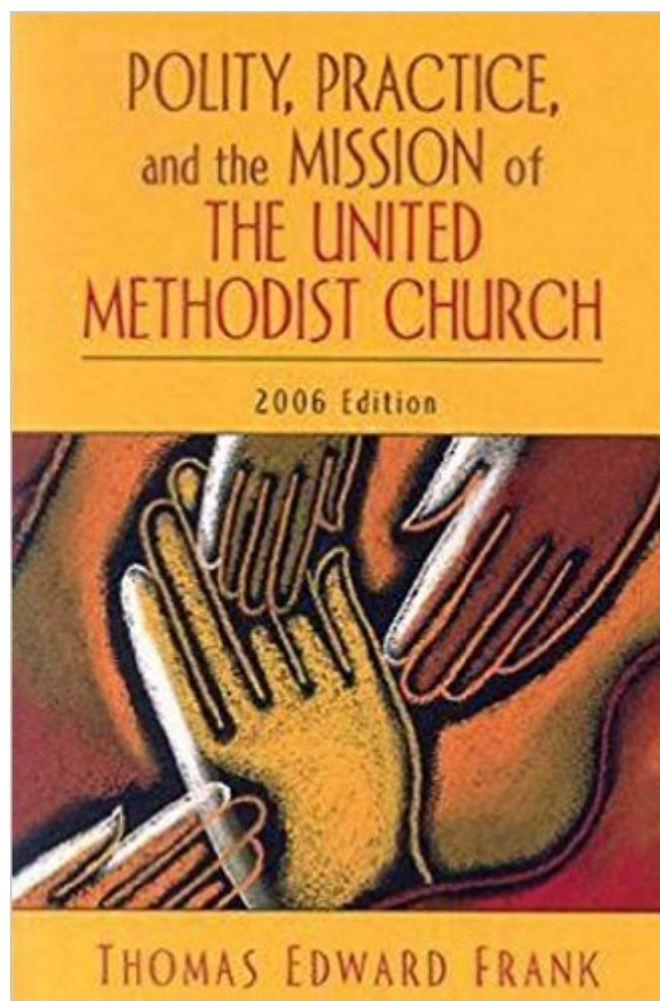


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# Polity, Practice, And The Mission Of The United Methodist Church: 2006 Edition



## Synopsis

"Commissioned by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry for use in United Methodist doctrine/polity/history courses." This in-depth analysis of the connection between United Methodist polity and theology addresses ways in which historical developments have shaped--and continue to shape--the organization of the church. This revised edition incorporates the actions of The United Methodist General Conference, 2004. The book discusses continuing reforms of the church's plan for baptism and church membership, as well as the emergence of deacon's orders and other changes to ordained ministry procedures. The text is now cross-referenced to the Book of Discipline, 2004, including the revised order of disciplinary chapters and paragraph numbering. Denominational statistics are updated, along with references to recent works on The United Methodist Church and American religious life.

## Book Information

Paperback: 361 pages

Publisher: Abingdon Press; Revised edition (April 1, 2006)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0687335310

ISBN-13: 978-0687335312

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.8 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars See all reviews (28 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

This book was helpful while trudging through the UMC Book of Discipline 2000. (The 2004 is now available.) It helped to spot problems, provided some history, and pointed to possible future difficulties. If you must read and understand the UMC Book of Discipline, this book can be a simple way to start. Its usefulness is limited to UMC clergy and lay leaders. If you need to learn your way around the hierarchy and the bureaucracy, this is a place to start. Another book to consider is "The Organization of the United Methodist Church" by Jack Tuell.

Thomas Frank did a superb job of explaining the United Methodist Church connection. Anyone wanting to really dig deep into the United Methodist Church organization should read this book. I believe it is one of the required reading for those who are in Seminary, however I also feel that any and all lay persons should be required to read this book as well. While reading "Franks" book one may even find that they do not believe that they feel a connection to the body of Christ through the Methodist denomination, but on the other hand their association with the UMC may become stronger than ever before.

I've learned more about not only how the United Methodist Church works today but also the process of how the denomination evolved through its engaging history. I highly recommend this book to every UMC leader and potential leader.

Informative and instructive for all United Methodists and those inquisitive about our church. This was mandatory reading for a certain church group recently. I found it a little difficult to, but this is not leisure reading

I bought this book because I had to buy it for a training course - expected it to be dull as ditchwater. Not so! It is extremely well written, especially illuminating with respect to history - and raises many crucial issues that I wish I could discuss face to face with the author. Reading it has been well worth my time and effort.

I purchased this book for a United Methodist Polity class (church law basically). I was truly surprised and pleased that I actually enjoyed reading it. Frank strikes a good balance between explaining the structure of the church, explaining the United Methodist Discipline clearly, and relating it to real life examples. He also clearly loves the church and supports it, although he is clear eyed when describing its inner workings. I would recommend this or subsequent editions published as United Methodist polity continues to evolve.

Mr. Frank, while extremely knowledgeable, is also extremely verbose. He likes multi-syllabic explanation, and while the book is directed at advanced students, it is written in a church and educational jargon mix that is confusing to both. Obfuscation should not be the hallmark of religious educational writing. Confusing one's approach does not make one's subject more pious or holy. I got a lot of information from the book. I have the lingering feeling I could have received much more if

my mind didn't feel it had been under a steam roller.

Extremely useful resource for pastors, seminarians. Also for lay leaders mystified by the church's polity and practices.

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