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Burkholder and Elliotts' "Quick and easy guide to United Methodist polity" (book review)

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Book Reviews



Burkholder, A. L. & Elliott, Jr., T. W. (2018). *Quick and easy guide to United Methodist polity*. Nashville: Wesley's Foundery Books. 219 pp. \$24.99. ISBN 9781945935121

Polity describes the structure of a church or groupings of churches and how they are to operate, creating or reaffirming understandings of authority. The United Methodist's *Book of Discipline* is the resource that Methodists have over the years gathered all the rules, disciplines and methods for the ways they worship and get along with and understand each other and agree to function in particular ways. As time has passed, this central book has grown now to hundreds of pages. Therefore, there is a greater need for this "Quick and Easy" guide, which has chapters with titles that run alphabetically from "Accessibility" to "Youth/Young Adult Ministry." Having such a handy and well-laid out resource for accessing the details on how United Methodists should run their churches and cooperate on faith-building activities will make it easier for laymen and clergy to research the finer details on how their churches, particularly from North America, should be run as well as their basic beliefs.

This book, then, functions as an annotated index for the United Methodist's *Book of Discipline* and serves as a help to beginners to understand their pastoral ministry functions, to aid in their course of study and seminary courses that touch on their polity practices. Each entry in the alphabetical order follows the same pattern: 1) It begins with a relevant quotation from interesting historical resources; 2) An explanation or definition of the entry; 3) A descriptive paragraph which provides history and context explaining what United Methodists believe and why they act like they do; 4) Each entry ends with a see-also reference to additional sources of information; 5) Many entries include italicized words which are terms that have been included as entries in the guide; and 6) Commonly used acronyms and abbreviations for agencies and resources of the Church that are listed on pages xxix-xxx.

This resource, then, should be appropriate for all librarians who make selection choices for religious academic libraries that want to have a well-laid-out resource that adds greatly to the understanding of this denomination.

Reviewer

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