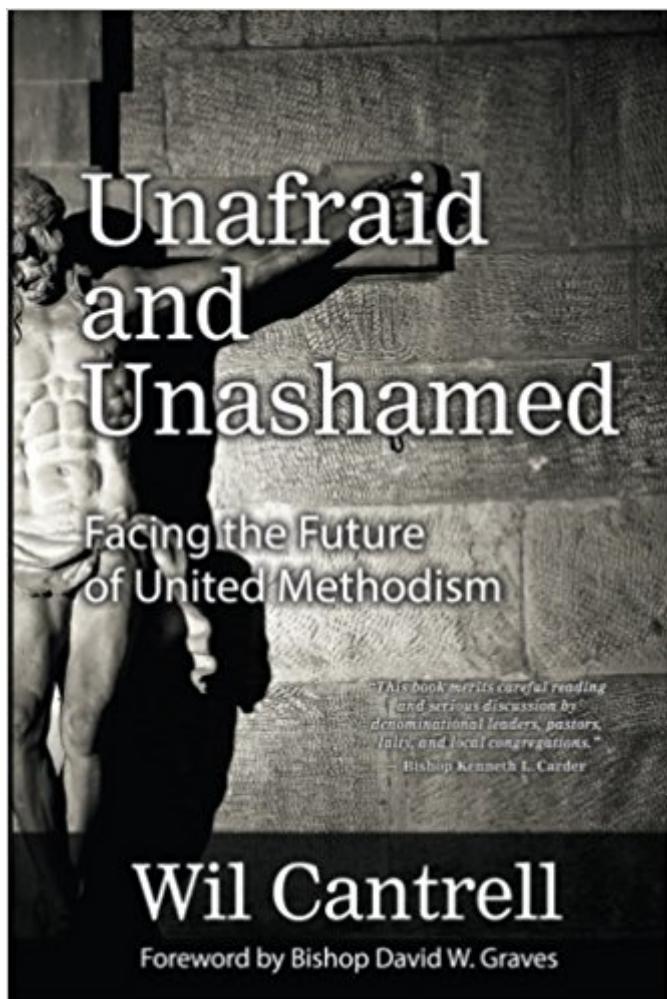


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# Unafraid And Unashamed: Facing The Future Of United Methodism



## **Synopsis**

Nothing is needed more in the contentious dialogue surrounding human sexuality that threatens the unity of the United Methodist Church than a resource created to nurture the souls of all United Methodists. Through an unflinching look at the challenges facing United Methodism, *Unafrican & Unashamed* by Wil Cantrell, cultivates faith, respect for disparate opinions, appreciation for the Wesleyan means of grace and commitment to the church. *Unafrican & Unashamed* has been developed to aid local pastors in effectively communicating the issues facing the denomination in a manner that strengthens the church. It is a great resource for any United Methodist seeking a clear understanding of the challenges and opportunities before us.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Wil Cantrell has represented the Holston Conference as a delegate to the General Conference of the United Methodist Church in 2012 and 2016 and the Executive Committee of the World Methodist Council from 2001-2005. He currently serves on the pastoral team at Concord United Methodist Church in Knoxville, TN. Wil's driving passion is to help people live an authentic life while experiencing a real growing faith in Jesus Christ. Prior to serving at Concord, Wil was the pastor of Lebanon Memorial United Methodist Church in Lebanon, Virginia where he helped start the Recovery at Lebanon ministry, which grew into one of the largest church-based recovery ministries in the region. Wil is an avid runner and a sub-3 hour marathoner.

This book is written to fellow Methodists by a former pastor of mine confronting the possible

upcoming schism in the Methodist church over the LGBTQ issue. Full of background material of how the issues have developed and been "handled" thus far. Strong read for those in the church and those outside Methodism who may also be confronted with this issue as society presses onward. Good, informative, prayerful read.

Beginning with a brief analysis of the main positions of traditionalists, progressives and centrists the author goes on to suggest an alternative view of the issues that does not depend on position. A good read for all, though mostly UMC, regarding a Way Forward for the UMC in the next century.

As a student of religion, I was hoping to get a rigorous theological overview of Methodism and LGBTQ issues. Instead, I was deeply disappointed. Cantrell spends the first half of his book with a bizarre and off topic football analogy, and an overview of current positions on sexuality within the UMC. These chapters were very common sense and added no real meat. But that's the real problem with the book- Cantrell spends an entire book bemoaning the point that we need to come together as a creative community to work on the questions of LGBTQ theology seriously and with an open mind. It takes over one hundred pages to make such a simple and non-nuanced "argument"? Totally let down. And the long-winded, over-simplified analogies made me realize I was reading a book less suited for a modern theologian and more apropos for a Christian middle school or early high school student. Really wish I had not spent the money on this. Do not believe the positive reviews!

A well balanced look at a critical issue that threatens to divide The United Methodist Church. Without taking sides the author charts a way forward based on Christian love and mutual respect for deeply held theological differences.

A must-read for anyone who is concerned with the ministry of the United Methodist Church. Rev. Cantrell guides us through where we are, how we got here and the issues that confront our future.

Honest, humane, fair look at a subject that is so difficult for all concerned. Whether people will be able to follow his urging to listen, to be respectful of disagreement is hard to say...

Every United Methodist, no matter where you come down on this divisive issue, needs to read this book! Our adult SS class will use this book to stimulate our discussion this summer. (1st UMC,

Lafayette, CO.)

Well researched, well written and unbiased. Plus it's an easy read. Well done!

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