George Lyons
President, Wesleyan Theological Society

enclosures: ballot (to Executive Committee members)
Report of Editorial Committee actions
Existing "Expectations of Host Invitations"
Proposed Revision of "Expectations of Host Invitations"