

TWENTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING

Hosted graciously by Westminster Theological Seminary, members of the Society convened at beautiful Chestnut Hills outside Philadelphia from Monday, December 27, to Wednesday, December 29, as America's bicentennial year was drawing to a close. Appropriately they focused their attention on "Evangelicals and the Nation," listening to the wide range of lectures arranged by the program committee under the leadership of Walter Kaiser. Among the papers that elicited a high degree of interest as well as some vigorous interaction were several dealing with the nature and interpretation of Scripture.

At the anniversary banquet Tuesday evening Simon Kistemaker in his presidential address discussed "The Canon of the New Testament." Wilbur Wallis expressed the Society's appreciation to retiring secretary-treasurer Vernon Grounds, who had served in that office since 1963.

The Evangelical Philosophical Society conducted its first sessions on Tuesday afternoon. Officers elected were Norman Geisler, president; Gordon Lewis, vice-president; and Jay Grimstead, secretary. In future years this adjunct organization will meet simultaneously with the parent Society. The Near East Archaeological Society, another adjunct organization, enriched the entire program with outstanding illustrated presentations on recent and current explorations and excavations.

In the first business session Vernon Grounds submitted the following statistics:

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

	<i>Full</i>	<i>Associate</i>	<i>Student</i>
Active as of last year:	620	170	136
Withdrew:	(1)	—	—
Deceased:	(3)	(1)	—
Dropped:	(49)	(25)	(39)
Transferred:	5	2	(7)
Reinstated:	10	1	1
Received during 1976:	57	15	44
Total Membership, 12/31/76:	936	639	135

FINANCIAL REPORT

ASSETS

Cash in Bank		\$7452.80
Petty Cash		100.00
Accounts Receivable, 1976 Membership Dues		993.50
Book Inventory		
Current Monograph—186 books	\$751.46	
Prior Years' Monographs—131 books	<u>432.43</u>	<u>1183.89</u>

TOTAL ASSETS **\$9730.19**

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable		
Net Worth—Accumulated Income, Prior Year	7186.02	
Income, 1/1/76 - 12/31/76	<u>2544.17</u>	

TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH **\$9730.19**

INCOME

Dues	\$8154.73	
Dues charged but not paid	993.50	
Subscriptions	1611.31	
Miscellaneous <i>Journal</i> Sales	282.50	
Sales of Books	\$225.75	
Less Cost	<u>225.42</u>	.33
Income from Gifts	22.00	
Miscellaneous Income	<u>986.22</u>	

\$12,050.59

EXPENSES

Bank Charges and Canadian Exchange	.00
Expense Allowances—Sections	350.00
Miscellaneous Expense	263.09
Office Supplies and Stationery	655.47
Postage and Mailing Expense	1164.14
Printing, <i>Journal</i>	5873.72
Secretary-Treasurer Grant	<u>1200.00</u>

\$9506.42

NET INCOME FOR YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1976 \$2544.17

In the second business session the Society elected these officers for 1977:

President: Walter C. Kaiser, Jr.
 President-Elect: Edmund P. Clowney
 Vice-President: Stanley N. Gundry
 Secretary-Treasurer: Simon J. Kistemaker

It also unanimously adopted this report submitted by the resolutions committee:

When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for a people to dissolve the social bands which have connected them with each other for such a gathering as the annual meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes of their gratitude. We hold these truths to be worthy of assent:

The gracious hospitality of our host, Westminster Theological Seminary, is to be observed with many thanks for the efficient management in our registration, accommodations, program details, travel and diet. In particular the warm and friendly services of Clair Davis in handling the logistics of our meeting are appreciated. The 28th annual meeting was a comfortable and pleasant experience due to the concern shown by these our hosts.

The presidential services and address of Simon Kistemaker will also be remembered with great respect for his administrative competence and cautious, clear scholarship.

Our program chairman, Walter Kaiser, is to be thanked for the thoughtful, challenging and relevant program he organized for our Christian edification and scholarly profit.

We would also express deep gratitude to our faithful and friendly secretary, Vernon Grounds, not only for another year's indispensable service but the thirteen past such years of diligence in the promotion, management and successful operation of our Society's business.

We the people gathered for the 28th annual meeting of the Evangelical Theological Society, in order to recognize our union, establish justice, insure the Society's tranquillity, acknowledge our concern for common defense, promote Christian welfare, and secure the continued blessings of evangelical meetings for theological interaction and scholarly advance to ourselves and our posterity, would hereby sincerely declare these above thanks to those who made this meeting possible.

The Society likewise endorsed the decision of the executive committee with respect to the Society's doctrinal statement. Here is the relevant item from the new secretary's minutes:

The executive committee discussed the matter of inerrancy as it pertains to the annual subscription of the ETS doctrinal statement: "The Bible alone, and the Bible in its entirety, is the Word of God written, and is therefore inerrant in the autographs."

Some members of the Society have expressed the feeling that a measure of intellectual dishonesty prevails among members who do not take the signing of the doctrinal statement seriously. The executive committee appreciates these expressions of concern. The committee has taken due note of all the communications received on this subject. However, in light of these communications, it is not clearly evident to the executive committee that the spirit of the doctrinal statement is being violated.

The evidence available is that some members of the Society have come to the realization that they are not in agreement with the creedal statement and have voluntarily withdrawn—that is, in good conscience they could not sign the statement. Though we regret receiving a resignation, we cannot see that a resignation is due to inadequate functioning of the ETS doctrinal

statement. On the contrary, the executive committee is of the opinion that the statement in its brevity and simplicity is both adequate and sufficient.

Honored at the memorial service were members who had died during 1976: Wick Broomall, Charles Pfeiffer, Ivan Howard, William Bass and Allan F. J. Burrow.

The Society accepted the cordial invitation of Simpson College to hold its 29th annual meeting on their San Francisco campus December 26-28, 1977.

Thus as the Evangelical Theological Society moves toward its 30th anniversary, its membership is steadily growing, its influence is increasing, and its doctrinal commitment remains unaltered. All of this is a source of gratitude and satisfaction to this retiring secretary-treasurer.

Vernon Grounds