

Introduction, Didache: Faithful Teaching Vol. 7:2

Greetings and welcome to our next edition of *Didache: Faithful Teaching* Vol. 7:2. This edition offers an interesting array of articles addressing intersections between Wesleyan education and various contexts of ecclesial ministry in contemporary culture. The edition opens with a detailed and very interesting treatise by L. Bryan Williams concerning academic freedom and ecclesial oversight, an issue facing many of our institutions particularly in USA and Canada. Following this work we are treated to two different articles providing biblical and theological insight on the nature of Wesleyan education. Andrey Khobnya, a graduate of Nazarene Theological Seminary, offers a detail treatment based on his Master of Arts thesis reviewing theological and pedagogical aspects of Proverbs chapters one through nine. Tom Noble also offers an introduction to John Wesley originally drafted as a resource for conversations with persons within the Reformed tradition. Ramón Sierra expands this theological dialog by raising issues about the nature of the term “evangelical,” particularly in Latin American contexts.

The remaining articles address specific ecclesial concerns including congregational and age-level interests. Ruth Reynard offers a detailed treatment of the church’s use of power in local congregations. John Bondy offers an assessment of children’s curriculum based on theological core values in the Church of the Nazarene. Finally Brandon Winstead offers a very thorough analysis of popular media and African American youth through the lens of Hip-Hop culture. Overall these treatments raise specific issues for the future of ministry preparation with local congregations in mind.

With this edition *Didache: Faithful Teaching* would like to recognize a gentleman who has served global education for a number of years. Jerry Lambert, Commissioner of the International Board of Education for the Church of the Nazarene, will be retiring spring 2008. Dr. Lambert has been a primary supporter of this online journal, lending both administrative and financial support to insure the journal’s structural stability over the years for the beginning of the publication’s existence. In addition, Jerry has been probably our most ardent “acquisitions editor.” I cannot tell you the number of times I would meet Jerry in a meeting where he would bring a series of publications from the most recent regional conference for my review. Dr. Lambert’s longstanding desire remained to see Wesleyan theological education propagated as a resource for all of the schools throughout the tradition, particularly those represented within the Church of the Nazarene, the sponsoring body of this journal. We would be remiss not to thank Jerry for his untiring energy and support.

In honor of Dr. Lambert, the journal extends a call for academic papers and essays dedicated to Jerry’s efforts in global theological education. We would encourage these treatises be academic in nature (since Jerry’s goal has been to increase the level of academics across the tradition) but also reflective of Dr. Lambert’s passions. Deadline for submissions will be May 15th.

However, this edition offers one other new “wrinkle” in honor Jerry’s hard work and inquisitive nature. Included at the journal’s website, readers will discover a wide array of articles and presentations from a number of regional theology and education conferences. These conference proceedings represent the cumulative effort of a number of international faculty members within this Wesleyan tradition and serves as a virtual “archive” for future research. Readers may find it a bit awkward obtaining the resources at this time; however, a number of the writings remain available through regional print publications that this journal has often promoted in previous editions. The collection as presented stands as an acknowledgement of Dr. Lambert’s passion in years past.

We trust you will enjoy the offerings presented. Please let us know what you think and remember that the journal entertains scholarly research by sponsored students as well as unsolicited manuscripts by faculty addressing the three themes of education, Wesleyan theology and global culture. Submission guidelines may be found on our website.

Grace & Peace

Dean G. Blevins
Sr. Editor

Articles this edition

L. Bryan Williams ACADEMIC FREEDOM IN A CHURCH-RELATED ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS: THE MANAGEMENT OF TENSION

Andrey Khobnya FORMATION AND EDUCATION IN PROVERBS 1–9: THEOLOGICAL AND PEDAGOGICAL PRINCIPLES

Thomas A. Noble JOHN WESLEY AS A THEOLOGIAN: AN INTRODUCTION

Ramón A. Sierra CHRISTIAN IDENTITY: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE AN EVANGELICAL?

Ruth Reynard A DISCUSSION OF POWER AS IT RELATES TO A LOCAL CHURCH CONTEXT

John K. Bondy THE CRITICAL IMPORTANCE OF CURRICULUM THAT TRANSMITS NAZARENE CORE VALUES

Brandon Winstead BREAK IT DOWN!: ANALYZING SELF-IDENTITY IN MAINSTREAM HIP-HOP MUSIC AND FILM TO EMPOWER THE HIP-HOP GENERATION FOR CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP