

August, 1991

TO: Members of the Wesleyan Theological Society

FROM: Executive Committee

RE: Proposed Bylaws Changes

At our 1990 annual business meeting the Society voted that a task force composed of the current Executive Committee and the five previous Presidents consider several issues that have arisen in recent years about membership categories and requirements specified in the Bylaws. Most members of this task force were able to meet at the 1991 meeting of the Christian Holiness Association. From this meeting a proposal emerged which was circulated among all members of the task force for further comments and approval. We are now distributing the proposal to you, sufficiently in advance of our 1991 annual meeting so that we can consider its adoption at that time.

The changes that we are proposing are extensive enough that we have attached a parallel comparison of the current Bylaws and our proposal. A consideration of this comparison should reveal that the various changes focus around three basic goals.

First, we wanted to make clearer our status within, and purpose of providing theological leadership to, the Christian Holiness Association. This goal lies behind our recommendation that the previous independent Doctrinal Statement be replaced by an affirmation that the WTS works within the context of the CHA Statement of Faith.

Second, we came to the conclusion that the previous distinction between full and associate members was no longer necessary or desirable for the Society. Our scholarly nature is established.

Third, we wanted to provide a formal means of participation in the scholarly debate of the WTS for interested persons who might not wish to become full members. The perceived benefits of such affiliated participation are: a) it would bring us the contributions of their expertise; and b) it would contribute to our goal of articulating the distinctives of the Holiness traditions within the broader Wesleyan (and Christian) movement.

We hope that you will give some consideration to this proposal prior to our November 1991 meeting. If there are any questions we can help you with, let us know.