

WESLEYAN THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
1990 Report of the President to the CHA

The Wesleyan Theological Society celebrated twenty-five years of its work last November 2-4 as a part of the centennial of Asbury College in Wilmore, Kentucky. The meeting was held in conjunction with the Wesleyan/Holiness Study Project of Asbury Theological Seminary. In addition to an excellent set of academic papers "Exploring the Social Vision of the Wesleyan Movement" we celebrated the centennial of the founding of THE PENTECOSTAL HERALD with a moving dramatic presentation on the life and ministry of Henry Clay Morrison and the centennial of the publication of IN DARKEST ENGLAND by William Booth of the Salvation Army. Many felt that the meeting was in many ways a high point in the life of our society.

Vice-president Randy Maddox of Sioux Falls College has almost completed the program for next year at the Nazarene Theological Seminary. The program will explore "Wesley and Eastern Orthodoxy" with a number of significant papers including a keynote address by Canon A. M. Allchin of Oxford University. Future meetings will be held at Western Evangelical Seminary (1991), Ashland Theological Seminary (1992), Southern Nazarene University (1993), and United Theological Seminary (1994).

The current officers are myself, a Wesleyan, as President; Randy Maddox, a United Methodist, as First Vice-President; W. Stephen Gunter, a Nazarene, as Second Vice-President; Howard Snyder, a Free Methodist, as our new Secretary-Treasurer (taking over this difficult task from William Arnett who recently resigned for health reasons); Melvin Dieter, a Wesleyan, as Promotional Secretary; and Paul Bassett, a Nazarene, as editor of the WESLEYAN THEOLOGICAL JOURNAL.

Total membership of the Society now numbers over 2600 and a large number of membership applications are in process. After some difficulties and delays, it now appears that the WESLEYAN THEOLOGICAL JOURNAL is again on publication schedule, and we hope by the end of the year to be up to date. The budget for our current year (1989-1990) is \$23,420.00.

One of the significant contributions of the society in recent years has been to bring the holiness witness into a larger ecumenical context and discussion. The society has been represented now for a couple of quadrennia in the Faith and Order Commission of the National Council of Churches. During my term in office I have been able to represent the Society as a consultant to the Commission on World Mission



and Evangelism of the WCC in Geneva and at last summer's World Mission Conference in San Antonio--and more generally at WCC Central Committee Meetings in Moscow last year and next year hopefully at the World Assembly in Canberra on the theme "Come, Holy Spirit." While this experience has been mixed, I do find greater openness to our evangelical witness, and I would encourage the CHA to seek greater exposure in some of these circles. I would, for example, like to see the CHA represented at the annual meetings of the secretaries of the World Christian Communions.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald W. Dayton, President  
Wesleyan Theological Society