

Asbury Theological Seminary  
204 N. Lexington Ave.  
Wilmore, Kentucky 40390  
February 7, 1997

Dr. Bill Kostlevy  
Asbury Theological Seminary  
204 N. Lexington Ave.  
Wilmore, KY 40390

Dear Bill:

I was surprised to receive a letter from Wes Tracy indicating that the Executive committee, in what appears to be an unprecedented action, is withdrawing its invitation to Methodist College to host the annual WTS meeting in the year 2000. I find this action to be morally troubling for a number of reasons:

First of all, Methodist College and its President Elton Hendricks are excited about the opportunity to host such a conference. A staff has already been appointed, a coordinator chosen, and many other preparations have already been made. Indeed, I have been in contact with Lyn Clark about the change in date from the fall to the spring and she related that the College has adjusted their schedule accordingly. President Elton Hendricks, by the way, looks favorably on WTS and has even published a piece on natural theology in the journal.

Second, Methodist College is more than able to host the society. It knows of the expenses involved as I have gone over them in detail with the President. There is absolutely no problem on this point. In terms of facilities, Methodist College should have another (brand new) auditorium in place by the time of our meeting and so our facilities should be excellent--and comfortable. Also, Duke is right down the road and so we should draw some students from there as well.

Third, having extended an invitation to Methodist College and with the College accepting that invitation, the society is therefore morally obligated, in good faith, to honor its commitments. I have already spoken to some people in the society and *all* are opposed to the actions of the executive committee. They, like I, think it speaks badly for the society.

Fourth, as a member of the Executive committee, I should have been informed, in a timely manner, of these important decisions--and my counsel should have been sought especially since I worked on this whole matter extensively.

So then, to resolve this issue in a peaceful and businesslike manner, I propose that the Executive committee take this matter up again when it meets in April at CHA--a meeting at which I will be in attendance.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Best wishes on your work.

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kenneth J. Collins". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Kenneth J. Collins