



FAULTLINES

Holy Conversations about Human Sexuality and The United Methodist Church

Dear Friends:

Abingdon Press is pleased to introduce Faultlines, a suite of new resources to encourage and inform robust conversations about challenging questions being debated by faithful United Methodists.

For group study:

1. **Living Faithfully: Human Sexuality and The United Methodist Church** is a four-week small group study for adults (available now). Topics for discussion are: Is the practice of homosexuality incompatible with Christian teaching? Is same-gender marriage compatible with Christian teaching? Is ordaining practicing homosexuals compatible with Christian teaching? Where are we now?
2. Adolf Hansen, **Is It Time? Helping Laity and Clergy Discuss Homosexuality One Question at a Time**. 11/2017. Twelve questions to help people individually and in groups think through various issues concerning homosexuality. Examples include: Is it time to stop using the word homosexuality without defining it? Is it time to stop confusing homosexual attraction with homosexual behavior? Is it time to stop interpreting the Bible as a static rather than a developing understanding of God's revelation? Is it time to stop calling homosexuality a sin without clarifying what we mean? Is it time to stop fearing persons who have a sexual orientation or gender identity different from our own? Is it time to start expending our full energy on the mission of The United Methodist Church: to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world?
3. Carolyn Moore, **The 19 Questions to Kindle a Wesleyan Spirit**. 5/2018. Walks readers through Wesley's nineteen historic questions, which newly ordained clergy still answer today. Covering topics from faith in Christ to spiritual practices, to handling debt, these questions lie at the heart of the covenant that binds clergy together. How we honor commitments to the rules of the Church is of particular urgency for contemporary readers.
4. Rob Renfro and Walter Fenton, **Are We Better Together? An Evangelical Perspective on the United Methodist Divide**. 4/2018. Explores moving forward by looking at the topics of theology, authority, covenant, and unity. This book questions the idea that the diverse voices in The UMC are "better together," and calls readers to consider ways in which separation might be beneficial.
5. Matt Rawle, Juan Huertas, Katie McKay Simpson, **The Marks of Hope: Where the Spirit Is Moving**. 3/2018. Imagines hopeful models for how the church shows the world ways of coming together amid times of crisis and division. The authors acknowledge significant differences in the church, yet lift up powerful signs of hope for the present and future in how we deal with concerns around gender, technology, justice, mission, story, and more.
6. David N. Field, **Our Purpose Is Love: The Wesleyan Way to Be the Church**. 5/2018. An engaging group study of essential and unique insights of the Wesleyan movement and rediscovery of an exhilarating and loving vision for living as the church now.

For pastors, leaders, and laity:

7. Brian K. Milford, editor, **Holy Contradictions: What's Next for the People Called United Methodists**. 2/2018. A collection of short articles by diverse UMC thought leaders who each answer: How might United Methodists bear witness to graceful and mutually respectful ways of living in the Wesleyan tradition amid enduring disagreements about same-gender relationships and related church practices? Essayists include Scott Kisker, Jim and Jennifer Cowart, Rob Fuquay, Jay Williams, Kim Reisman, Bryan Collier, Audrey Warren, Phil Wogaman, Eduard Khegay, Magrey deVega, Tom Lambrecht, Lacey Warner, Donna Pritchard, David Field, Diane Kenaston.
8. Phillip Cramer and William L. Harbison, **The Fight for Marriage: Church Conflicts and Courtroom Contests**. 4/2018. The authors, two UM laypersons, brought the case *Tanco v. Haslam* in Nashville federal court. The case ultimately went with similar cases in Kentucky, Ohio, and Michigan to the U. S. Supreme Court, resulting in the 2015 landmark court decision permitting same-gender marriage nationwide.
9. Karen P. Oliveto, **Our Strangely Warmed Hearts: Coming Out into God's Call**. 4/2018. Bishop Oliveto includes stories of spiritual renewal of gay and lesbian Christians who came out to family, friends, and coworkers.
10. David McAllister-Wilson, **A New Church and a New Seminary: Theological Education is the Solution**. 5/2018. Examines causes of congregational decline and proposes what will likely happen to transform seminaries that forge partnerships with congregational leaders.

We offer this array of books with differing perspectives for your study, reflection, and edification as together we seek to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Grace and peace,



Brian K. Milford, Publisher, Abingdon Press



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