

**The Wesleyan Theological Society
Thirty-fourth Annual Meeting
Southern Nazarene University**

Topic:
**Wesleyan Theology Greet a New Millenium:
Assessing our Past, Anticipating our Future**

A Call for Papers

The 1999 meeting of the Wesleyan Theological Society will occur on the eve of a new millennium. When viewed from one perspective, at the close of 1999 humankind will do no more than move from one calendar year to the next. But considered more comprehensively and symbolically, the transition to a new millennium will be charged with special meaning. This certainly applies to the Wesleyan theological tradition

The symbolic importance of closing one millennium and beginning another calls for careful reflection upon our tradition's past, and an imaginative look to the future. Hence, the 1999 meeting of the WTS will offer its membership an opportunity critically to assess the past successes and failures of this theological tradition (e.g. the vision of Christian faith and life it has fostered), and to think honestly and creatively about its viability in the 21st century.

More directly, what does the Wesleyan theological tradition have to offer a new millennium that might justify its continued presence in the Christian church and in the world? What theological, ecclesiological, moral, cultural and intellectual resources does our tradition bring to a new millenium? What is the continuing dynamic of the Wesleyan tradition and how might it be developed?

The program challenges members of the Society to engage in the difficult but necessary task of theological self-appraisal. The call is for papers that specifically address the goals stated above. Proposals to consider topics outside the announced program will receive secondary consideration.

A representation of topics that need to be addressed follows:

Reflective appraisal:

1. Retrospective appraisals of the theology, ecclesiology, exegesis/hermeneutics, the understanding of Christian ethics and the relationship between Christ and culture that have marked the Wesleyan tradition.
2. A retrospective appraisal of the Wesleyan tradition's role in the broader Christian community.

Papers that treat these themes either discreetly or in some combination are solicited.

Creative Anticipation:

1. The Wesleyan tradition in a postmodern world (e.g., how will Wesleyan theology respond to the charge that all ideologies [including Christianity] are necessarily oppressive, or to the assertion that all reality is only socially constructed?);
2. A Wesleyan encounter with and response to the new pluralisms;
3. Can Wesleyan theology provide a compelling theology of culture?;
4. The prophetic role of Wesleyan theology in a new millennium;
5. A Wesleyan account of (or approach to) the world religions;
6. A Wesleyan social ethic for a decidedly pluralistic world;
7. A biblical hermeneutic for the 21 century;
8. Wesleyan theology in dialogue with (1) the empirical sciences; and/or (2) the social sciences;
9. A Wesleyan understanding of the individual in the 21st century;
10. The place of nature in a Wesleyan understanding of grace.