

The Lord's Supper (Holy Communion)

This Holy Mystery: A United Methodist Understanding of Holy Communion by Gayle Carlton Felton (Discipleship Resources, 2005)

This Holy Mystery is a study guide for the official United Methodist position on Holy Communion that was adopted by the 2004 General Conference. The official document is included in the book in a running sidebar, with commentary study helps in a second column on each page. Each session includes a section of "Leader Helps" that provides a session plan. (Description from www.cokesbury.com)

This Holy Mystery: A United Methodist Understanding by Carolyn K. Tanner (Discipleship Resources/OSL, 2006.)

Congregations across the Methodist connection are studying *This Holy Mystery: A United Methodist Understanding of Holy Communion*. The document, adopted by the 2004 General Conference, is enriching our understanding and experience of the Holy Meal. Now your entire church family can be involved in a "congregational study!" Designed as a companion to Gayle Carlton Felton's seven-session adult study guide, this resource offers the full text of *This Holy Mystery* along with lesson plans and student papers useful for a broad age-range of children and youth. (Description from www.cokesbury.com)

Let Every Soul Be Jesus' Guest by Mark W. Stamm (Abingdon Press, 2006)

This Holy Mystery: A United Methodist Understanding of Holy Communion, adopted by the 2004 General Conference, made two commitments: first, to the historic norm of reserving Communion to the baptized and, second, to the insistence that United Methodists will turn no one away from the Table. The church made a wise choice, claims Mark Stamm, but one that raises questions and requires further reflection. Stamm engages in that reflection around the category of liturgical exception: a decision to affirm the ancient practice of the church while also choosing to set it aside for prophetic and pastoral reasons. The result is a book that will help United Methodists and others fulfill their calling to practice Holy Communion both as an expression of costly discipleship and as an invitation to relationship with the Risen One. (Description from www.cokesbury.com)

A Banqueter's Guide to the All-Night Soup Kitchen of the Kingdom of God by Patrick T. McCormick (Liturgical Press, 2004)

When Jesus spoke at the table he provided instructions for his disciples to follow. A Banqueter's Guide to the All Night Soup Kitchen of the Kingdom of God views those teachings as a set of guidelines for us to follow in all areas of life. Through the study of metaphors commonly used to describe the Eucharist, this book connects the Eucharist and Jesus's words and actions with current issues in society. Each chapter defines a metaphor associated with the Eucharist and explores its moral, social, and ethical implications. Readers will become more aware of the need for social justice as they identify with the parables and guidance of Jesus. (Description from www.amazon.com.)

Take this Bread: A Radical Conversion. by Sara Miles (Ballantine Books, 2008)

Early one morning, for no earthly reason, Sara Miles, raised an atheist, wandered into a church, received communion, and found herself transformed-embracing a faith she'd once scorned. A lesbian left-wing journalist who'd covered revolutions around the world, Miles didn't discover a religion that was about angels or good behavior or piety; her faith centered on real hunger, real food, and real bodies. Before long, she turned the bread she ate at communion into tons of groceries, piled on the church's altar to be given away. Within a few years, she and the people she served had started nearly a dozen food pantries in the poorest parts of their city.

"Take This Bread" is rich with real-life Dickensian characters-church ladies, millionaires, schizophrenics, bishops, and thieves-all blown into Miles's life by the relentless force of her newfound calling. Here, in this achingly beautiful, passionate book, is the living communion of Christ. (Description from www.cokesbury.com)