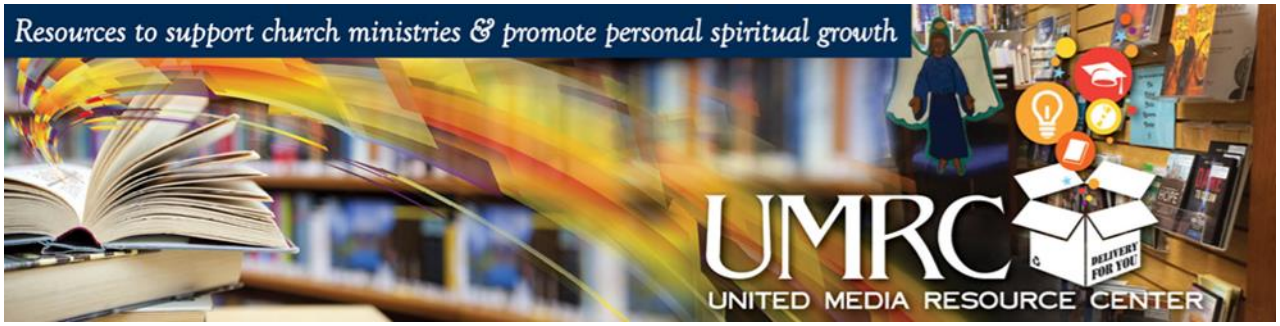
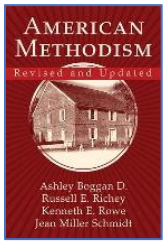


United Methodist history and theology books (selected titles)

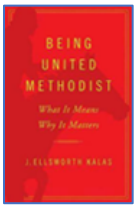
available to borrow from the **United Media Resource Center** http://www.igrc.org/umrc
Contact us at umrc@igrc.org or search for and request items using the online catalog



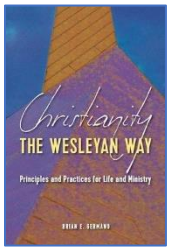
AMERICAN METHODISM: A COMPACT HISTORY, REVISED AND UPDATED (822042) Author: Boggan, Ashley; Richey, Russell; Rowe, Kenneth; Schmidt, Jean Miller. Covering the years of 1760–2022, this comprehensive and readable book is for students, scholars, and others who are interested in learning about the historical and ongoing Methodist movement. It can be used independently or as a companion to the following books, also available from the UMRC: Methodist Experience in America: A History (#811061) and Methodist Experience in America: A Sourcebook (#811062). 410 Pages.



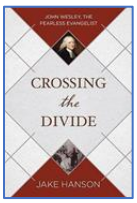
BEING A CHRISTIAN IN THE WESLEYAN TRADITION (809032) Author: Gooch, John. Belonging, Believing, Living, Growing. The author explores our everyday understanding of what it means to be an involved member of a church. Includes questions for reflection. 126 Pages.



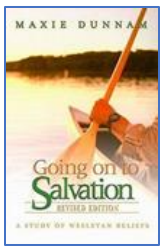
BEING UNITED METHODIST: WHAT IT MEANS, WHY IT MATTERS (812133) Author: Kalas, J. Ellsworth. Chapters: How it all began; A village that made a difference; How to be exclusively inclusive; A people of head and heart; What Methodists believe; A people moving to perfection; The redeemed person in an unredeemed society; Singing like a Methodist; How Methodism became America's church; Methodism and her several children; Methodism today; What is the future of Methodism? Includes discussion questions for group study. Larger than average print. 165 Pages.



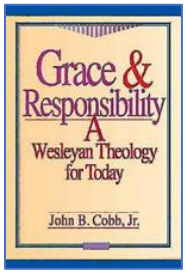
CHRISTIANITY THE WESLEYAN WAY: PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES FOR LIFE AND MINISTRY (820081) Author: Germano, Brian. An overview of the life and theology of John Wesley and the distinctives of Methodism with application for ministry. What does it mean to be and live as a Methodist? What is unique about a Wesleyan way of believing and practicing Christianity? And what can the life and ministry of John Wesley teach us about living a faithful Christian life? Chapters: The spiritual context of Wesley's England; The life and legacy of John Wesley and the Early Methodists; Turning to God – the work of prevenient grace; Becoming a Christian – the work of justifying grace; Growing in salvation – the work of sanctifying grace; The means of grace; The sacraments; Characteristics of a Wesleyan life and ministry. Includes discussion questions and index. 294 Pages.



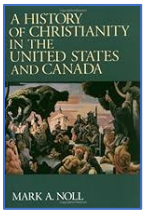
CROSSING THE DIVIDE: JOHN WESLEY, THE FEARLESS EVANGELIST (816089) Author: Hanson, Jake. How can Christians today reach a world that is becoming increasingly intolerant to the teachings of the church? John Wesley navigated a hostile environment in 18th-century England and forged his ministry in the midst of mobs, riots, and angry diatribes. Yet this fearless evangelist found a way to reach the very enemies in need of transformation with a heart of peace and compassion. This book explores John Wesley's life and what we can learn from him. Larger than average print. 253 Pages.



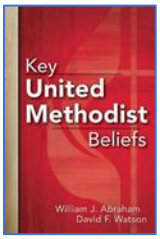
GOING ON TO SALVATION: A STUDY OF WESLEYAN BELIEFS (809033) Author: Dunnam, Maxie D. Drawing deeply on biblical and Wesleyan sources, the author leads his readers on a rich and challenging tour of what it means to say that we are going on to salvation -- saved by grace. Chapter titles: 1) The keystone -- salvation by faith; 2) Amazing grace; 3) Sin -- there's nothing original about it!; 4) But no one can be perfect! Who says?; 5) Assurance -- the privilege of all believers; 6) The church -- the dwelling place of wonder; 7) Holiness of heart and life; 8) Style -- some distinctive marks of a United Methodist; 9) Discipline and means of grace; 10) A response to Calvinism. Each chapter includes questions for personal reflection and questions for group sharing. Revised Edition. 157 Pages.



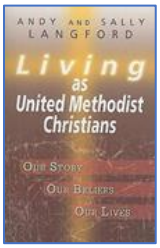
GRACE AND RESPONSIBILITY: A WESLEYAN THEOLOGY FOR TODAY (817198) Author: Cobb, John. Chapters: Making connections; God and the world; Love and faith; The way of salvation I - God's pardon; The way of salvation II - God's transformative work; The role of law; Openness to difference; The Wesleyan quadrilateral. Includes index. 192 Pages.



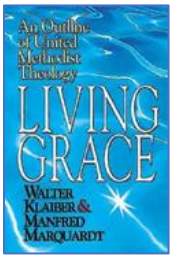
HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY IN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA (819017) Author: Noll, Mark. Chapters: European expansion and Catholic settlement; The English Reformation and the Puritans; Other beginnings; A renewal of piety 1700-1750; The churches in the Revolution; The Revolution in the churches; Evangelical mobilization; Outsiders; Evangelical America 1800-1865; His dominion - Christian Canada; The last years of Protestant America 1865-1918; The Civil War; Non-white, non-Protestant; Protestantism shaken; Legacies of Christian America; Turbulent decades; Trends; Communities; Personalities, leaders, exemplars; American Christianity, Christianity in America. Includes bibliography and index. 576 Pages.



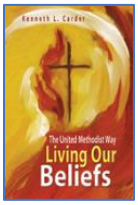
KEY UNITED METHODIST BELIEFS (815033) Author: Abraham, William and Watson, David. Chapters: Who is God the Father?; Who is God the Son?; Who is God the Holy Spirit?; What are human beings?; What is sin?; What is salvation?; What is the Church?; What are the sacraments?; What are the Bible and creeds?; How should Wesleyans live?; Embracing new life. Includes questions for reflection or discussion. *2016 UMW Reading Program: Spiritual Growth 159 Pages.



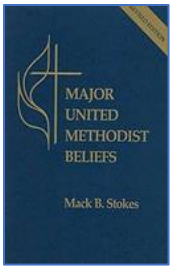
LIVING AS UNITED METHODIST CHRISTIANS: OUR STORY, OUR BELIEFS, OUR LIVES (811003) Author: Langford, Andy and Sally. Chapter titles: What is our biblical story?; What do we share with other Christians?; What is our United Methodist story?; What do United Methodists believe?; How do United Methodists serve God and neighbor?; How do United Methodists live and worship? Includes leader helps for a small-group study. 118 Pages.



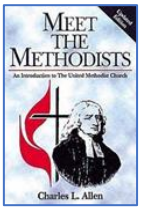
LIVING GRACE: AN OUTLINE OF UNITED METHODIST THEOLOGY (816235) Author: Klaiber, Walter and Marquardt, Manfred. This book provides a methodical exposition of the Methodist Church's theological identity. Topics include: God's self-revelation as an expression of God's love; The Holy Scriptures as the foundation for theology; Methodist doctrine as a theology for praxis; God's loving care in God's creative activity; God's loving care in God's reconciling acts; God's loving care in God's renewing actions; Liberation for hearing and conversion; The renewal to live in God; God's renewing presence in the world; The community as the creation of the love of God; The church as the mission of God; The church in the world; and more. Includes bibliography, and name, subject, and biblical citations indexes. 538 Pages.



LIVING OUR BELIEFS: THE UNITED METHODIST WAY, REVISED EDITION (812056) Author: Carder, Kenneth L. Chapter titles: Why a United Methodist?; God versus idols; The God Whose life we share; Made in God's image; The divine image distorted; Reconciled and transformed by grace; Living and growing in grace; Means of grace -- nurturing relationship with God; Church--a called and committed people; Doctrinal faithfulness and continuing exploration; A new heaven and a new earth. Includes discussion questions. 160 Pages.



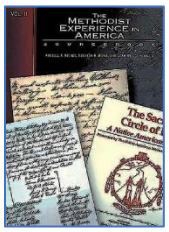
MAJOR UNITED METHODIST BELIEFS: REVISED EDITION (804351) Author: Stokes, Mack B. Chapter titles: United Methodism's enduring significance; We believe in the Bible; We believe in God; We believe in Jesus Christ; We believe in the Holy Spirit; We believe in people; We believe in the cross; We believe in the forgiveness of sins; We believe in victory through disciplined living; We believe in the centrality of love; We believe in conversion, assurance, and scriptural holiness; We believe in the church; We believe in the Kingdom of God; We believe in the life everlasting; Some United Methodist perspectives. Includes a study guide. 158 Pages.



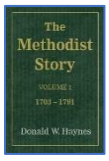
MEET THE METHODISTS: UPDATED EDITION (804353) Author: Allen, Charles. An Introduction to The United Methodist Church. Chapter titles: The church; The United Methodist Church; Methodism in America; What United Methodists believe; A singing church; The United Methodist Church and social concerns; The United Methodist Church government; United Methodism's world mission. Includes a study guide. 95 Pages.



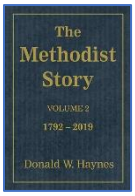
METHODIST EXPERIENCE IN AMERICA: A HISTORY (811061) Author: Richey, Russell; Rowe, Kenneth; Schmidt, Jean Miller. Beginning in 1760, this comprehensive history charts the growth and development of the Methodist and Evangelical United Brethren church family up to and through the year 2000. This Narrative volume has been constructed to be used with the Sourcebook (also available from the UMRC, #811062). Includes index. 699 Pages.



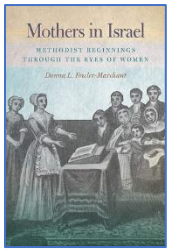
METHODIST EXPERIENCE IN AMERICA: A SOURCEBOOK (811062) Author: Richey, Russell; Rowe, Kenneth; Schmidt, Jean Miller. This volume, part of a two-volume set, contains documents from between 1760 and 1998 pertaining to the movements constitutive of American United Methodism. The editors identify more than two hundred documents by date, primary agent, and central theme or important action. The documents are organized on a strictly chronological basis, by the date of the significant action in the excerpt. Charts, graphs, timelines, and graphics are also included. The Sourcebook has been constructed to be used with the Narrative volume (also available from the UMRC, #811061). 716 Pages.



METHODIST STORY VOLUME 1: 1703-1791 (819125) Author: Haynes, Donald. Chapters: The times in Britain during Wesley's ministry; Geo-politics during Wesley's ministry; The Wesley family and John Wesley; Oxford - the first rise of Methodism; Georgia - the second rise of Methodism; Aldersgate - the third rise of Methodism; Methodism is born, takes unique shape; Movement meets opposition - grows, spreads; Early Methodist structures; Early connectional innovations; Methodism in England in Wesley's later years. Includes bibliography. Larger than average print. 243 Pages.

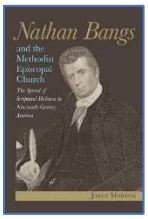


METHODIST STORY VOLUME 2: 1792-2019 (IN AMERICA) (819126) Author: Haynes, Donald. Chapters: Lay preachers emigrating voluntarily; Wesley sends lay preachers to America; Peace - a new nation and a new church; The Methodist Episcopal Church; Methodism of the Asbury era - 1784-1816; Methodism of the post-Asbury era; Racial identity, reform and divisions; The message, method and mission of Methodism; The General Conference of 1844; Civil War apocalypse; Methodist theologies of ministry with African Americans; American Methodist rapprochement; Doctrinal divide - the holiness movement; Late nineteenth century mainstream theology; Church extension and missionary emphasis; Methodism meets social ills; 'The academy' as shaper of Methodist theology; Twentieth century denominational development; The rediscovery of John Wesley; The path to unification - 1869-1939; The Methodist Church - 1930-1968; The United Methodist Church - 1968-2019; 2019 - the way forward. Larger than average print. 225 Pages.



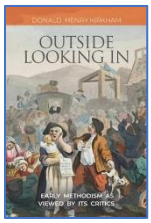
MOTHERS IN ISRAEL: METHODIST BEGINNINGS THROUGH THE EYES OF WOMEN (821052) Author: Fowler-Marchant, Donna. Women's stories have often been consigned to the footnotes of history, making it necessary to read them into the narrative based on scanty clues and tantalizing breadcrumbs that sometimes raise more questions than answers. Conversely, when there a written record does exist, it has often been suppressed and/or repackaged downplaying their contributions. Yet in their own time and because of their leadership and exemplary courage, these women were called "Mothers in Israel"—a designation that hearkens back to the biblical Deborah. And Wesley used the language of home and family to represent his ideal vision for a community of believers. What compelled these strong, intelligent, pious women to stand fast in the face of obstacles? How did their faith give them a firm foundation on which to stand? And what were the reactions and roles of the significant men in their lives in either encouraging or impeding them in their ministries? Exploring their stories reveals a legacy of shared spiritual qualities that can still stir and inspire us. Chapters: Introduction; Susanna Annesley Wesley and the beginnings of Methodism – able divine and preacher of righteousness; An overview of women's roles in early Methodism – the backbone of early Methodism; Mary Bosanquet and her circle of friends –

faithfully keeping a record; New directions in ministry – the closing of Cross Hall; Mary Bosanquet Fletcher's legacy – mentoring other women. 171 Pages.

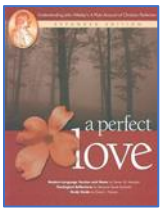


NATHAN BANGS AND THE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH (820024) Author: Maddox, Jared. To know the story of Nathan Bangs (1778 – 1862) is to understand American Methodism between the death of Francis Asbury and the Civil War. During the nineteenth century, the Methodist Episcopal Church transformed from an alternative society into a middle-class, mainstream denomination. While some scholars attribute Bangs with a desire for respectability, this book argues that respectability might have been more the result of Bang's mission to spread scriptural holiness than the cause. By documenting his life, ministry, and ecclesial leadership, this book shows how Nathan Bangs made Methodism more effective and helped it live into its missionary ethos by introducing standards and standardization. Includes bibliography and index. 160 Pages.

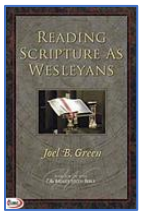
ONE HUNDRED AND ONE METHODIST STORIES (819029) Author: Price, Carl. Printed in 1938, this book includes a collection of one-page anecdotes and stories about the Wesleyan adventurers who made early Methodism so thrilling. Includes index. 111 Pages.



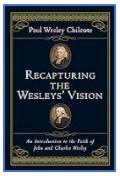
OUTSIDE LOOKING IN: EARLY METHODISM AS VIEWED BY ITS CRITICS (820150) Author: Kirkham, Donald Henry. This book examines eighteenth-century pamphlet attacks on early Methodism, which came from all sides--the episcopacy, clergy, other Christian groups, universities, Wesley's ex-preachers, ex-Methodist laity, the Calvinist branch of Methodism, and the secular community. Chapters: Introduction; Source of anti-Methodist pamphlet attacks; The Methodist caricature; Doctrinal deviation; Innovative practices; Social upheaval; The church in danger; Methodism and politics; Methodists at worship; Calvinist 'elect' and Arminian 'saint' at war; Epilogue. Includes index. 358 Pages.



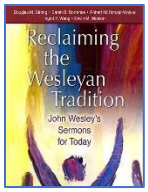
PERFECT LOVE: EXPANDED EDITION (804053) Author: Whited, Linda R. and Harris, Cindy S., editors. Understanding John Wesley's 'A Plain Account of Christian Perfection.' Modern-language version and notes by Steven Manskar. Theological reflections by Marjorie Suchocki. Study guide for individuals and small groups by Diana Hynson. 144 Pages.



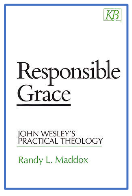
READING SCRIPTURE AS WESLEYANS (816096) Author: Green, Joel. This book explores John Wesley's understanding of and teachings from selected New Testament books: Gospel of Matthew, Gospel of Mark, Gospel of Luke, Gospel of John, Acts of the Apostles, Romans, 1-2 Corinthians, Hebrews, James and 1 Peter, 1 John, and Revelation. Includes questions for discussion and reflection, bibliography, and Scripture index. 186 Pages.



RECAPTURING THE WESLEYS' VISION (804051) Author: Chilcote, Paul Wesley. An Introduction to the Faith of John and Charles Wesley. Part I: The Message (Kerygma). Part II: The Community (Koinonia). Part III: The Discipline (Paideia). Part IV: The Servanthood (Diakonia). The author provides a full and clear introduction to the dynamic faith of John and Charles Wesley and illuminates the vital balance they found in Christian teaching that brings together faith and works, Word and Spirit, the personal and the social, the head and the heart, mission and service. 125 Pages.

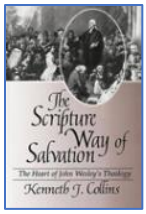


RECLAIMING THE WESLEYAN TRADITION: JOHN WESLEY'S SERMONS FOR TODAY (807230) Author: Strong, Dorrance, McDonald-Walker, Wang, Watson. This book offers, in a user-friendly style, thirteen lessons covering the Wesleyan 'scriptural way to salvation.' This study will not only help you appreciate the basic tenets of John Wesley's theology, but it will open portals for deep spiritual growth. In addition to study guide suggestions for each lesson, the authors supplement each sermon with a wealth of helpful notes, hymns, prayer, and commentary. 176 Pages.

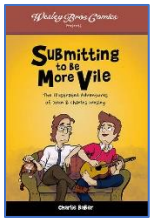


RESPONSIBLE GRACE: JOHN WESLEY'S PRACTICAL THEOLOGY (819093) Author: Maddox, Randy. Chapters: Human knowledge of the God of responsible grace; The God of responsible grace; Humanity's need and God's initial restoring grace; Christ - the initiative of responsible grace; Holy Spirit - the presence of responsible grace; Grace and response - the nature of human salvation; The way of salvation - grace upon grace; The means of grace and response; The triumph of responsible grace. Includes indexes and bibliography. 416 Pages.

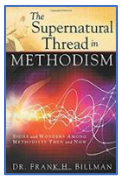
SANCTITY WITHOUT STARCH: A LAYPERSON'S GUIDE TO A WESLEYAN THEOLOGY OF GRACE (808039) Author: Tuttle, Robert G., Jr. Chapter titles: Original righteousness; Original sin; Prevenient grace; Infant baptism; Actual sin; Justifying grace; Justification; The new birth; Sanctifying grace; The fruit of the Spirit; The gifts of the Holy Spirit; Sanctification; Against a new legalism. Drawing on his experience as a pastor, evangelist, and professor, the author uses wit, wisdom, and humor to help Christians see how God's grace works in everyday life. Includes discussion questions. 203 Pages.



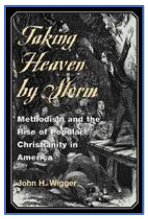
SCRIPTURE WAY OF SALVATION (804043) Author: Collins, Kenneth J. The Heart of John Wesley's Theology. Chapter titles: Grace, creation, and the fall of humanity; Convincing grace and initial repentance; Justification by grace through faith; Regeneration by grace through faith; The doctrine of Christian assurance; Sanctification by grace through faith; Final justification. 256 Pages.



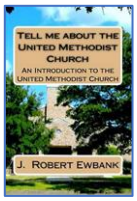
SUBMITTING TO BE MORE VILE: THE ILLUSTRATED ADVENTURES OF JOHN AND CHARLES WESLEY (819137) Author: Baber, Charlie. In this collection of comics, author Charlie Baber explores the lives of John and Charles Wesley and Methodist theology. Each chapter includes material for classroom discussion. For more information go to https://www.wesleybros.com/ 191 Pages.



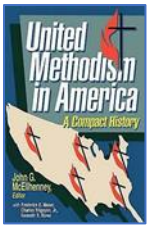
SUPERNATURAL THREAD IN METHODISM: SIGNS AND WONDERS AMONG METHODISTS THEN AND NOW (816113) Author: Billman, Frank. Dr. Frank H Billman explores the divine supernatural element involved in the shaping and growth of the Methodist church. Presenting historical information alongside contemporary accounts of remarkable signs and wonders among Methodists around the world, he reminds us that God is able and willing to use ordinary people to accomplish His extraordinary purposes. Includes bibliography194 Pages.



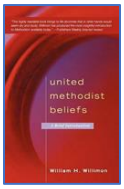
TAKING HEAVEN BY STORM: METHODISM AND THE RISE OF POPULAR CHRISTIANITY IN AMERICA (816044) Author: Wigger, John. Chapters: The emergence of American Methodism; The Methodist connection; The Methodist itinerant; The social principle; A boiling hot religion; Slavery and African-American Methodism; Sisters and mothers in Israel; Methodism transformed. Includes illustrations and index. 269 Pages.



TELL ME ABOUT THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (816112) Author: Ewbank, J. Robert. Designed to be a help in membership training and for church members who want to better understand the church, this book discusses the organization, history, and beliefs of the United Methodist Church. It also discusses what we are to do as members of the church. Told in story format, the information is presented through the discussions of a fictional membership class. Each chapter includes a Scripture passage, a prayer, and discussion questions. An annotated bibliography is also provided. 194 Pages.



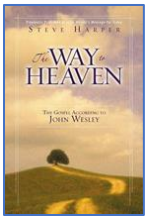
UNITED METHODISM IN AMERICA: A COMPACT HISTORY (817170) Author: McEllhenney, John G. This book offers a panoramic view of the forces and personalities that shaped The United Methodist Church in the United States. Chapters: Beginnings in America - 1735 to 1773; Events leading to a new church - 1773 to 1784; The early progress of the churches of United Methodism - 1784 - 1816; Growth and development - 1816 to 1843; Slavery, division, and Civil War - 1843 to 1865; New challenges - 1865 to 1913; Maturity and status in the new century - 1913 to 1939; Programmed churches and social ferment - 1939 to 1968; Merger and reappraisal at midcentury - 1968 to 1984; Holding fast/pressing on - 1984 to 1992. Includes bibliography and index. 171 Pages.



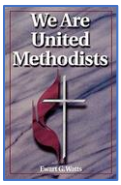
UNITED METHODIST BELIEFS: A BRIEF INTRODUCTION (807142) Author: Willimon, William H. Chapter titles: We believe in the triune God; We believe in salvation through Jesus Christ; We believe in the Holy Spirit; We believe in Christ's universal church; We believe in practicing theology; We believe in transforming and perfecting grace; We believe in faith and good works; We believe in the coming of God's realm and reign to the world; Thinking like Wesleyans. Includes name and Scripture indexes. 131 Pages.



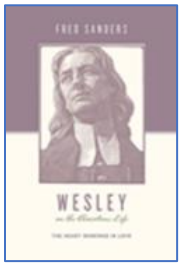
UNITED METHODIST DOCTRINE: THE EXTREME CENTER (815093) Author: Jones, Scott J. Part 1: United Methodist Doctrine as Christian Doctrine -- The shape of United Methodist doctrine; The nature of United Methodist doctrine. Part 2: The Teaching of The United Methodist Church -- The triune God; Scripture alone, yet never alone; Creation, sin, law, grace, and redemption; Justification by grace through faith; Sanctification, Christian perfection, and the last judgment; Social justice as sanctification; Means of grace. Part 3: The Goal of Doctrine -- Preaching and maintaining United Methodist doctrine. Includes bibliography and index. 311 Pages.



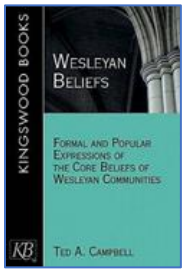
WAY TO HEAVEN: THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN WESLEY (816116) Author: Harper, Steve. An updated and expanded version of "John Wesley's Message for Today," this book provides an overview of John Wesley's theology. Chapter titles: A pilgrim on the way; The root of the problem (original sin); The power to begin (prevenient grace); The turning point (converting grace); Transformation (effects of salvation); Don't stop now (growth in grace); The heart of it all (Christian perfection); The end of the journey (glorification); All together now (the church); Vision and means; Regeneration, renewal, and reform; To serve the present age. Includes questions for reflection and discussion and a bibliography. 159 Pages.



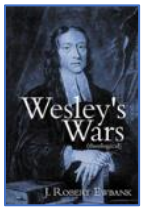
WE ARE UNITED METHODISTS: REVISED EDITION (804350) Author: Watts, Ewart. This book is intended to help United Methodists learn about and celebrate who we are, what we do, and what we believe by looking at where we have been, where we are now, and where we are going. Includes a study guide. 79 Pages.



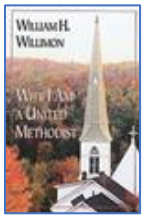
WESLEY ON THE CHRISTIAN LIFE: THE HEART RENEWED IN LOVE (817018) Author: Sanders, Fred. Looking at the life of John Wesley and the times he lived in, the author provides an introduction to John Wesley's theology and spirituality. Chapters: John Wesley as a spiritual guide; Born again (and the pastor who wasn't); Heart religion; The theologian of 1 John; The Lord Our Righteousness; Grace first, then law; The means of grace; Saved to the uttermost; Catholic spirit; The Trinitarian theology of John Wesley. Includes Scripture and general indexes. 262 Pages.



WESLEYAN BELIEFS: FORMAL AND POPULAR EXPRESSIONS OF THE CORE BELIEFS OF WESLEYAN COMMUNITIES (816090) Author: Campbell, Ted. Chapter titles: John Wesley and common Christian beliefs; John Wesley's claims about distinctively Methodist beliefs; Charles Wesley and the transmission of Wesleyan beliefs; Beliefs about God in Wesleyan communities; Beliefs about the 'way of salvation' after the Wesleys; Beliefs about the church in Wesleyan communities; Fourteen core beliefs of Wesleyan communities. Includes bibliography and index. 318 Pages.



WESLEY'S WARS (THEOLOGICAL) (816115) Author: Ewbank, J. Robert. This book examines how John Wesley defended his beliefs against opposing opinions. Chapter titles: Original sin; The prevenient grace of God; Good works, active holiness and means of grace; John Wesley and the Church of England; Christian perfection; The Catholic church. Includes a study guide and bibliography. 217 Pages.



WHY I AM A UNITED METHODIST (819020) Author: Willimon, William H. William Willimon examines United Methodism and the ways it has made and continues to make a difference in his life. Chapters: Because religion is of the heart; Because the Bible is our book; Because religion is practical; Because Christians are to worship; Because Christians are to witness; Because Christians are to grow; Because religion is not a private affair. Includes index and discussion questions. 128 Pages.