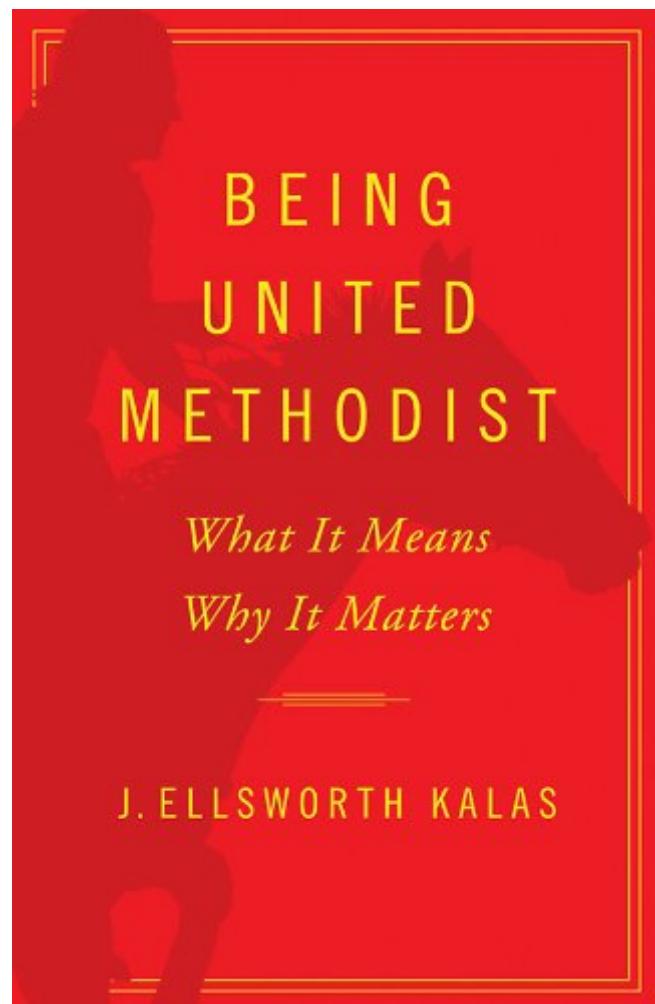


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# Being United Methodist: What It Means, Why It Matters



## **Synopsis**

In *Being Methodist*, popular and well-loved J. Ellsworth Kalas uses his approachable style to address a topic that sometimes seems complicated even to those who have practiced it for years. In this book, Kalas explores questions such as Who are these people called Methodists? Where have they come from, and where are they going? And how is it that so few of them really know what it means to be a Methodist? What makes them tick, and in a spasmodically changing world, what keeps them ticking?

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

In "Being United Methodist," Dr. Kalas' chapters have an irresistible quality of warmth to them; it's as though he's called us into the living room after a family dinner saying, "Gather round, and let me tell you a story." We cannot resist - we hang on to each word of that steadily developing story, and we cannot put the book down until the chapter reaches its gracious and satisfying conclusion. Dr. Kalas develops the Methodist story with passion and interest. His scholarship is thorough and meticulous, although he deftly conceals that fact. Unlike some other Methodist books, which may be heavy on

detail and light on interesting moments, Dr. Kalas' book unfolds with steady and engaging dramatic direction. He recounts the Methodist story as an adventure, looking back for the illuminating moments, and looking forward with a visionary eye. He casts a strong vision for where we can go from the foundations of where we've been. "Being United Methodist" is an engaging and most enjoyable book, wonderful as a discussion starter, study resource, or for personal reflection and refreshment. Reading this author's work is like taking a walk at the seashore: enjoyable in itself; but walk, don't run, dear reader. There are treasures to be found near every footstep - or rather, in every sentence along the way. Watch for them. Savor them. Read this book, and you'll know why it's good to be a Methodist. The Rev. Dr. Anthony J. Godlefski, Pastor, Montgomery UMC, Belle Mead, NJ

Delivers exactly what the title promises. No one delivers information in a balanced measured manner than Dr. Kalas. Listen to anything this good man writes or says.

This provided information of which I had not been previously aware. I found it helpful in understand the Methodist religion

Written by a Methodist minister of 50 years. Kalas provides a historical perspective of the Methodist Church, with its genesis in England and its beginnings in America. Then proceeds to give a synopsis of what the Methodist church believes, it's values, mission, and culture. He then closes with what I believe to be a very humble opinion about the current state of the United Methodist Church and where he thinks it may be headed. The one trait that stands out to me the most throughout this book is its humility. Kalas doesn't pretend to have all the answers. This isn't a glorification of the UMC. He tells it like it is, both the good and the bad. And, that is what I like most about this book and perhaps what is the character of the UMC. I highly recommend this book to those who are first beginning to look into the United Methodist Church, and for seasoned parishioners of the UMC who simply want to know more about it.

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