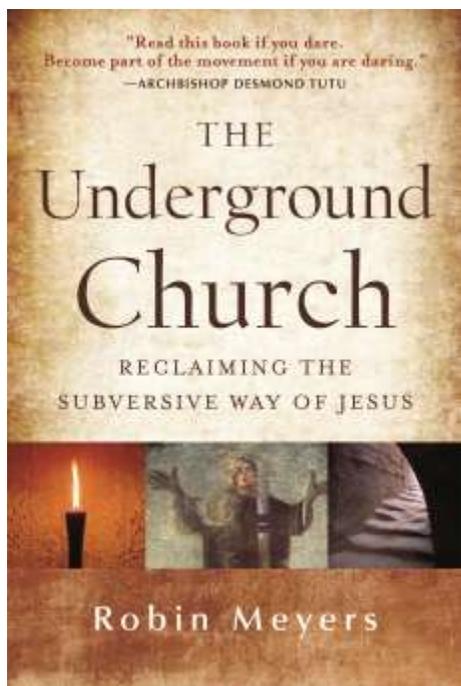


The Underground Church

Reclaiming the Subversive Way of Jesus

by **Robin Meyers**



"DANGER: The contents of this book are explosive and could turn the world upside down. About time!"

-Bill Moyers

"When was the last time you thought of going to church as dangerous? Once we challenged the status quo; now we mostly defend it. The Underground Church tells the story of how we forgot where we came from and why we must recover our subversive roots. Read this book if you dare. Become part of the movement if you are daring."

-Archbishop Desmond Tutu

"Read this book. Written by a wordsmith, it is a passionate and challenging call to churches to be liberated from the cultural captivity of convention and into the 'underground church.'"

-Marcus Borg, canon theologian, Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, and author, *Speaking Christian*

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The Underground Church is a radical book that proposes a radical idea: we need to recapture the spirit of the early church with its emphasis on what Christians do rather than what they believe. Written by the prominent minister, teacher, speaker, and writer, Robin Meyers, *The Underground Church* posits that the best way to recapture the spirit of The Way is to recognize that Jesus-following was—and must be again—subversive in the best sense of the word. Instead of endless theological and political arguments, the church must be more concerned with being loving than with being right.

Meyers offers a potent antidote for organized-religion-as-usual—suggesting that until being a follower of Jesus is dangerous again we will continue to bless the status quo instead of transforming it. We must return to our culturally and socially subversive roots and live by the two most powerful words in the gospel "Fear not." No matter how the church may organize itself or worship, the defining characteristic of the Beloved Community should be its love of justice and its countercultural compassion for all people.

The Underground Church will provide healthy, inclusive, dignified options for living in a world saturated with sickness, separation, and indignity. In short, we will not try to get people up into heaven. We will try to get heaven to come down to earth.

Robin Meyers is a nationally known United Church of Christ minister and peace activist. His congregation describes itself as unapologetically Christian and unapologetically liberal (mayflowerucc.org). He writes for *Christian Century*, is an award-winning commentator for NPR, and a professor of rhetoric in the philosophy department at Oklahoma City University. He is married to Shawn Meyers, an artist, and they are the parents of three children, Blue, Chelsea, and Cass. More information can be found at www.robinmeyers.com

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