

The Politics of Ending Church Discrimination examines, interprets and appraises intradenominational politics of the United Methodist Church (UMC) with respect to (a) ending involuntary racial segregation, (b) eliminating the denial to Methodist women the same opportunities, rights and privileges that Methodist men have and (c) revoking policies mandating negative differential treatment of members with same-gender erotic relationships — i. e., gays and lesbians.

The author examines, discusses, interprets and assesses each historical type of UMC institutional discrimination. He constructs a "Pentagonal Ethics Paradigm of the Jesus of history" and employs that model as a tool for assessing UMC institutional discrimination.

The author argues that UMC's current policies of "negative differential treatment" of church members with same-gender erotic predispositions are incompatible with imperatives of Jesus' Pentagonal Ethics Paradigm.

The book is intended for both academic and general-public audiences, particularly those comprised of program agencies of the UMC and of the denomination's 38,000 local congregations. The book has twelve chapters, and Chapters 2 through 12 include questions for reflection and discussion.

The octogenarian author has been a member of the UMC for over 70 years, and he played a major leadership role in a "church civil rights movement" in the 1960s, which ended official segregation in the UMC.



A native of Texas, W. Astor Kirk is a former college professor, church organization manager, and senior federal executive. His other books include *One Life, Three Professional Careers—My Civil Rights Story*; *Desegregation of the Methodist Church: Policy, Reform, Movements That Ended Racial Segregation*; and *BOARD MEMBERS: Governing Roles and Responsibilities*. He and his wife Vivian live in Suitland, Maryland.



THE POLITICS OF ENDING CHURCH DISCRIMINATION: The United Methodist Story

W. Astor Kirk

THE POLITICS OF ENDING CHURCH DISCRIMINATION

THE UNITED METHODIST STORY

W. Astor Kirk, PhD

OMS Corporation — Organization Development Consulting

P. O. Box 470 - Suitland, MD 20752-0470 - Phone & Fax: (301) 735-9620

Helping Organizations Assess Their Yesterdays and Plan Their Tomorrows

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF W. ASTOR KIRK'S NEW BOOK

The Politics of Ending Church Discrimination: The United Methodist Story

(ISBN: 978-0-557-22598-9, Lulu Enterprises, \$33.25)

A political scientist by training, W. Astor Kirk, PhD brought three sociopolitical assumptions to the research and writing project that produced his new book on *The Politics of Ending Church Discrimination—The United Methodist Story*.

His assumptions are (a) that large religious denominations are sociopolitical enterprises as well as ecclesiastical organizations, (b) that internal policies and practices of institutional discrimination by such denominations can have harmful social consequences and (c) that there is a direct connection between church members' profession of belief in the equality of all human beings before God and their willingness or unwillingness to tolerate institutional discrimination against some of their fellow church members.

Historically, in the United Methodist Church (UMC) and its predecessor denominations three types of institutional discrimination have generated intense intra-denominational politics. They are:

- Official racial segregation of UMC Blacks.
- Official denial to UMC women of equal rights with UMC men.
- Mandatory negative differential treatment of UMC members with same-gender erotic relationships (i.e., gays and lesbians).

The Politics of Ending Church Discrimination analyzes, interprets and assesses intra-denominational politics directed at eliminating those three types of institutional discrimination from the mainline denomination of which Kirk has been a member for more than seventy years.

The OMS Corporation sponsored Lulu Enterprises' publication of this informative and provocative first-of-its-kind book. In addition to a Preface, the 509-pages work has 12 chapters and it includes questions for discussion and reflection at the end of Chapters 2 through 12.

Kirk develops a unique theoretical construct – the “authentic community of believers in Christ” (**ACOBIC**) – and employs it as a standard for analyzing, interpreting and critiquing the UMC's historic and current institutional policies and practices regarding race relations, same-gender erotic relationships, and equal rights for women.

The Politics of Ending Church Discrimination is intended for both academic and general-public audiences, particularly those comprised of program agencies of the United Methodist Church and the 38,000 local congregations of that denomination. The book is also available at Barnes & Noble local bookstores, at AMAZON.com and at Books-A-Million.

The scholarly octogenarian author also wrote *Desegregation of the Methodist Church Polity: Reform Movements That Ended Racial Segregation* (ISBN 10: 0-8059-9725-3) and *BOARD MEMBERS: Governing Roles and Responsibilities* (ISBN-13: 978-0-7618-3669-8). He recently published a memoir titled *ONE LIFE: Three Professional Careers—My Civil Rights Story* (ISBN 10: 0-9800879-7-x). A bachelors and masters graduate of Howard University and a PhD graduate of the University of Texas (Austin), he is a former university professor and is a retired senior executive manager of the regional office of a federal agency.

W. Astor Kirk lives in Suitland, Maryland. The author may be contacted at the OMS Corporation phone number. His e-mail address is: [**wastork@gmail.com**](mailto:wastork@gmail.com)

Book Order Form
The Politics of Ending Church Discrimination:
The United Methodist Story – By W. Astor Kirk, PhD
Lulu Enterprises (509 pages - ISBN: 9780-557-22598-9)
Retail Price \$33.25 (Less \$6.25 promotional discount plus \$3.00 postage) = \$30.00

Number of Copies Ordered: _____

Do you want autographed copies? _____ Yes _____ No

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone Number: () _____ - _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Make check or money order payable to:
OMS Company