

INTRODUCTION

Dean G. Blevins, Editor

Welcome to the Volume 23:1 (May 2023) and the beginning of the twenty third year of publishing *Didache: Faithful Teaching*. Our current publication picks up with a theme from last edition, the experience of women in ministry, then moves to remember one powerful woman theologian Mildren Bangs Wynkoop. The journal continues to more historical treatises of denominational polity and the care of the vulnerable from the most unlikely source, to the role of technology in education and even publishing. This edition will be the final offering before returning to the Global Theology Conference edition with both plenary and response papers in place before the conference's scheduled meeting. So, with the Global Theology Conference, and supplemental articles from regional submissions, the journal will be on track to navigate to Volume 24.

The edition opens with the voice of women in ministry reported by two capable researchers using differing methodologies. Last edition, readers "heard" from women through their personal essays. This time readers will hear the voices of women albeit from within a larger explanatory framework. Dr. Julie Cheney adopts an approach grounded in transformational learning theory and gender role congruence to chart the call of ministry within the lives of women. Dr. Cheney's writing, part of her PhD research, includes a more historical orientation to women in ministry, so best serves to situate her later conclusions and our introduction to the discussion. Dr. Kathryn Lewis Mowry (Trevecca Nazarene University) follows with a similar study of women's experience in ministry anchored in grounded theory, a methodology within qualitative research, to capture the "voices" and patterns within and among women's experience. The two articles provide a sobering perspective worthy of everyone's careful reading. As with the last edition, most of the women appear to come from USA/Canada. The choice proves intentional to attempt to correlate experiences, particularly when engaging male leadership, within a given geographic and cultural context. The hope, as in the last journal edition, would be to see similar reflections coming from other global regions

The next three papers appear, in part, due to a conference that involved the Wynkoop Center for Women and Leadership, <https://www.nts.edu/wynkoop/>. The presentations reflect an overview of the life and contribution of Mildred Bangs Wynkoop (Dr. Stan Ingersol, former Nazarene Archivist), her life as an educator (Dr. Linda Alexander, MidAmerica Nazarene University) and the basic tenants of her writing, *A Theology of Love* (Dr. Johan Tredoux, Ph.D. Manchester University/NTC Manchester). The scope of the three presentations offer a broad, yet grounded, introduction to Dr. Wynkoop in a manner that respects her unique gifts as a theologian and educator. Undoubtedly the journal might include other writings, but these three scholars graciously devoted their time and academic energy to this project for the edition.

Dr. Stan Rodes, Administrative Director for Global Clergy Development, offers an intriguing investigation into the language of "collective Christian conscience" that emerged in the 1970s and appears in the Church of the Nazarene's Manual paragraph 28.2 as a preface to the Covenant of Christian Conduct. Rodes' exploration sheds light on a phrase that may well prove more indicative of a posture than just specific terminology. This denominational historical investigation prefaces a second paper by Dr. Vinicius Couto, who holds a PhD from the Universidade Metodista de São Paulo but remains a Postdoctoral student in Education, Arts and History at Universidade Presbiteriana Mackenzie as well. Dr. Couto investigates the life and

writings of Jacob Arminius to explore his often-overlooked treatment addressing the care for the vulnerable. Couto's historical work continues the journal's continued interest in the moral psychology that often dialogs with theologians' doctrinal concerns. Both works may prove helpful partners to the previous treatise by Dr. G. Michael Leffel in Volume 21:1 [Embodied Virtue: A Model of Virtuous Caring for Practical Theology and Christian Formation](#).

The edition then closes with two articles dedicated to the future of theological education and theological publishing. Dr. Tammy Carter, Administrative Director for Global Education addresses a theme that surfaced at the International Council for Evangelical Theological Education (ICETE) conference in Izmir, Turkey November 2022, specifically during a workshop about online resourcing. The session provides Dr. Carter an opportunity to demonstrate, through the Wesleyan Holiness Digital Library (WHDL), a strategy for answering the problem on online resources. Dr. Carter's treatise serves as a bridge to a final editorial essay on the efficacy of this journal, *Didache: Faithful Teaching* over the last twenty-two years. The essay provides an accounting, a personal retrospective on the amazing opportunity to edit this journal. and addresses future challenges including the rise of new Artificial Intelligence (AI) models that may well change the future of education, and publishing, in the open access community.

As always, we offer a reminder that the journal remains open for student publications as well as general submissions sent to the editor. Faculty members may recommend a student paper, and, after editorial review, the journal may accept the paper with the faculty member serving as the primary reviewer of record. We again thank the staff of the Asia Pacific Region, who diligently contribute for formatting and maintaining of our website, and Dr. Tammy Carter who works tirelessly promoting *Didache: Faithful Teaching*, as she does in the development of the already mentioned Wesleyan Holiness Digital Library (WHDL) <https://www.whdl.org/>. As noted in the closing editorial essay, the journal will migrate in the coming year to WHDL but intends to maintain a location at the current website <https://didache.nazarene.org/>

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