

Very significant was a survey taken by the United Methodist Council on Ministries as reported in the Evangelical Newsletter, 6/1/84...a study taken in conjunction with the 200th anniversary of the Methodist church in America. The survey showed (among other things) 30% of Methodist laypersons considered themselves conservative or fundamentalist;

21% of the pastoral clergy identified themselves in a similar terminology

9% of the regional or national hierarchy took the position.

Both the past (Philip Potter) and the present secretaries (Emilio Castro) are members of the World wide methodist family and their pronouncements would add to this study of modern unbelief in the organization.

(g) If you want to read more on the subject, try the following:

for a quick comprehension of Methodist ideals--

Harkness: BELIEFS THAT COUNT

for a quick understanding of the organization:

Harmon: UNDERSTANDING THE METHODIST CHURCH

for a better understanding of what the doctrinal position is or should be in ideal:

Mickey: ESSENTIALS OF WESLEYAN THEOLOGY

and for a fuller grip on Wesley and his ideals:

Tuttle: JOHN WESLEY: HIS LIFE AND THEOLOGY

Note that we cannot spend this much time for every body but the prominence of the Methodist church in American church life seems to merit a fuller treatment.

(2) The United Church Community

The United Church of Christ is a more recently formed religious community although its roots go back very deeply into the American past. It is a composite body that has succeeded to some extent in bridging opposed polity and doctrinal structures in that it grew from a merger of the Evangelical and Reformed church with the Congregational Christian Church in 1957.

(a) Background in Congregationalism

(1) Congregational Doctrine and Polity

(2) The New England settlement

(3) Unitarian inroads