

## THE TWENTIETH ANNUAL MEETING

Founded in 1929, Westminster Theological Seminary, located in beautiful Chestnut Hills, Pennsylvania, is observing its 40th anniversary this year. An American citadel of the Reformed faith, it is to a great degree the lengthened shadow of J. Gresham Machen, that outstanding champion of Biblical orthodoxy, at once genial, uncompromising, gracious, articulate, and learned, whose spirit still seems to pervade the seminary he helped to establish. It was on the Westminster campus that the Evangelical Theological Society held its *vicennium* from Thursday, December 26, through Saturday, December 28, probably more largely attended than any of the other Annual Meetings which the Society has conducted and certainly unexcelled in the caliber of its program.

President Edmund Clowney, ably assisted by his faculty and staff, was the essence of Christian hospitality. The local committee, with Dr. Robert Knudsen serving as chairman, did an efficient job in arranging for lodging, meals, and transportation. Indeed there were no difficulties whatsoever in logistics. Because of the heavy registration, nearby Faith Theological Seminary very kindly put its facilities at the Society's disposal. In addition, some of the participants were accommodated in homes and motels. Mention should be made of the delightful reception on Friday night when members and friends of the Society were the guests of the Westminster faculty.

Headed by Dr. J. Barton Payne, the program committee had worked for several years to prepare for so significant an occasion as the Society's *vicennium*; and their efforts proved most commendably fruitful. Choosing as its unifying theme, "An Evangelical Review of Old Testament Studies," the committee invited scholars to prepare papers dealing with every important aspect of this theme: text, canon, languages, archaeology, and of course theology. To enhance the total program it brought to Westminster two distinguished brethren, Dr. F. Derek Kidner of Tyndale House, Cambridge, England, and Dr. Pieter A. Verhoef of Stelenbosch Theological Seminary, South Africa. Dr. Kidner presented a paper on "Wisdom Literature of the Old Testament," while Dr. Verhoef lectured on "The Relationship Between the Old and New Testaments." Both shared in a stimulating panel with their American colleagues on "The Authority and Meaning of the Old Testament for Today's Christian."

Dr. Kenneth Kantzer presided at the sessions with characteristic grace and gave an insightful presidential address on "Blueprint for Evangelical Strategy," a sweeping review of theological education which,

instead of merely rehearsing platitudes and repeating shop-worn generalizations, got down to specifics.

A moving segment of the program was the service on Friday evening memorializing Dr. Edward J. Young, a notable member of the Westminster Faculty, as well as an esteemed member of the Evangelical Theological Society. Following an obituary by Dean Norman Shepherd, Dr. Young was eulogized by his friend and associate, Dr. Cornelius Van Til, whose eulogy was typically theocentric.

Among its more important decisions was the Society's approval of a recommendation that its *Bulletin* henceforth be known as a Journal and that its format be changed and its size be expanded. To cover increased costs the Society voted to raise the annual dues from \$4.00 to \$5.00 for student members and from \$6.50 to \$8.50 for full and associate members.

Elected as officers for 1968-1969 were Carl F. H. Henry, President; Robert E. Cooley, Vice-President; and Vernon Grounds, Secretary-Treasurer. Dr. Samuel J. Schultz was reappointed Editor of the *Journal*.

To express its appreciation for all who were responsible for the successful conduct of the sessions just concluding, the Evangelical Theological Society at its 20th annual meeting, December 28, 1968, adopted the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that we extend a rising vote of thanks to Westminster Theological Seminary, under its president, Dr. Edmund P. Clowney, for its gracious hospitality as host institution; for its excellent accommodations and courtesies; and specifically to Dr. Robert Knudsen and his associates on the Arrangement Committee for their tireless efforts on the Society's behalf; as well as to the staff of the dining hall and those responsible for transportation and the Book Room's operation; and

To Faith Theological Seminary under President Allan MacRae, and to all others who assisted in the housing of the Society's members and friends; and

To retiring president Kenneth S. Kantzer for skillful work in presiding over the assemblies of the conference, together with the indefatigable efforts of the Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. Vernon C. Grounds, and those retiring from service to the standing committees of the Society; and

To Program Chairman, Dr. Barton Payne, and the associated members of the 20th Annual Meeting Planning Committee, Dr. R. Laird Harris, Prof. Walter C. Kaiser, and the standing Program Committee, Dr. Robert Knudsen and Prof. Charles Tipp, for their excellent work in planning the broad strategy and specific details of this historic meeting; and

We wish to express special appreciation for the presence of our overseas guests, Dr. Pieter A. Verhoef and Warden F. Derek Kidner and

their splendid contributions to this conference. We thank all who submitted papers, led in devotional services, or in other ways contributed to the successful conclusion of the 20th anniversary session.

President Kenneth Kantzer appointed a committee to begin preparation for the 1973 Meeting when the Society will observe its Silver Anniversary. Dr. Merrill Tenney is the committee's chairman with Dr. Richard Longenecker and Dr. Wilbur Dayton as his co-laborers.

Next year the Society will convene at the Cincinnati Bible Seminary from Monday, December 29, through Wednesday, December 31.

Respectfully submitted,

Vernon C. Grounds, *Secretary*