

## **TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL MEETING**

The Evangelical Theological Society held its twenty-third annual meeting on the beautiful campus of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Hamilton, Massachusetts, from mid-afternoon Monday, December 27, through luncheon Wednesday, December 29, 1971. Gordon-Conwell's vice-president, Dr. Lloyd Kalland, ably assisted by the Seminary staff, was a most gracious and efficient host. The weather, while fairly moderate, featured rain rather than the snow one expects in New England during the winter season.

The theme of the meeting was "Christianity and the Focus of Authority," a very relevant problem explored in depth by participants in a Roman Catholic-Protestant Evangelical dialogue which occupied three whole sessions. Dr. Michael A. Fahey, S.J., of Weston College of Theology, Cambridge, Massachusetts, presented the Roman Catholic view, after which Dr. Harold O. Brown, Theological Secretary of the International Fellowship of Evangelical Students, read a paper which articulated the Protestant-Evangelical position. With Dr. Vernon Grounds as moderator, discussion then ensued among the four panelists, Dr. John J. Begley, Boston College, Hill, Massachusetts; Dr. John T. Finnegan, Pope John XXIII National Seminary, Weston, Massachusetts; Dr. Roger R. Nicole, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary; and Dr. Clark Pinnock, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, Illinois.

The dialogue, as it developed, was enlivened by questions directly from the floor, and hence proved an illuminating interchange of convictions, marked by candor no less than urbanity. Basic differences were clarified, especially those historic cleavages which have been accentuated by the adoption among Roman Catholic scholars of critical theories that depart from traditional orthodoxy.

A highlight of the meeting was the annual banquet on Monday night when a simply delectable dinner was served. Dr. Harold Lindsall's presidential address on "Apologetic Needs for the Age of Aquarius" was that fusion of Biblical commitment and contemporary awareness one expects from the historian who now is editor-in-chief of *Christianity Today*.

Another highlight of the meeting was the Tuesday night symposium on "Theology and the State of the Church." Under the chairmanship of Dr. J. Ramsey Michaels of Gordon-Conwell Seminary, a vigorous conversation took place with members of the audience joining in, among symposium-participants Dr. Edmund Clowney, Westminster Theological Seminary,

Philadelphia; Dr. Earl Radmacher, Western Conservative Baptist Theological Seminary, Portland, Oregon; and Dr. Russell Spittler, Huntington Beach, California. Provocatively analyzed were such matters as the need for ecclesiastical renovation and renewal, the ministry of the Holy Spirit, and the nature of current religious phenomena.

As usual, between general sessions papers on a wide range of subjects were given, sparking repeatedly both wit and warmth in fraternal debate.

Business at the Society's annual meetings is purposely kept at a minimum. But in addition to succinct sectional resumes, necessary reports were given by Dr. Samuel Schultz, Editor of the *Journal*, and Dr. Grounds, Secretary-Treasurer. Dr. Grounds presented the following data on the status of the Society during 1971.

*Membership Report*

The Membership Committee of the Evangelical Theological Society for the year consisted of the following members: John J. Davis, Jr., W. B. West, Jr., Robert L. Saucy, Alvin Martin, William L. Lane, and David K. Huttar; with Vernon Grounds, chairman.

These figures indicate the changes in the three categories of membership for the past year:

	Member	Associate	Student Associate
Active as of last year	564	161	98
Withdrew	(20)	(8)	(4)
Deceased	(2)	—	—
Dropped for non-payment of dues	(49)	(26)	(15)
Transferred	17	(7)	(10)
Reinstated	5	—	—
Received during 1971	25	18	16
Total Membership 12/31/71: 763	540	138	85

*Financial Report*

**ASSETS**

Cash In Bank		\$1614.27
Petty Cash		100.00
Accounts Receivable, 1971 Membership Dues		712.50
Book Inventory		
Current Monograph—266 books	\$1046.04	1823.10
Prior year's Monograph		
Tenney—228 books	777.06	1823.10
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>\$4249.87</b>

**LIABILITIES**

Accounts Payable		—
Net Worth—Accumulated Income, prior years		\$2660.89
Net Worth Income, 1/1/71—12/31/71		1588.98

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH \$4249.87  
 STATEMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS  
 December 31, 1971

**INCOME**

Dues	\$6607.50	
Subscriptions	1282.43	
Miscellaneous Journal Sales	163.40	
Sale of Books	919.95	
Less Cost	893.31	26.64
Income from Gifts		5.00
Miscellaneous Income		422.75
		<b>\$8507.72</b>

**EXPENSE**

Bank Charges and Canadian Exchange	\$ 11.96	
Expense Allowances, Sections	200.00	
Miscellaneous Expense	25.07	
Office Supplies and Stationery	350.22	
Postage and Mailing Expense	450.45	
Printing, Journal	5081.04	
Secretary-Treasurer Grant	800.00	\$6918.74
<b>NET INCOME FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1971</b>		<b>\$1588.98</b>

In the Service of Remembrance on Friday morning, the Rev. G. Floyd Carr of Gordon College paid tribute to his deceased colleague, Dr. Philip C. Johnson, a charter member of the Society. The late President of the Moody Bible Institute, Dr. William Culbertson, was briefly eulogized by Dr. Louis Goldberg of the Institute's faculty. Prayer was offered by Dr. Kenneth Kantzer, President of the Trinity Evangelical Divinity School.

Elected as President of the Society for 1972 was Dr. Robert L. Saucy of Talbot Theological Seminary, La Mirada, California, who had functioned very capably as chairman of the Program Committee for the 1971 meeting. Dr. Arthur Lewis, Bethel College, St. Paul, Minnesota, was named as Vice-President. Dr. Schultz and Dr. Grounds were re-appointed to their respective positions.

*Resolutions Committee Report*

(Harold O. J. Brown and J. Barton Payne)

That the Evangelical Theological Society express its cordial thanks to the President and administration of Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, and especially to Dr. Lloyd Kalland, for the warm and generous hospitality extended during its twenty-third annual meeting from December 27-29, 1971.

The Society also expressed its appreciation to all who have contributed their time and talents in making this national meeting the success it has been; to President Harold Lindsell for his gracious and yet firm hand as moderator; to Vice-President and Program Chairman, Robert

Saucy, for his formulation of the stimulating program; to Dr. Michael Fahey and his colleagues for representing the Roman Catholic viewpoint in Tuesday's dialogue; to our Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Vernon Grounds, for his able guidance of the business of the Society, and to all those who presented papers or led in our devotions and worship.

Finally, the Society would not conclude its 1971 session without a resolution of gratitude to those who have labored throughout the year for the advancement of its work on behalf of North American Evangelical Fellowship; to Samuel Schultz, capable editor of the Journal of ETS and to his Editorial Committee; to the national Executive Committee and to the Chairmen of the six regional sections, now completing their year's term of office, and to those who have labored on the other committees of the Society, particularly to those who now rotate off their respective elective offices, after completing their assigned years of service:

Kenneth Kantzer (Executive Committee)

Harold Lindsell (Editorial Committee)

John Davis and W. B. West (Membership Committee)

Robert Gundry (Program and Arrangement Committee)

Well done, good and faithful servants!

#### *Twenty-Fifth Annual Meeting*

Plans for the Society's twenty-fifth anniversary were announced. With Dr. Merrill Tenney as Chairman of the Program Committee, this significant occasion, scheduled to take place at Wheaton College in December 1973, will focus on the New Testament field and bring to the Society's platform from overseas several scholars of international reputation.

The twenty-fourth annual meeting will convene in St. Paul, Minnesota, on the campus of Bethel Seminary from Wednesday, December 27, through Friday, December 29, 1972.

Respectfully submitted,  
Vernon Grounds, Secretary