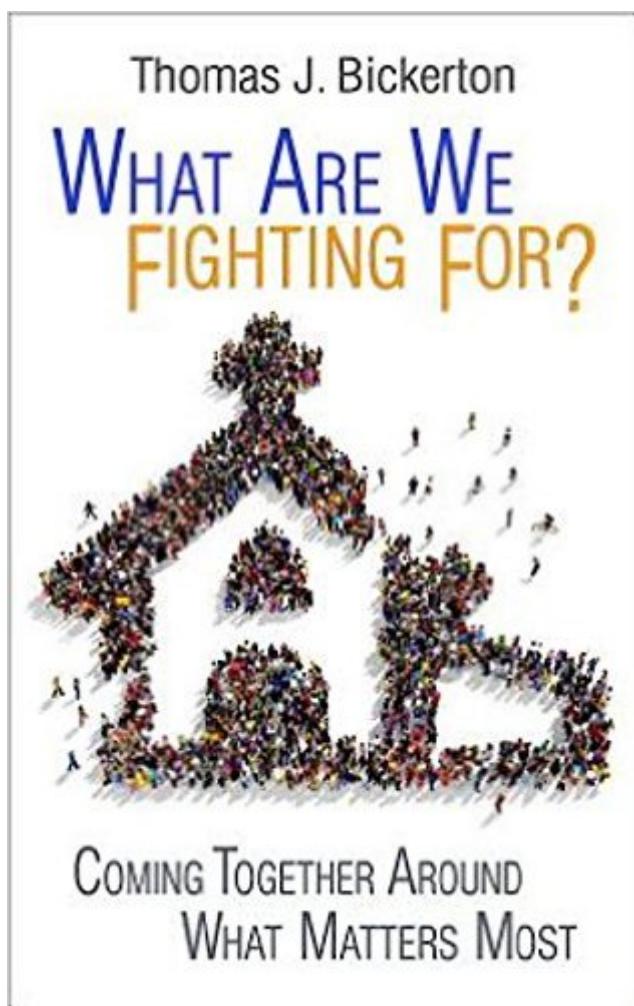


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# What Are We Fighting For?: Coming Together Around What Matters Most



## **Synopsis**

United Methodists need a breath of fresh air. Don't worry. This is not another book full of theories and opinions about what we should do concerning all the issues facing our denominationâ "quite the opposite. In *What Are We Fighting For?* author Thomas J. Bickerton offers a way to move beyond all the discord to a hope-filled future by exploring how we can come together around what matters most so that the gospel of Jesus Christ becomes a vibrant part of our lives and witness. The book may be used as a standalone devotional or as part of a six-week adult or churchwide study enhanced with a DVD featuring compelling video segments with Bishop Bickerton and a Leader Guide that includes flexible format options for use with any size group.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

How many LGBTQ people are in the interesting photograph depicting the church on the cover of ÂœWhat Are We Fighting For? Coming Together Around What Matters MostÂœ by Bishop Thomas J. Bickerton? Seriously, I included an image of the cover. Take a look and count them. Trick question. You can't. Because if they are there, they are people mixed in with the rest of the Âœmotley crewÂœ that makes up the church. Then again, how many times does Bishop Bickerton (a Bishop in the United Methodist Church) mention the issues around LGBTQ people, facing his (and my) denomination? Another trick question because unless I really, really missed it, these issues are not referenced in this book. The title alone was enough to make this

reader think that these things would be mentioned. It seems to be one of the main issues our branch of Christianity is in conflict about these days. Like I said, I thought it would be mentioned. But it is not. And truthfully, I'm glad. That is probably the most genuine and genius accomplishment of *What Are We Fighting For.* The author manages to talk about what lies behind or underneath the issues that are causing conflict rather than the specific issues. (Yes, he does bring up a few specifics, but I will let the reader get to those and make their own judgement about how it fits into the rest of his argument.) The author is then able to call us as United Methodist Christians to a higher place of talking about what threatens the unity of the church " our loss of the primary vision of being a people who can restore order and focus in the church and throughout the world with a faith that many call naïve and out of touch." (page 133) In the days of Trump v. Cruz v. Kasich and Clinton v. Sanders (along with inevitable sequel); In the days of ISIS v. the western world; in the days of environmentalists v. coal industry; in the days of well, I hope you get the picture. In these days of division and heated division, this Bishop calls us to take a journey that few want to travel. He calls us to a journey with one another as "Children of God" rather than any other label we would like to place on others or ourselves. Children of God working together for Jesus' Kingdom that is the calling Bishop Bickerton brings to our memory. Some will probably want to digitally or otherwise crucify the author for failing to speak boldly about their cause. I have a feeling that will be just fine " the One the author call us to follow on the journey had a similar problem. I won't spoil your journey with this book more than that by quoting or giving more examples. I do, however, encourage you to read it. (I even recommend it to other Children of God not of the branch of United Methodism.) Because of Bishop Bickerton's ability to use scripture, story, history, theology and nuance of language so well, it's a clever and enjoyable journey to a better place.

An excellent book that uplifts and encourages our faith journey!

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