

MEMO

To: Donald Thorsen
Kenneth Collins
William Kostlevy ✓
Fr: Barry Callen, WTJ Editor
Re: WTS Policy of Placing WTJ On-Line
Date: January 5, 1996

Bill - Please also note
the enclosed concern
about failure to receive
the WTJ. Please handle
as appropriate.
Thanks!
Barry

Good Friends, H. Bill

On December 28, 1995, the Editorial Committee of WTS met to consider the contents of Issues 31:1 and 31:2 of the *Wesleyan Theological Journal* (Spring and Fall, 1996). In the course of this meeting I recalled for the members the following action taken at the WTS annual meeting, Nov. 4, 1994:

On behalf of the Wesley Center at Northwest Nazarene College, George Lyons requested the permission of the WTS membership for the Center to digitize the *WTJ*. A proposal was made that permission be withheld for the most recent two years and that permission be granted on the condition that the NNC project must be non-profit. The proposal was seconded and passed.

My purpose in recalling this action was merely to remind the Editorial Committee of this policy of WTS and inform concerning my intent to forward to Dr. Lyons computer disks now in my possession which carry all *WTJ* issues published during my editorship (copy fully edited and just as published). The Wesley Center is scanning older back issues and currently has on-line all back issues of *WTJ* older than two years (as the policy directs). To date, however, the Wesley Center has not had adequate staff or volunteers to proof the scanned *WTJ* materials. Thus, it now is in the public domain only as scanned.

The response of Drs. Bundy and Faupel to my reminder was: (1) surprise since they did not recall this Society action; (2) considerable concern about the potential financial and legal implications of implementing this action; and (3) thus the offering of two strong recommendations. These follow for your information and probably for a future agenda of the WTS Executive Committee:

1. They urge that no *WTJ* material at any time be placed in public domain via the Internet in any form other than the exact form in which it originally was published. This is seen as a copyright issue that could open the Wesleyan Theological Society and the Wesley Center of NNC to serious legal consequences. A particular and recent court decision was noted.

2. They urge either that (1) no issues of *WTJ* more recent than the last five years (instead of two) be made available electronically in the public domain or that (2) an access fee be charged for Internet access, a fee equal to the regular subscription fee of *WTJ*. Otherwise, in their judgment, there will be serious consequences for the sale of both current and back issues. They cited examples of other journals now operating on such a fee basis and placing even the most current issues online.

Thank you for considering these concerns and recommendations of these members of the Editorial Committee. I already have shared by phone the substance of the above with George Lyons. His responses include the following:

1. All the back issues of *WTJ* except for the last two years now are in line. They are scanned but not edited material. Access is not very user friendly yet, therefore probably little general use will be made initially. A main intent is to allow editorial volunteers access to download material for their editing.
2. Legal concerns about the current situation are not clear. George has in hand from reputable sources previously published materials that now are available in less-than-ideal form. Rather than further restrict access, he would prefer to see WTS (1) work toward getting the presently scanned back issues of *WTJ* well edited, (2) placing them all on one CD ROM (would fit with room to spare), and (3) featuring the result as a major new item for sale. This likely would be more profitable and valuable than selling back issues of hard copy.
3. The idea of collecting a user fee for access to the *WTJ* online (available to the present) is being done by some, but WTS is not in a position to do it without outside expertise and service, which might cost more than any fees that would be collected from use. He would prefer to see the current two-year exclusion policy retained and a vigorous proceeding with the editing of the scanned material and the production of the CD ROM (as described in #2 above).

Please ponder these issues and suggestions and place the matter on the next agenda of the Executive Committee. Have a wonderful new year!

Copies: George Lyons
David Bundy
William Faupel

Sincerely,



Barry L. Callen, *WTJ* Editor