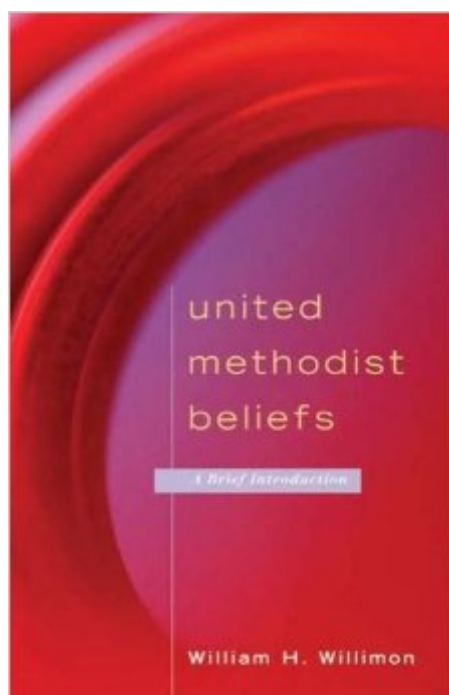


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# United Methodist Beliefs: A Brief Introduction



## Synopsis

This brief introduction spells out the major beliefs of the United Methodist Church in a clear, nontechnical style. William Willimon, the beloved United Methodist author, preacher, teacher, and bishop, discusses the great theological themes that United Methodists share in common with all Christians as well as the particular accents and emphases that characterize United Methodist understandings of Christian doctrines. In his engaging style, Willimon opens the door for further study, challenging the reader to move toward a continuing reflection on their faith. This guide will be of great value to those who are beginning their study of United Methodist beliefs as well as those who have long been in the church and want a helpful way to refresh their understandings of the distinctiveness of United Methodist doctrine.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Although interested in the Methodist denomination (I am not Methodist), I found the author to be a very articulate, thoughtful, apologist for Christianity as a whole. There are very few theologians who are truly intellectual enough, and yet deeply spiritual as well, whom I believe could defend the Christian faith and stand up to any atheist or agnostic in a debate (and I've watched quite a few of these kinds of debates with much embarrassment on Youtube). Yet, William Willimon would be a match for the famed atheists Richard Dawkins or, the now deceased, Christopher Hitchens. In short, this book is a truly insightful and enjoyable read.

This is a great little book for those thinking about joining the Methodists or for those new to the faith. It was extremely helpful to me in my quest for understanding the basic tenets of the Methodist faith. After being a Baptist for most of my life, I wanted to be sure that the Methodist faith was comparable to my lifelong beliefs. This book provided that information without a great deal of technical jargon as is found in some books regarding Christianity. It was an easy read without the feel of a "textbook."

As a late arrival to the Methodist Church, I found this book to be both enlightening and inspiring (even the footnotes were helpful). Frankly, at this stage of my life, I'm not interested in any church that doesn't challenge me to become like Jesus. However, my experience in this tradition so far indicates to me that there are an awful lot of Methodists that are either uninformed or unconvinced by the values and doctrines espoused by Dr. Willimon. Despite that, I remain in this tradition because I'm inspired by the potential for transformation if these beliefs were ever truly practiced. One wonders if the rapid decline in the Methodist church could be reversed simply by Methodists becoming who they say they are. After reading this book, I'm convinced that such a revival could occur just that way.

I teach theology at a middle-of-the-road/progressive United Methodist school; in several courses I try to present classic Christian theology in a clear format. This book fits the bill well. The author and I may disagree on this point or that point, but as I say, the book presents classic theology in a clear way--can't ask for more than that!

Methodist Doctrine isn't the most scintillating of subjectsâ | let's be honest. But Bishop Willimon puts his Southern storytelling abilities to work and makes (what can be) a dull subject come alive. He's practical and yet true to the essence of Wesleyan thought. Great gift for seminarians WHILE IN school, but also a good way for career clergy to brush up on long-forgotten or under utilized doctrinal ideas.

Have you ever attempted to read the Book of Discipline (Methodist Doctrine)? If you are Methodist, studying Methodism or just like church theology, then this book offers a clear view on Methodism from the perspective of a lifelong Methodist and bishop. Find out just why John Wesley "accidentally" created a new Christian denomination that actually lives up to the call of Christ! Methodists, read this book and you can't help but fall in love with John Wesley and Methodism all over again.

I found this book to be very informative. I am a basic Lay Speaker in the United Methodist Church. I used this book recently to help me write a sermon.

A bit strident but well written.

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