

united methodist book of discipline 2019

United Methodist Book of Discipline 2019: A Comprehensive Guide to Church Governance and Doctrine

united methodist book of discipline 2019 serves as the foundational legal and doctrinal framework for the United Methodist Church (UMC). For anyone involved in the life of the church—whether clergy, laity, or church administrators—understanding this document is essential. It governs everything from church organization and administration to the ethical standards expected of members, providing clarity and guidance for the denomination's worldwide connection. In this article, we'll explore the key elements of the United Methodist Book of Discipline 2019, its structure, and its significance in shaping the church's mission and ministry today.

What Is the United Methodist Book of Discipline 2019?

The United Methodist Book of Discipline 2019 is the official book of law, doctrine, administration, organizational work, and procedures of the United Methodist Church. Updated every four years at the General Conference—the denomination's top legislative body—it reflects the current policies, theological positions, and procedural rules that govern the church globally. The 2019 edition incorporates the decisions made during the 2016 General Conference and any interim updates.

At its core, the Book of Discipline outlines the church's mission, its understanding of Christian doctrine, the roles and responsibilities of clergy and laity, and the church's stance on various social and ethical issues. It is a living document that evolves to address contemporary challenges while maintaining the church's Wesleyan theological heritage.

Structure and Content of the 2019 Edition

The Book of Discipline is divided into several parts, each addressing different aspects of the church's life and governance. Here's a breakdown of its major components:

Part I: The Social Principles

This section articulates the church's stance on social justice, ethics, and public policy. It reflects the United Methodist Church's commitment to social holiness, emphasizing issues such as human rights, environmental stewardship, economic justice, and peace. The 2019 edition continues to uphold these principles, encouraging members to live out their faith actively in society.

Part II: The Doctrinal Standards and Our Theological Task

Here, the Book of Discipline provides a theological foundation based on Wesleyan-Arminian beliefs. It includes key doctrinal statements, affirming the church's understanding of Scripture, salvation, grace, and the sacraments. This section helps guide teaching and preaching within the denomination, ensuring consistency in doctrine.

Part III: The Organization and Administration of the Church

This extensive section outlines the church's structure at every level—from local congregations to annual conferences, jurisdictional conferences, and the General Conference. It explains the roles of bishops, pastors, lay leaders, and church committees. For example, it details the appointment process for clergy and the responsibilities of district superintendents. The 2019 edition provides clarity on administrative procedures and accountability mechanisms.

Part IV: The Ministry of the Church

This part focuses on the roles and expectations of clergy and laity, including the process for ordination and licensing. It also outlines ethical standards for ministers and guidelines for pastoral care. The Book of Discipline 2019 emphasizes the importance of spiritual formation and leadership development.

Part V: The Judicial Administration

The church's judicial system is explained here, detailing how disciplinary matters are handled. This includes procedures for addressing accusations against clergy or church members and the role of church courts. The 2019 edition reflects ongoing efforts to maintain transparency and fairness in church discipline.

Key Updates and Highlights in the 2019 Edition

The United Methodist Book of Discipline is not static; it adapts to meet new challenges. The 2019 edition introduced several notable updates worth highlighting:

1. Clarification on Human Sexuality and Church Membership

One of the most discussed aspects of the Book of Discipline involves its stance on human sexuality. The 2019 edition maintained the denomination's traditional position regarding marriage and ordination, affirming that marriage is between one man and one woman and that self-avowed practicing homosexuals cannot be ordained. However, it also called for grace, respect, and pastoral care toward LGBTQ individuals, reflecting ongoing tensions and conversations within the church.

2. Strengthened Policies on Clergy Accountability

With growing awareness around pastoral misconduct, the 2019 Book of Discipline reinforced protocols for investigating complaints against clergy. It emphasized the need for due process, protection for victims, and confidentiality, aiming to foster trust and integrity within church leadership.

3. Emphasis on Racial Justice and Inclusion

Responding to broader social movements, the 2019 edition reaffirmed the church's commitment to combating racism and promoting inclusion. It called on congregations to actively engage in racial reconciliation efforts, reflecting the denomination's historic struggle and ongoing work toward justice.

Why the Book of Discipline Matters for United Methodists Today

For many, the United Methodist Book of Discipline 2019 might seem like a dense legal manual, but its impact ripples through every aspect of church life. Here's why it holds such importance:

Guiding Church Governance

Whether it's how pastors are appointed, how church property is managed, or how annual conferences conduct their business, the Book of Discipline provides the rules and frameworks that keep the denomination organized and united across thousands of congregations worldwide.

Shaping Theological Identity

By codifying doctrinal standards and theological emphases, the Discipline helps preserve the church's

Wesleyan heritage. It serves as a resource for pastors, seminary students, and lay members seeking to understand what it means to be United Methodist.

Addressing Contemporary Ethical Issues

The social principles section regularly engages with pressing societal challenges such as poverty, human trafficking, immigration, and environmental care. This helps members connect their faith with action, encouraging a holistic approach to discipleship.

Providing Accountability and Discipline

The church's commitment to holy living and integrity is supported by clear disciplinary procedures. Whether dealing with misconduct or theological disputes, the Book of Discipline ensures that there are fair processes in place to uphold justice within the community.

Tips for Navigating the United Methodist Book of Discipline 2019

Given its comprehensive nature, the Book of Discipline can be overwhelming at first glance. Here are some helpful tips for engaging with this crucial document:

- **Start with the Table of Contents:** Familiarize yourself with the organization of the book to find relevant sections quickly.
- **Use Online Resources:** The United Methodist Church offers digital versions and searchable databases which make it easier to locate specific topics or paragraphs.
- **Consult Church Leaders:** Pastors, district superintendents, and conference officials can provide guidance on interpreting and applying the Discipline.
- **Stay Updated:** Since the Book of Discipline is revised every four years, keep an eye out for new editions or amendments that may affect church policies.
- **Engage in Study Groups:** Many congregations offer study sessions on the Discipline to help members understand its contents and implications.

Understanding the Role of the Book of Discipline in Church Unity and Change

The United Methodist Church is a global connectional church with diverse cultures and perspectives. The Book of Discipline 2019 acts as a unifying document that balances tradition with the need to respond to change. While it preserves core doctrines and governance structures, it also leaves room for interpretation and contextualization within different regions.

This dual role sometimes leads to tension, particularly on issues like human sexuality and church polity. However, the Discipline remains the agreed-upon framework that enables the church to navigate these complexities together, fostering dialogue and discernment.

As the denomination continues to face questions about its future direction, the Book of Discipline will undoubtedly remain central to shaping conversations and decisions. Its ability to articulate shared beliefs and procedures helps maintain a sense of identity amidst diversity.

Exploring the United Methodist Book of Discipline 2019 offers valuable insights into how this historic denomination organizes itself, lives out its faith, and seeks to make a positive impact in the world. Whether you are a member, a leader, or simply curious about the UMC, understanding this document deepens your appreciation for the church's mission and the commitments that guide its journey.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the United Methodist Book of Discipline 2019?

The United Methodist Book of Discipline 2019 is the official text that outlines the law, doctrine, administration, organizational work, and procedures of the United Methodist Church as of 2019.

How often is the United Methodist Book of Discipline updated?

The United Methodist Book of Discipline is typically updated every four years during the General Conference, which is the denomination's legislative body.

What major changes were included in the 2019 edition of the United Methodist Book of Discipline?

The 2019 edition included updates on church law, social principles, and administrative policies, reflecting decisions made at the 2016 General Conference, including clarifications on church structure and social issues.

Where can I access the United Methodist Book of Discipline 2019?

The 2019 Book of Discipline is available for purchase in print and digital formats through the United Methodist Publishing House and can also be accessed online on official United Methodist Church websites.

Does the 2019 Book of Discipline address LGBTQ+ issues?

Yes, the 2019 Book of Discipline contains the denomination's official stance on LGBTQ+ matters as determined by the 2016 General Conference, maintaining the traditional teachings while also acknowledging ongoing debates within the church.

Who uses the United Methodist Book of Discipline 2019?

The Book of Discipline is used by clergy, church leaders, and members of the United Methodist Church to guide governance, worship, administration, and ethical decisions.

How does the Book of Discipline 2019 influence church governance?

It provides the constitutional framework for church governance, detailing the roles and responsibilities of various church bodies and officials, as well as procedures for decision-making and conflict resolution.

Can local United Methodist churches modify rules from the Book of Discipline 2019?

Local churches must adhere to the Book of Discipline, though they may establish additional policies as long as they do not conflict with the Discipline's provisions.

Additional Resources

United Methodist Book of Discipline 2019: A Comprehensive Review and Analysis

united methodist book of discipline 2019 serves as the foundational legal and organizational framework for the United Methodist Church (UMC), outlining its doctrine, polity, and administrative procedures. This edition, published following the 2016 General Conference and revised through 2018, reflects significant updates that respond to theological debates, administrative needs, and evolving social contexts within the denomination. As the authoritative guide for clergy, laity, and church courts, the 2019 Book of Discipline offers a detailed roadmap for governance, ministerial standards, and the church's mission in contemporary society.

The 2019 edition remains a critical resource for understanding the United Methodist Church's structure, beliefs, and disciplinary measures. It balances tradition with necessary reforms, making it a subject of ongoing discussion among theologians, church leaders, and members worldwide. In this article, we delve

into the key features and implications of the United Methodist Book of Discipline 2019, comparing it with previous editions and highlighting its role in shaping the church's future.

Historical Context and Purpose of the Book of Discipline

The United Methodist Book of Discipline is published every four years, coinciding with the General Conference, the highest legislative body of the UMC. It codifies church law, doctrine, and procedures, thereby ensuring uniformity and accountability across the global denomination. The 2019 edition follows the 2016 General Conference, where delegates undertook significant legislative actions that influenced the book's content.

Unlike a static document, the Book of Discipline evolves to address emerging challenges, doctrinal clarifications, and administrative restructuring. The 2019 edition particularly reflects ongoing debates around human sexuality, clergy accountability, and church unity. It serves not only as a rulebook but also as a theological statement, encapsulating the church's mission and values while providing mechanisms to govern its diverse global membership.

Key Features of the United Methodist Book of Discipline 2019

The 2019 Book of Discipline is organized into several key sections, each serving a distinct function within the church's governance and spiritual life. These include doctrinal standards, organizational structure, clergy responsibilities, church membership, and disciplinary procedures.

Doctrine and Theological Foundations

At its core, the Book of Discipline outlines the doctrinal standards of the UMC, rooted in Wesleyan theology. It reaffirms the Articles of Religion, the Confession of Faith, and the Social Principles that articulate the church's stance on social justice issues. The 2019 edition reiterates commitments to holiness, grace, and the transformative power of faith, while also engaging contemporary ethical questions.

Church Governance and Administrative Structure

A significant portion of the 2019 Book of Discipline details the church's organizational framework. It clarifies the roles of various church bodies, including Annual Conferences, Jurisdictional Conferences, and the General Conference itself. This structural clarity is vital for maintaining order in a denomination that spans multiple continents and cultures.

Clergy Standards and Accountability

The 2019 edition updates standards regarding ordination, ministerial conduct, and pastoral responsibilities. It emphasizes accountability measures, including procedures for investigating allegations of misconduct. These protocols aim to uphold integrity within the clergy and protect the church community.

Membership and Sacraments

The Book of Discipline also outlines criteria for church membership, the administration of sacraments such as baptism and communion, and the responsibilities of members toward the church's mission. The 2019 version continues to emphasize discipleship and the call to active participation in church life.

Controversies and Debates Reflected in the 2019 Edition

One of the most discussed sections of the United Methodist Book of Discipline 2019 relates to human sexuality, particularly the church's stance on LGBTQ+ inclusion. The language in the 2019 edition maintains traditional prohibitions against same-sex marriage and the ordination of "self-avowed practicing homosexuals," reflecting decisions made at the 2016 General Conference. This position has sparked considerable debate within the denomination, prompting ongoing discussions about potential revisions in future editions.

Another area of contention involves the balance between global church unity and regional cultural differences. The 2019 Book of Discipline attempts to navigate this tension by allowing certain regional adaptations while maintaining core doctrinal standards. This balancing act underscores the complexities of governing a worldwide denomination with diverse perspectives.

Impact on Church Unity and Future Directions

The provisions in the 2019 edition regarding human sexuality and church governance have intensified conversations about possible denominational splits or realignments. Some conferences and congregations have expressed a desire for more progressive policies, while others advocate for maintaining traditional standards. The Book of Discipline thus serves as both a unifying document and a point of friction within the UMC.

Comparative Insights: 2019 Edition vs. Previous Versions

Comparing the United Methodist Book of Discipline 2019 with earlier editions reveals both continuity and change. While core theological affirmations and organizational structures remain consistent, the 2019 edition incorporates more detailed procedural guidelines and clearer accountability measures.

For instance, procedural updates in the 2019 book include refined processes for clergy complaints and disciplinary hearings, aiming to enhance fairness and transparency. Social Principles have also been expanded to address contemporary issues such as environmental stewardship, racial justice, and economic inequality in greater depth.

This evolution illustrates the denomination's effort to remain relevant and responsive without compromising its foundational beliefs. However, it also highlights the challenges inherent in balancing tradition with progressive reform.

Accessibility and Usability

The 2019 Book of Discipline is available in print and digital formats, improving accessibility for church members globally. Its structured layout and indexing facilitate easy navigation for clergy and laity alike. Moreover, supplementary materials and official commentaries help interpret complex sections, making the document more user-friendly.

Significance for Clergy, Laity, and Church Governance

For clergy, the United Methodist Book of Discipline 2019 is indispensable as a guide for ethical ministry, pastoral care, and administrative duties. It delineates expectations and provides clarity on ordination requirements and ministerial conduct. For laity, it offers a transparent view of their role within the church's mission and governance.

From a governance perspective, the 2019 edition functions as the legal framework that sustains denominational order. It empowers church courts to adjudicate disputes, enforce discipline, and ensure adherence to doctrine. This regulatory function is crucial in maintaining the church's identity and operational coherence.

Pros and Cons of the 2019 Edition

- **Pros:** Comprehensive coverage of doctrine and polity; updated accountability procedures; accessibility in multiple formats; addresses contemporary social issues; supports global church structure.
- **Cons:** Maintains controversial stances on human sexuality that fuel division; complexity may challenge lay understanding; balancing diverse global perspectives remains difficult.

The United Methodist Book of Discipline 2019 reflects a denomination at a crossroads—committed to established doctrine yet confronted with pressing calls for change. Its role as both a theological and legal document ensures it will remain central to the UMC’s ongoing narrative.

As the church continues to grapple with internal and external pressures, future editions of the Book of Discipline will likely mirror the evolving consensus or conflicts within its diverse membership. For now, the 2019 edition stands as a testament to the UMC’s efforts to uphold tradition while navigating the complexities of modern ministry and social engagement.

United Methodist Book Of Discipline 2019

united methodist book of discipline 2019: *The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2020/2024* United Methodist Church, 2024-12-18 The Guide to the Historical Record and Up-to-Date Policies and Practices for Governance of The United Methodist Church. This essential volume includes The United Methodist Church's current law, doctrine, administrative guidelines, and organizational procedures. Each General Conference amends The Book of Discipline, and the actions of the 2024 General Conference are reflected in the quadrennial revision. Freshly updated to reflect the latest General Conference actions, the new Discipline features a comprehensive list of bishops spanning from our early leaders, Thomas Coke and Francis Asbury to the 2024 episcopal elections. Additionally, it includes a revised historical statement, an expanded index, and is divided into six informative sections: The Constitution General Book of Discipline Doctrinal Standards and Our Theological Task The Ministry of All Christians Social Principles Organization and Administration

united methodist book of discipline 2019: *Doctrine, Spirit, and Discipline* Kevin M. Watson, 2024-06-25 The definitive history of the Wesleyan movement in the United States. An expansive, substantive history of the Wesleyan tradition in the United States, *Doctrine, Spirit, and Discipline* offers a broad survey of the Methodist movement as it developed and spread throughout America, from the colonial era to the present day. It also provides an theological appraisal of these developments in light of John Wesley's foundational vision. Beginning with Wesley himself, Watson describes the distinctiveness of the tradition at the outset. Then, as history unfolds, he identifies the common set of beliefs and practices which have unified a diverse group of people across the centuries, providing them a common identity through a number of divisions and mergers. In the midst of the sweeping changes happening in Methodism and the pan-Wesleyan movement today, Watson shows that the heart of the Wesleyan theological tradition is both more expansive and substantive than any singular denominational identity. A fresh, panoramic overview of the history of the Methodist movement. . . Promises to be a standard textbook on the history of Methodism for years to come. —TIMOTHY C. TENNENT, Asbury Theological Seminary

united methodist book of discipline 2019: *Reckoning Methodism* Darryl W. Stephens,

2024-03-29 *Reckoning Methodism* addresses the brokenness of The United Methodist Church (UMC) in the United States. Homosexuality is but one of several fault lines with decades-long histories in this predominantly White denomination. Demographic shifts, racism, and imperialism are heavily implicated in the current state of division. What, then, is the true nature and mission of this church? The UMC is the public church divided. Distinct missional theologies arise from competing commitments and priorities. When Methodist programmatic initiatives--such as vital congregations, environmental witness, and volunteers in mission--fail to account for these differences, denominational unity is weakened. Constructively, this book seeks historical clarity, collective repentance, charismatic learning, and institutional courage as United Methodists reckon with inherited animosities and divisions. This book provides no answers or programmatic fixes. Rather, it provides possibilities for repairing past harms as United Methodists seek ways to continue living out their Wesleyan faith. *Reckoning with the public church divided*, we glimpse the nature and mission of the church--not only as it has been but also as it could be.

united methodist book of discipline 2019: *American Methodism Revised and Updated* Kenneth E. Rowe, Jean Miller Schmidt, Dr. Russell E. Richey, Ashley Boggan, 2022-11-15 The essential guide to American Methodism revised and updated through 2020. Four of Methodism's most respected teachers give us a vivid picture of 260 years of Methodist experience in America. The revised edition updates the Methodist movement's story through 2020, including the social, political, economic, technological, and global disruptions that cause faith communities and denominations to pull apart. *American Methodism Revised and Updated* begins with the explosion of evangelical Pietism and revolutionary Methodism, the First Great Awakening, as an independent nation was formed. It then highlights key 19th century themes and Methodist contributions, such as spreading scriptural holiness through missions and literature, planting tens of thousands of Sunday schools and churches by Circuit Riders, the pivotal Methodist schism between abolitionists and enslavers, the innovative building of schools and hospitals into the next century, and the revivalism of the Second Great Awakening. Finally it explores the movements of 20th century Methodism, including the expansion of home and foreign missions, the Methodist drive for Prohibition, the decision for nationwide reunification on the cusp of World War II, reunification with the United Brethren during the Vietnam War, the Methodist ordination of women during the 1950s, Black Methodist leadership in the 1960s Civil Rights movement, and the liturgical renewal or reformation of worship (ancient and future).

united methodist book of discipline 2019: DENOMINATIONS: FROM GOD OR MAN? Volume Three John F. Lugg, 2025-03-06 Having faith in and believing in the validity of the Scriptures as absolute truth is becoming increasingly critical as we examine these more recent denominations. Paul told Timothy, "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work." (2 Timothy 3:16-17) That was true in Paul's day and continues to be true today. The importance of that belief is revealed in this book, as it contains two groups in particular that have compromised on this passage - the Presbyterian Church, taking the position that Scripture has either no error, or, being written by men, contains much error, with numerous views in between, all views being tolerated and accepted by their Constitution. And the other group, the Methodist Church, who claim, "The Bible's true authority does not lie in its verbal inerrancy or even its factual accuracy ... it's power is not demonstrated in winning arguments but in transforming lives." To properly understand Scripture, Methodists insist one must filter God's Word through a lens of "tradition, reason, and experience." Why are the Scriptures - God's Holy Word, "profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and training in righteousness" not sufficient today? Why are they being accused of lacking factual accuracy? Why the need to filter them to be understood? Seeking an answer to these is but one goal of this third volume - *Denominations: From God or Man?*

united methodist book of discipline 2019: *Christian Social Activism and Rule of Law in Chinese Societies* Chris White, Fenggang Yang, 2021-06-10 Although Christianity has been a minority religion in Chinese societies, Christians have been powerful catalysts of social activism in

seeking to establish democracy and rule of law in mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and diasporic communities. The chapters gathered in this collection reveal the vital influence of Christian individuals and groups on social, political, and legal activism in Chinese societies. Written from a range of disciplinary and geographical perspectives, the chapters develop a coherent narrative of Christian activism that illuminates its specific historical, theological, and cultural contexts. Analyzing campaigns for human rights, universal suffrage, and other political reforms, this volume uncovers the complex dynamics of Christian activism, highlighting its significant contributions to the democratization of Greater China.

united methodist book of discipline 2019: Nevertheless Ashley Boggan, 2025-05-06 2020 marked the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment. While some things have changed, others haven't. This book tells the story of American Methodist women's efforts fight for women's rights, beginning with the Women's Christian Temperance Union and ending with the #MeToo movement. Each chapter documents particular Methodist women and provides the reader with a basic historic context of the time or situation at hand as it shows how Methodist women engaged and fought for women's equality or women's rights in American society and American Methodism. The faith of these Methodist women emboldened them to reach beyond their social confines to find political avenues of social justice. As women engaged in mission, they sought to not simply fix social ills but to prevent them from happening again. They addressed the causes of oppression; and by stepping out of their place, made a place for others.

united methodist book of discipline 2019: The Book of Resolutions of The United Methodist Church 2016 United Methodist Church, 2016-12-16 The Book of Resolutions provides models for applying an active faith to daily life in ways that can impact the world around us. The new Book of Resolutions contains all current social policies adopted by the General Conference of The United Methodist Church. Includes positions on more than 200 subjects, organized into seven sections: The Natural World The Political Community The Nurturing Community The World Community The Social Community The Economic Community Other Resolutions Fully indexed by resolution title, Scripture reference, and topic. Available in English only.

united methodist book of discipline 2019: The Quick and Easy Guide to United Methodist Polity Second Edition Thomas W. Elliott, Jr., Anne L. Burkholder, 2025-07-29 Polity and purpose for ordering our lives for God's mission. Transform your understanding of United Methodist Church governance with this newly updated guide, reflecting the pivotal changes from the 2020/2024 General Conference. Whether you're a seasoned pastor or new to church leadership, this comprehensive resource illuminates the path forward in our shared mission to transform the world for Christ. This invaluable companion features: * Over 250 alphabetized entries, thoughtfully curated from Accessibility to Youth Ministry * Inspiring quotes from John Wesley and Methodist luminaries that connect our past to our present * Clear, practical explanations that bridge theological foundations with everyday church leadership * Precise cross-references to the Book of Discipline, ensuring confident decision-making * Essential tools including a quick-start guide and comprehensive acronym index Perfect for everyone from local pastors to bishops, this guide transforms complex church polity into clear, actionable insights. It's more than a reference—it's your partner in ministry, helping you lead with wisdom, understanding, and purpose in our evolving denominational landscape.

united methodist book of discipline 2019: When Methods Die Jason Villegas, 2025-02-20 When Methods Die: The Writing on the Wall for a Fading Church confronts the complex, often unspoken reality of a church in decline, exploring how traditions and structures that once brought life now contribute to stagnation. With a compassionate but candid voice, Jason Miller-Villegas walks readers through the hallways of a fading institution, inviting them to mourn what's been lost, acknowledge the crisis, and rediscover hope in unexpected places. This book isn't merely about mourning the past—it's a call to embrace transformation, even resurrection, amid death. Each chapter reflects on the layers of legacy, fear, and resilience within the church, urging readers to see the potential for new life that lies in letting go. When Methods Die speaks to pastors, congregants,

and anyone who believes that faith communities can thrive once more—not by clinging to the past, but by courageously stepping into the future.

united methodist book of discipline 2019: The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church 2016 United Methodist Church, 2016-12-21 The church is a community of all true believers under the Lordship of Christ. It is the redeemed and redeeming fellowship in which the Word of God is preached by persons divinely called, and the sacraments are duly administered according to Christ's own appointment. Under the discipline of the Holy Spirit the church seeks to provide for the maintenance of worship, the education of believers, and the redemption of the world. - From the Preamble to the Constitution of The United Methodist Church The product of over 200 years of General Conferences of the denominations that form The United Methodist Church, the Discipline is the current statement of how United Methodists agree to live together. It acknowledges the past and addresses the future. Updated through the actions of the 2016 General Conference, the new Discipline includes a complete listing of bishops from Thomas Coke and Francis Asbury through the 2016 episcopal elections as well as a revised historical statement, an expanded index, and six parts: The Constitution General Book of Discipline Doctrinal Standards and Our Theological Task The Ministry of All Christians Social Principles Organization and Administration

united methodist book of discipline 2019: Abortion Alireza Bagheri, 2021-04-13 Rather than providing a global solution to the problem of abortion—to abort or not to abort—this volume sheds light on different but equally critical dimensions of abortion in global debate and practice. The aim is to elaborate on different value systems and policies in order to empower individuals to make well-informed decisions about abortion guided by moral reflection. The twenty one chapters of this volume are written by distinguished scholars in each of the religious and non-religious schools of thought, offering an exhaustive survey of the differing religious and legal views on abortion within the international community. The contributors present authoritative discussions in favor of or against abortion based on their perspectives and practices. As a result, the content of this book provides a foundational platform for better understanding, meaningful dialogue, and tolerance on a social issue which has divided individuals, philosophers, theologians, policy makers, and legislators within and across societies for centuries.

united methodist book of discipline 2019: New Life in the Risen Christ Jonathan A. Powers, 2023-05-26 Baptism is a foundational rite and sacrament of the church. Over the centuries, the significance of baptism for Christian life and faith has been confirmed by the church, but baptism remains a highly controversial topic. Numerous disagreements exist between denominations and faith traditions—including the various descendants of the original Methodist movement—over the doctrine and practice of baptism. Who can be baptized? Why is baptism done? What does the rite mean? New Life in the Risen Christ: A Wesleyan Theology of Baptism seeks to address confusion over baptism and offer a coherent treatment of the sacrament from a Wesleyan theological perspective. Distinguished scholars from around the world are brought together in this volume to examine the writings of John Wesley and offer scholarly reflections on topics related to the sacrament of baptism. Their work is an invitation to remember and be thankful for baptism as the sign of divine grace that initiates Christians into a new reality: life in the risen Christ.

united methodist book of discipline 2019: Nobody's Perfect Cynthia L. Cameron, Lakisha R. Lockhart-Rusch, Emily A. Peck, 2025-02-25 Adolescents, like everyone else, make mistakes. However, religious educators Cynthia L. Cameron, Lakisha R. Lockhart-Rusch, and Emily A. Peck argue that some youths are born with the privilege of making mistakes in ways that others often are not. They also argue that many Christian education practices that guide our understandings of mistake-making are shaped by gender and gender identity, sexual orientation, and race in ways that disenfranchise some adolescents. In response, Cameron, Lockhart-Rusch, and Peck curate a much-needed conversation that helps religious educators accompany adolescents and better understand mistakes based on a theological framework that names adolescents as fundamentally good. The result is an edited volume that explores ways educators can walk with adolescents so that youth can learn from their mistakes and grow without misunderstanding all mistakes as sin.

Together, these essays seed a theology of adolescent goodness that's rooted in a liberative Christian theological anthropology. Drawing on both qualitative and quantitative research, *Nobody's Perfect* offers nuanced and robust definitions of what a mistake is, apart from definitions of sin. The book also explores the challenges of talking about mistake-making and sin with adolescents within religious institutional contexts that shape policy, pastoral practice, and ministry orientations. Finally, the book presents youths' own voices about how they understand and process what mistake-making looks like in the contexts in which they live and learn. *Nobody's Perfect* is for Christian educators who serve either in the academy or in congregational settings. The book well serves educators who recognize the various cultural and developmental challenges adolescents face when their church communities. The book also offers tools to help such church leaders attend to religious education spaces with a renewed theology that can root a more liberative experience of religious education.

united methodist book of discipline 2019: With All the Fullness of God Jared Ortiz, 2021-01-12 Christians confess that Christ came to save us from sin and death. But what did he save us for? One beautiful and compelling answer to this question is that God saved us for union with him so that we might become "partakers of the divine nature" (1 Pet 2:4), what the Christian tradition has called "deification." This term refers to a particular vision of salvation which claims that God wants to share his own divine life with us, uniting us to himself and transforming us into his likeness. While often thought to be either a heretical notion or the provenance of Eastern Orthodoxy, this book shows that deification is an integral part of Catholicism, Orthodoxy, and many Protestant denominations. Drawing on the resources of their own Christian heritages, eleven scholars share the riches of their respective traditions on the doctrine of deification. In this book, scholars and pastor-scholars from diverse Christian expressions write for both a scholarly and lay audience about what God created us to be: adopted children of God who are called, even now, to "be filled with all the fullness of God" (Eph. 3:19).

united methodist book of discipline 2019: Safer Sanctuaries, 2023-05-01 Since 1998, *Safe Sanctuaries* has been a trusted source of guidance for churches and other affiliated institutions as they work to reduce the risk of abuse in their communities through proven policies and practices. A changing world, however, requires a constant renewal of these trusted strategies along with new and updated approaches to the work of preventing abuse. *Safer Sanctuaries: Nurturing Trust within Faith Communities* builds on the strong foundation of past resources while also inspiring and preparing churches for the work of the future. *Safer Sanctuaries* acknowledges the fears that swirl around the subject of abuse and encourages churches to respond with honesty, open communication, and accountability to the challenges faced in these communities. This approach allows communities to encourage flourishing instead of fear and build welcoming, thriving communities that are open and safe for everyone. The seven sections of this resource walk through the theological grounding of this work, the psychology of abuse prevention, the basic guidelines for risk reduction, age-level specific guidance, step-by-step instructions on designing and implementing a churchwide policy, how to respond to abuse, and an affirmation and encouragement for the work ahead. *Safer Sanctuaries* is also a comprehensive volume that includes chapters with guidance for working with: Nursery-age and preschool children Elementary-age children Youth People with disabilities Older adults Camping and retreat attendees College students Sample forms are also provided for help in screening workers, requesting background checks, checking references, and reporting suspected abuse. Building a safer sanctuary can be a life-giving and community enhancing work of ministry for a congregation. It can be an empowering, joyful way of being in community that promotes the safety and security of all people.

united methodist book of discipline 2019: Countercultural Gil Rendle, 2023-05-08 After decades of anti-institutionalism, here is a book that is honest about the importance of congregations and our need for them in our lives. Despite our lack of trust in institutions, we cannot live without them and still hope to live together in communities, let alone a nation. For important reasons our neighborhood institutions of religion (congregations) hold hope not found in other places. Politics

and the economy have proven themselves gridlocked and incapable of breaking the narratives of fear and scarcity that now divide us. However, to step up into public space in order to offer what they hold as so important to these divided times, leaders of congregations need to understand why they are so countercultural and why being countercultural is an important role to play. This is not a time for congregations to try to fit into the culture and to worry about growing their membership and increasing their finances. It is not a time to let organizational anxieties determine next steps. What is required is courage – leaders courageous enough to speak openly with confidence of what they know, congregations courageous enough to seek new forms with which to offer the ancient wisdom that people still search for. As much as religious institutions are now needed, old forms no longer work in a fast and deeply changing culture. Instead of trying to improve what is already known, this book will provide a way for congregations to thrive and fulfill their purpose by being countercultural.

united methodist book of discipline 2019: The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church United Methodist Church (U.S.), 1988

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