

Wesleyan Theological Society

Thirty-Second Annual Meeting

Report of the President

November 1, 1996

The Wesleyan Theological Society held its thirty-first annual meeting at Northwest Nazarene College in Nampa, Idaho on November 3-4. Dr. George Lyons served as host on behalf of the College.

More than one hundred and thirty people attended the annual meeting on the theme "Sanctification and the New Creation." The keynote speaker was Dr. Theodore Runyon of Chandler School of Theology who spoke on the theme: "New Creation: The Wesleyan Distinctive."

Plenary addresses were presented by Al Truesdale, J. Steven O'Malley, David Whitelaw and Theodore Runyon. The Presidential address was delivered by Donald Thorsen on the subject of the intellectual promise of the Wesleyan Holiness movement. In addition, seven other papers were presented in concurrent sessions, a format which was instituted in 1993 to allow for greater participation. Two panel discussions were also offered: one on "The Methodist Connection," the other a Wesleyan response to Mark Noll's recent work, *The Scandal of the Evangelical Mind*. Beyond this, the thirty-first annual meeting included group sessions in order to explore the plenary and panel discussions through the lenses of respective disciplines such as Historical Theology, Philosophical Theology, Christian Education, and Evangelism and Mission. Worship was offered at the conclusion of the meeting with Rev. Dr. James Earl Massey preaching.

As the Society's liaison with the Christian Holiness Association, I presented the WTS Seminar at the annual meeting of the CHA in Indianapolis. My topic was "What is Spirituality?: Historical and Methodological Considerations."

WTS officers elected for 1995-96 include the following: Kenneth J. Collins, President; Wesley Tracy, First Vice-President; Douglas Strong, Second Vice-President; William Kostlevy, Secretary-Treasurer and Stephen Lennox, Promotional Secretary. Barry Callen serves as editor of the *Wesleyan Theological Journal*.

In 1996 Barry Callen served the society well by publishing two volumes of the Journal (Vol 31, No.1 and Vol 32, No.2). Two issues of the Journal will appear in 1997: one in May and the other in October, before the annual meeting. David Bundy and William Faupel assist Mr. Callen on the editorial committee.

The Society is growing both in terms of its membership and budget. There are more than one thousand active members, and the budget for the year is close to fifteen thousand dollars. We expect further growth in the future due to the creation of the office of promotional secretary.

Doug Strong is giving leadership in developing the 1997 annual meeting of the Society which will be held at Mount Vernon Nazarene College in Mount Vernon, Ohio.

The Society has approved locations for future annual meetings at the following institutions: Fall 1997--Mount Vernon Nazarene College; Spring 1998--Church of God School of Theology; Spring 1999--Southern Nazarene University;--Spring 2000--Methodist College; Spring 2001--Huntington College; Spring 2002--Azusa Pacific University.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kenneth J. Collins, Ph.D.