

November 3, 1988

TO: The Wesleyan Theological Society

FROM: Melvin E. Dieter, Promotional Secretary

RE: Annual Report

Most of my activity is intimately associated with representing the Society in whatever capacity this office carries with it, but in informal ways as part of my participation in the many ecclesiastical and professional meetings which engage too much of my time throughout the year. As part of the executive committee I attempt to communicate to the officers movements and trends in other societies which may call for consideration in our own plans and projects, especially those in the evangelical and Methodist circles which interact with us most directly even though again in informal ways.

One of the most pressing of these is the Methodist/Wesley Studies section which Rex Mathews and others are sponsoring as part of the A.A.R. annual meeting. By our early start in promoting Wesleyan studies in America we have co-opted a significant section of scholarly interest in that field to our society. We ought to keep our own concerns for the purposes of W.T.S. in regular dialogue with the concerns represented by the wider interest in Wesleyan Studies around the world.

One of the most recent advances in interest in our work and publications has been encouraged by the Pew research project which I am currently directing. We are discovering a wide network of scholars who are interested in the Wesleyan movement in America and they in turn are finding rich resources in the journals of the Society.

We will make a special effort to utilize both the resources of the Society and of the Project to make next year's annual meeting at Asbury College as part of its celebration of its centennial anniversary an event for the special promotion of the Society. The program chairman will outline the agenda for that meeting. We hope all of you will plan now to be there.