

WESLEYAN THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

W. Stephen Gunter, President

The Society has experienced continued financial and numerical growth during the past year, a trend that began with our utilization of the CHA office for a central point of information and record keeping. A special word of thanks is due Howard Snyder and Patricia Dorsey Wall for making this happen, especially for their work in computerizing our records.

The Twenty-Seventh Annual Meeting was held November 1-2 in Portland, Oregon at Western Evangelical Seminary around the theme "Gospel for the Poor: The Marginalization of the Disenfranchised in the Wesleyan Tradition." This theme was explored by taking a look at John Wesley's "evangelical economics" as described by Theodore Jennings in his Good News to the Poor (Abingdon, 1990). Professor Jennings was present at the Meeting and responded to panelists' reviews of his book. In tandem with this discussion a very provocative paper by Wesley Tracy entitled "Economic Policy and Judicial Practice as Shapers of John Wesley's Theology and Ministry" explored the economic and judicial context of John Wesley's ministries.

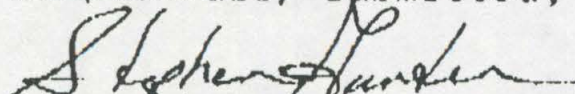
Recognizing that women have often been marginalized in the circles of "official ministry" in holiness denomination churches, a trend that defies historical warrant, we explored the dynamic and formative contributions made by women. Doug Strong instructed us on the topic "The Crusade for Women's Rights in the Formative Antecedents of the Holiness Movement, 1843-53"; and Stan Ingersol challenged us with a profile of the prolific "Ministry of Mary Lee Cagle: A Study in the Pattern of Sisterhood and Female Leadership."

In addition the Society took a close look at the perspective of the New Testament on the issue of the gospel for the poor. Melvin Shoemaker presented "Good News to the Poor in Luke's Gospel" and Robert Lyon suggested that Scripture teaches "The Poor Church as the True Evangelic Church."

In due course these fine essays will appear in the WTS Journal. Currently the issues are behind schedule, but the executive committee is taking steps to insure that we can follow an ambitious plan to "get back on schedule" in 1992/93.

It has been my privilege to serve the WTS, and I look forward to presiding over the 1992 meeting at Ashland Seminary, November 6-7. Dr. Susie Stanley is preparing a program around the topic of our confrontation with modernity and the keynote speaker will be Dr. Tom Oden.

Respectfully submitted,

  
W. Stephen Gunter, President