

REPORT OF THE EDITOR TO THE 1981 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
OF THE WESLEYAN THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

I deeply regret my inability to attend the 1981 Annual Conference. A long-scheduled meeting of my denomination's Wesleyan Educational Council, in which I serve as executive secretary, makes my attendance in Wilmore an impossibility. I will be there in thought and in prayer.

For the third consecutive year, the Wesleyan Theological Society has produced two issues of its Journal. The second contains the most articles ever included in one issue, and introduces a new feature, that of "Book Reviews." These two issues are the first to be edited under a formal, written "Editorial Policy." The policy was approved in November 1980 by the Executive Committee, was shared with the 1980 Annual Conference, and was printed in a more polished form in the Fall 1981 issue of the Journal. It may well need further refinement.

The year has brought some disappointments in that the Editor has still failed to make the Journal as much a product of the Editorial Committee as he would like. The fall issue, which is edited during the summer, is still largely a one-person product. And it was published much later than the Editor had hoped for. On the other hand, there is much to rejoice about in the quality of articles submitted and selected. And I do want to express my appreciation to Howard A. Snyder and John A. Knight for their contributions to the Editorial Committee, especially for the spring issue. Summer schedules and my failure to provide for sufficient lead time to compensate for our extended absences from our offices combined to hinder us with the second issue.

With this report, my labors as Editor are concluded. I have informed the Nominating Committee that I would not be available for re-election, even if that were contemplated. I have become increasingly aware of my limitations for this type of editorship, and am convinced that in my present administrative assignment there is just not enough time available to do the job that must be done.

There is a bit of satisfaction in observing that of the 1,603 pages of articles and book reviews published in the Journal in the past sixteen years, 592 have been prepared for publication by the present Editor. This is well over one-third of all the pages and more than the number processed by any one of my predecessors. At the same time, this quantity of output highlights a problem which faces the Society, the Executive and Editorial Committees, and the new Editor. To produce two issues a year requires a heavy inflow of good material and considerable labor on the part of the Editor and

his committee. And unless the new Editor is able to continue employment of a printer who does his work for about one-half of the normal rate, as the Old Paths Tract Society of Shoals, Indiana, has been doing, two issues can only be continued through a sharp increase in the membership dues. Careful thought and planning will be needed by all concerned.

To serve in the capacity of Editor for WTS has been a high honor indeed. I have deeply appreciated the men with whom I have served over the past three years on the Executive Committee and those who have shared with me the responsibilities of the Editorial Committee. I am looking forward to a constantly improving journal under my successor.

Lee M. Haines

Lee M. Haines, Editor
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