The Theological Task

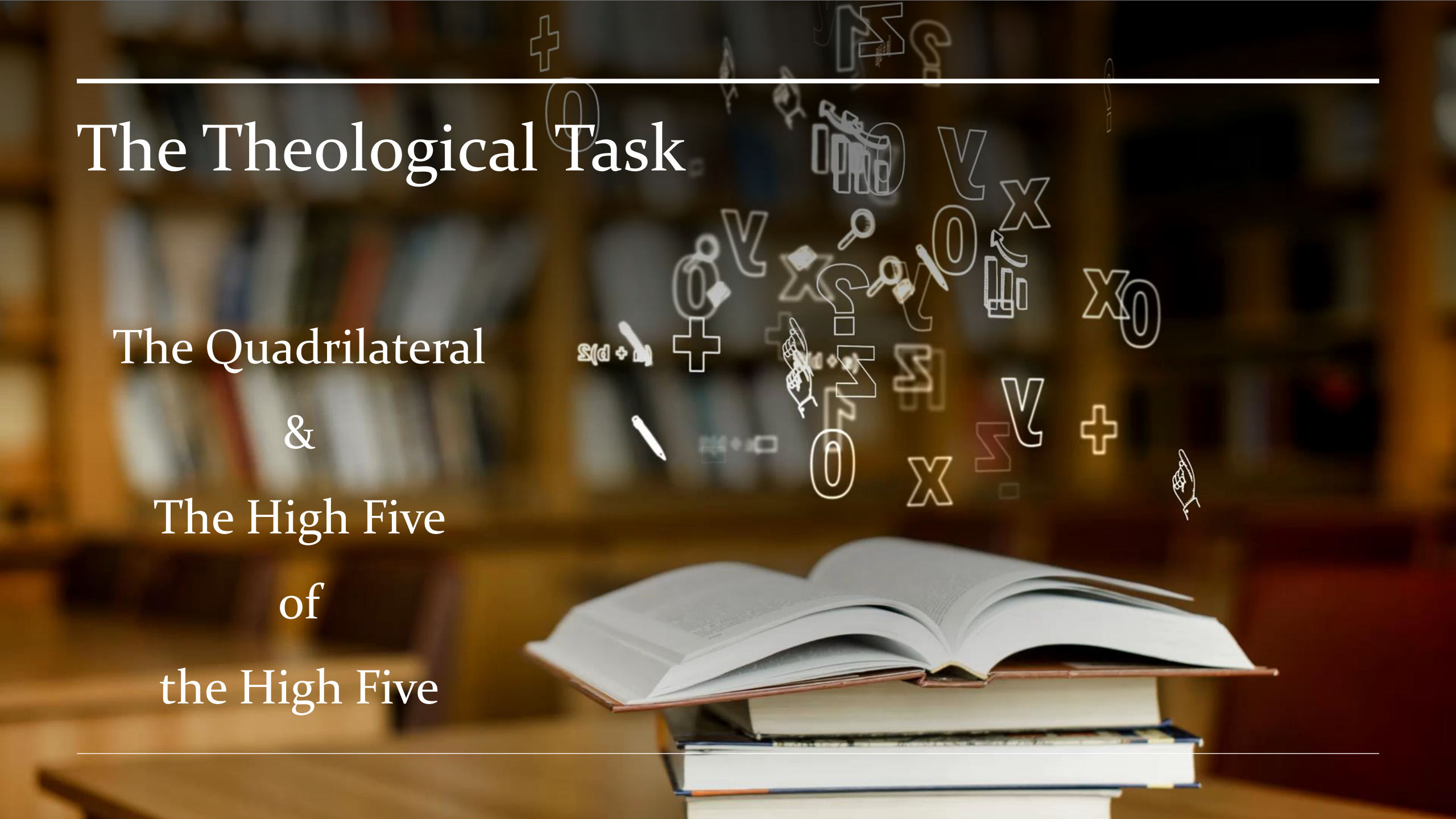
The Quadrilateral

&

The High Five

of

the High Five



High Five

Prayers

Presence

Gifts

Service

&

Witness

https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/new-membership-vows-and-ritual-revised-and-corrected#:~:text=(Note%3A%20As%20of%202004%2C,in%20The%20United%20Methodist%20Church.

High Five of the High Five: The Quadrilateral

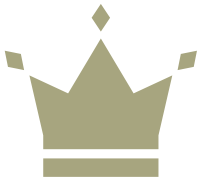
(+ 1)

https://www.umc.org/en/content/our-four-theological-guidelines

https://www.umc.org/en/content/theological-guidelines

The Book of Discipline of The United Methodist Church ¶ 105. Section 4
https://www.umc.org/en/content/book-of-discipline-105-our-theological-task

Scripture



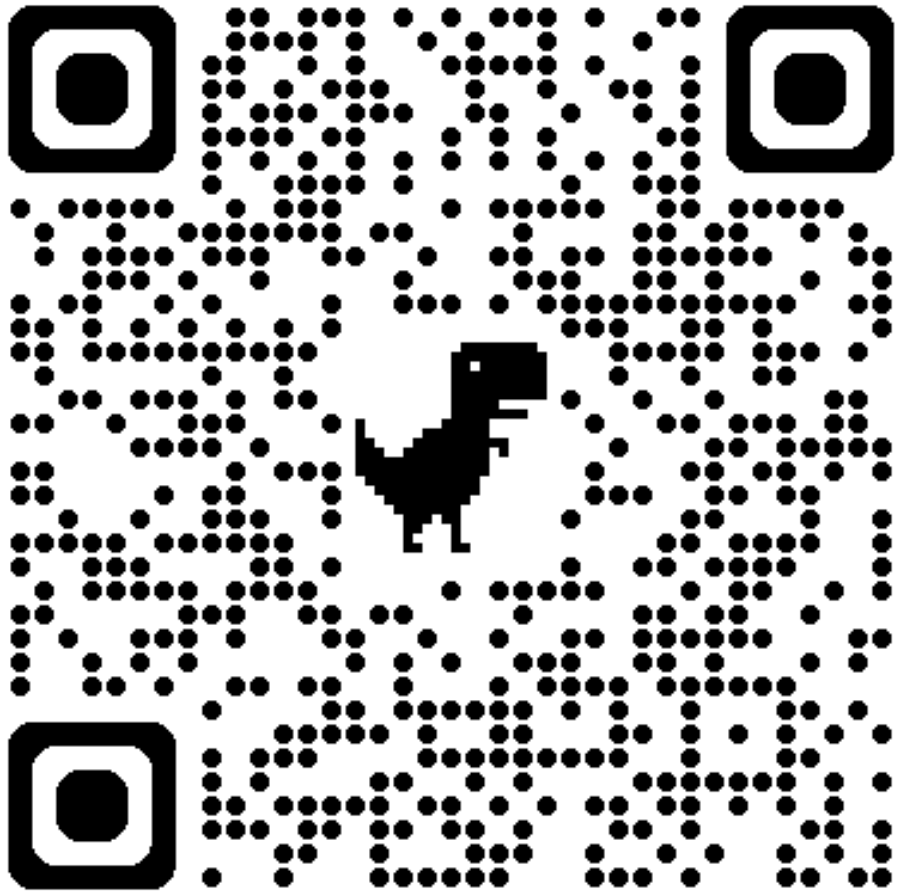
Tradition

Experience

Reason

The Wesley Quadrilateral

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qfW6vI2zgr0



Scripture

primary source and criterion for Christian doctrine

- A source of our faith
- Basic criterion by which the truth and fidelity of any interpretation of faith is measured

Jesus Christ is the living word of God in our midst whom we trust in life and death…

illumined by the Holy Spirit, bear witness that in Christ the world is reconciled to God..

God's self-disclosure…

authentic testimony…

The Bible is **sacred cannon** for Christian people…

the source of all that is necessary and sufficient unto salvation…

received through the Holy Spirit as the **true rule** and God for faith and practice…

Scripture

We properly **read Scripture within the believing community**, informed by the tradition of that community.

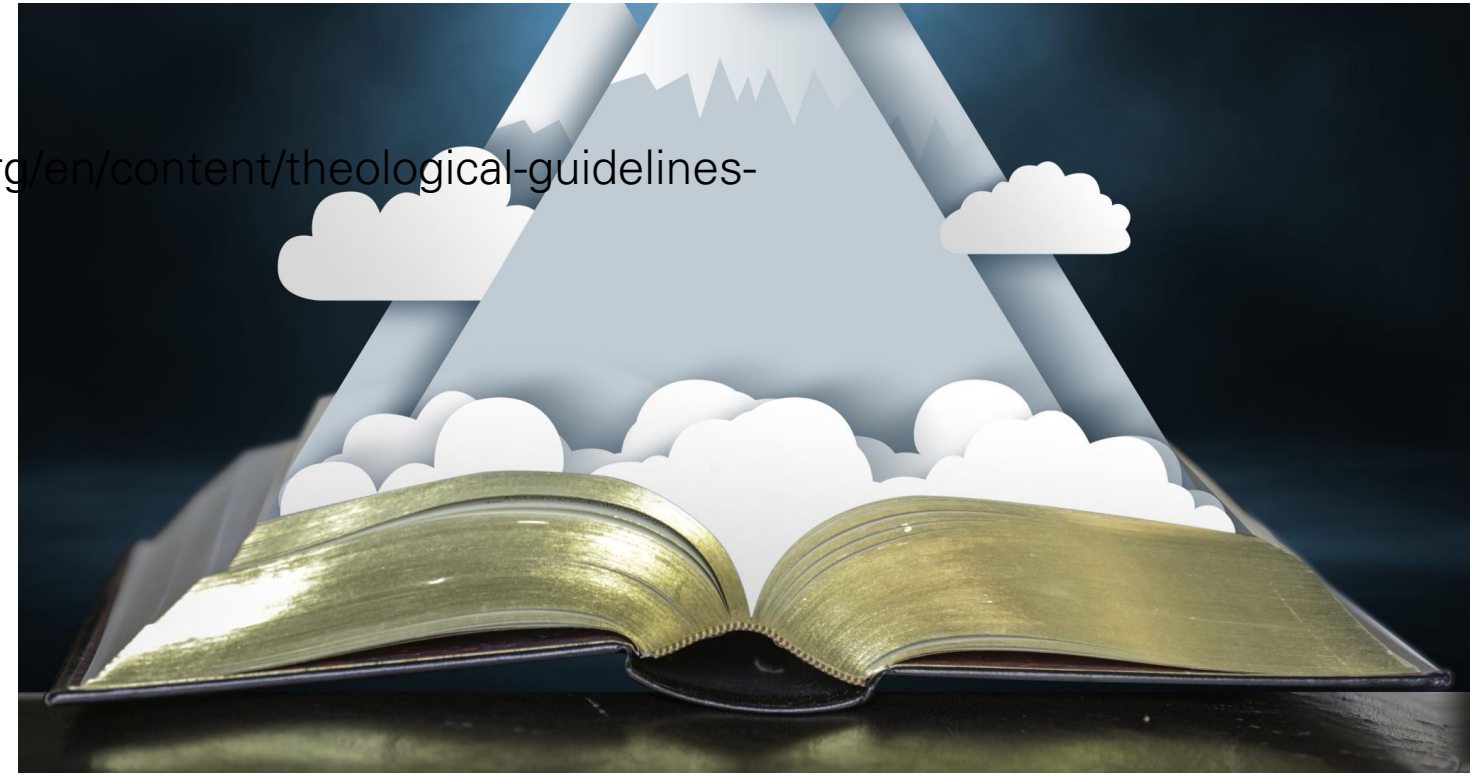
We **interpret** individual texts in light of their place in the Bible as a whole.

- …aided by scholarly inquiry and personal insight, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
- …original context and intention of the text taken into account.
- …draw upon the careful historical, literary, and textual studies of recent years.

Scripture

https://www.umc.org/en/content/theological-guidelines-scripture

While we acknowledge the promise of scripture in theological reflection, our attempts to grasp its meaning always involve **tradition, experience, and reason**. Like scripture, these may become creative vehicles of the Holy Spirit as they function within the church. A quicken our faith, open our eyes to the wonder of God's love, and clarify our understanding.

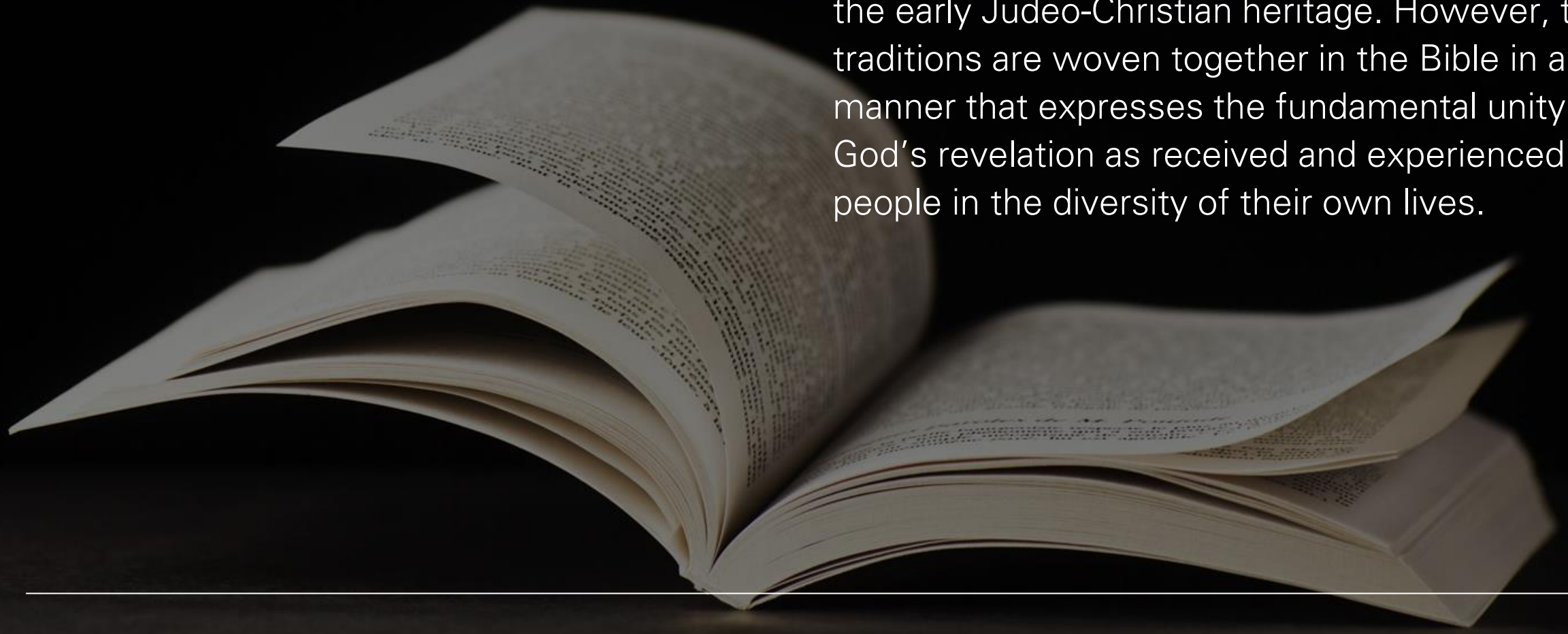


Scripture

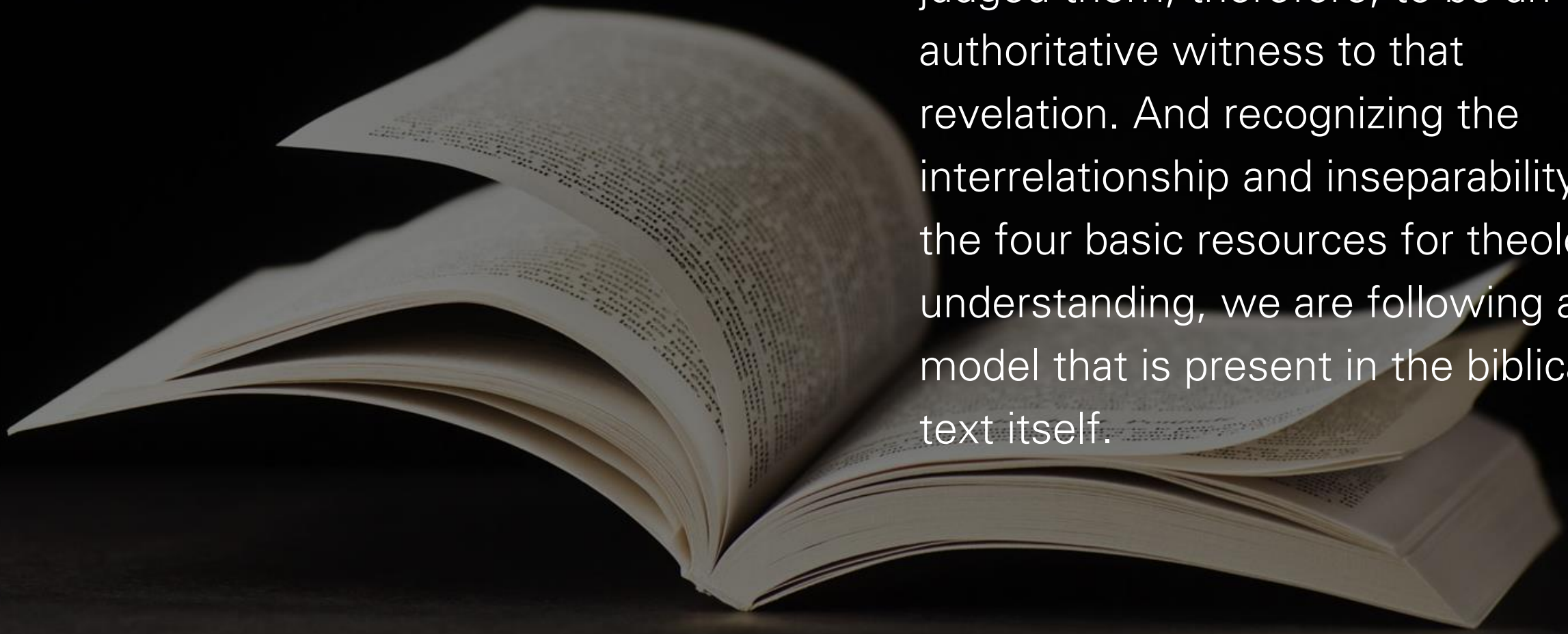
The Wesleyan Heritage, reflecting its origins in the Catholic and Reformed Ethos of English Christianity, directs us to a self-conscious use of these three sources in interpreting Scripture and in formulating faith statements based on the biblical. These sources are, along with Scripture, indispensable to our theological task.

Scripture

The close relationship of tradition, experience, and reason appears in the Bible itself. Scripture witnesses to a variety of diverse traditions, some of which reflect tensions and interpretation within the early Judeo-Christian heritage. However, these traditions are woven together in the Bible in a manner that expresses the fundamental unity of God’s revelation as received and experienced by people in the diversity of their own lives.



Scripture



The developing communities of Faith judged them, therefore, to be an authoritative witness to that revelation. And recognizing the interrelationship and inseparability of the four basic resources for theological understanding, we are following a model that is present in the biblical text itself.

Tradition

https://www.umc.org/en/content/theological-guidelines-tradition

- This is the wisdom and creativity of Christians over time and across the world. It includes inspirational material like hymns, songs, prayers, poetry, Christian art and devotional books,. There are also formally agreed teachings like the creeds, the content of the [Discipline], and statements and reports from the [General Conference].
- https://www.methodist.org.uk/about/what-is-distinctive-about-methodism/the-methodist-quadrilateral/

Reason

https://www.umc.org/en/content/theological-guidelines-reason

- We are called to love God with our minds as well as with our hearts. To the best of our ability we need to think things through in the light of reason. This means becoming aware of different points of view, and using our own critical thinking to make sense of God's world.
- https://www.methodist.org.uk/about/what-is-distinctive-about-methodism/the-methodist-quadrilateral/

Experience

https://www.umc.org/en/content/our-four-theological-guidelines

- **Aldersgate**
- **https://www.umc.org/en/content/how-aldersgate-changed-john-wesley**
- Methodism particularly stresses the importance of our own experience of God's grace working in our lives. We gain wisdom and maturity from life experience, especially when we pray and reflect about our story with other Christians.
- https://www.methodist.org.uk/about/what-is-distinctive-about-methodism/the-methodist-quadrilateral/

High Five of the High Five:

The Quadrilateral

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¶ 1 Section 1 book of sheltonisms