Book Notes

Van Kuiken, Jerome. The Creed We Need: Nicene Faith for Wesleyan Witness. Aldersgate Press, 2025. 74 pp. ISBN: 978-1-60039-315-0.

Dr Jerome Van Kuiken (PhD, University of Manchester) is Professor of Ministry and Christian Thought at Oklahoma Wesleyan University. He has teamed up with Aldersgate Press to produce a 74-page primer on the Nicene Creed for believers in the Wesleyan tradition. Celebrating the 1700th anniversary of the creed, each of the eight chapters opens with citations from the Nicene Creed and from Ephesians 4:4-6. The chapters are as follows: 'One Faith', 'One God', 'One Lord: The Lord in Person', 'One Lord: The Lord in Action', 'One Spirit', 'One Body', 'One Baptism', and 'One Hope'.

In each chapter, Van Kuiken draws from biblical theology and the history of Christian thought to substantiate each phrase of the creedal statement in Scripture and Christian tradition. He frequently refers to the life or thought of John Wesley, although not all chapters receive equal treatment, to corroborate the creed in the Wesleyan tradition.

Van Kuiken avoids heavy theological language, making the book readable for a lay audience. He employs fresh, readable language suitable for a wide readership. Frequent references to contemporary contexts make for engaging reading. Each chapter concludes with recommendations for further reading. A lack of clear footnoting might frustrate some readers. Certain concepts could have been enhanced with images to improve readability; for example, an image of a fish for the *ichthus* on page 24 might enhance the readers' comprehension. Van Kuiken avoids sectarian positions on divisive issues like modes of baptism.

While the book is not a thorough-going treatment of the Nicene Creed, it is an 'appetizer' (vi). I highly recommend his book for any church seeking a primer on basic Christian doctrine within the local church, or for anyone looking for an introduction to the Nicene Creed. Van Kuiken's book can be easily adapted for teaching in the local church.

- Reviewed by J. Russell Frazier, Africa Nazarene University

Mannoia, Kevin W. *Expressing Life: A Primer on Integrating Faith and Learning*. Jackson, GA: Emeth Press, 2023. ISBN: 978-1-0947-193-4.

Dr Kevin Mannoia's experience is wide-ranging. He 'has served as a pastor, superintendent and Bishop in the Free Methodist Church and as President of the National Association of Evangelicals' (blurb). Additionally, he has served in academic and networking roles with various Wesleyan Holiness churches. He has written several books. This one is a 77-page primer on integrating faith and learning, the subject of his PhD from the University of North Texas.

In chapter one, 'From the Inside-Out', Mannoia compares the sought-after formation of educational institutions to an iceberg – the larger base of which is students' Christian self-

identity and the tip of which is students' external behaviours. Christian higher educational institutions must focus on the development of students' identity, which will keep them focused even when external pressures would tend 'to redirect or redefine who and what they are' (4). Chapter 2 stresses the role of educationists in working with God to restore the image of God, which was lost in the Fall, to a complete wholeness. Chapter 3 defines and describes the meanings of key terms such as 'integration' and 'faith'. Mannoia wants to avoid a propositional faith or a set of values in favour of 'a living, dynamic [faith] and posture of life that projects a world-view of the hope of discovering the wholeness and fully integrated Truth, *who is God*' (22). In the fourth chapter, he conveys that, since 'all truth is God's truth', Christian institutions and teachers are responsible for integrating all disciplines of study to fulfil the divine intentions inherent in all creation (31). Avoiding a prescriptive list of characteristics, Mannoia elaborates, in chapters 5 and 6, on student outcomes of Christian institutions: character, competence, engagement, relationships, wise decisions, integrated, purpose, vocation, meaningful work, servant leadership, and curiosity. In the last chapter, 'Partnering with God', the author emphasises the importance of partnering with God to accomplish God's purposes for the world.

The author has attained the goal of a primer in the integration of faith and learning. Academic leaders searching for prescriptive guidelines will be disappointed. However, this booklet will serve as an effective tool to enable faculty members to inculcate the essential philosophy and vision for integrating faith and learning in Christian institutions.

- Reviewed by J. Russell Frazier, Africa Nazarene University