

scarritt college
for christian workers
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MISSIOLOGISTS FORM SOCIETY

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE--The American Society of Missiology, an organization bringing together professors of mission and others interested in studying the missionary dimension of the Christian Church, was formally proposed June 9-10, in an ad-hoc gathering at Scarritt College for Christian Workers in Nashville. The 45 who attended the meeting approved a statement of purpose and named a continuation committee to draft a constitution, solicit additional members, publish a newsletter, explore the feasibility of launching a scholarly journal, and call a constituent assembly set for June 8-10, 1973.

The new organization is not intended to take over the functions of two existing groups with similar purposes: The Association of Professors of Mission and the more-recent Association of Evangelical Professors of Mission. The presidents of both, James Pyke of Wesley Theological Seminary and Herbert Kane of Trinity Evangelical Divinity School participated in the meeting and joined the A.S.M. as charter members.

Perhaps the key issue of debate concerned the purpose. Some felt that the A.S.M. should declare as its goal the fulfillment of the Great Commission, others that it should fix as its end the study of missiology but without doctrinal overtones, thus bringing itself more into line with the outlook of the American Council of Learned Societies. As the discussion progressed, the participants, who represented conservative evangelicals, ecumenicals, and Roman Catholics, reached the mutual agreement that the A.S.M. should be strictly academic. The conservatives in particular expressed their feeling that only as such could they continue to participate.

(over)

The continuation committee elected Gerald Anderson of Scarritt College as Chairman, Donald M. Wodarz, S.S.C. of Saint Columban's Seminary in Milton, Mass. as Vice-Chairman, and Ralph D. Winter of Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California as Secretary-Treasurer. Persons desiring Charter Membership may send \$10.00 to Dr. Winter.

Elected joint editors of the A.S.M. Newsletter, beginning publication in August-September, are Herbert Kane, John T. Boberg, S.V.D. of Catholic Theological Union, and Roland Scott of Garrett Theological Seminary.