The United Methodist Primer

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helps participants gain an understanding of the distinctive traditions and emphases of the united methodist church

by water and the spirit a 6 session study guide for use in small groups contains the full text of the paper by water and the spirit which describes the united methodist understanding of baptism approved by the 1996 general conference this booklet serves as a resource for congregational leaders who are helping members make connections between the baptismal covenant and discipleship in daily life

examines religion in the united states today with nineteen essays in the first section that discuss religious creeds from the major established groups to cults and an almanac in the second section with statistics opinion polls documents and sociological resumes

a comprehensive introduction to various forms of american methodism exploring the beliefs and practices around which the lives of these churches have revolved

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

is religion disappearing from american life less than 50 percent of americans now hold membership in any religious institution and even fewer attend worship services the decline in christian churches is especially pronounced among the young and cuts across all denominations but for methodists and like minded protestants concerns are deeper than shrinking denominational membership polls show disconcerting ignorance about religious and spiritual matters even among churchgoers our values as a society are in large measure molded by religion what shape will protestant christianity take in the twenty first century and of methodism and beyond that what kind of community will we be dawsey proposes returning to the roots of christianity and with anecdotes and stories and a sweeping grasp of church history he examines those essential practices and beliefs

necessary to revitalize american churches key he argues is rediscovering christianity as a philosophy of living john wesley characterized the practice of religion as first doing no harm second doing good and third keeping the ordinances of faith loving god and god s creation the doing of christianity marks the path for becoming the churches and individuals christians were called to be

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