

Announcing *from the North American Association of Christians in Social Work*

One of the developments in social work in the second half of the 20th century was the marked decline in the recognition of the Christian religion in the teaching and practice of professional social work. The secularization of the social work profession—the notion that religion in both an ideological and institutional sense have little or no part in forming or informing the world of social work—has been extensive.

As a result, many social workers want to know what role Christian faith plays in the social work profession. The purpose of this book is to help respond to this question. *Christianity and Social Work* is intended for a variety of audiences, including social work practitioners, educators, and students at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The book is organized so that it can be used as training or reference materials for practitioners, or as a textbook or supplemental reading in a social work class. Readings address a breadth of curriculum areas and responds to the revised Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards (EPAS) as outlined by the Council on Social Work Education. Chapters feature topics relevant to social welfare history, human behavior and the social environment, social policy, and practice at the micro, mezzo, and macro levels.

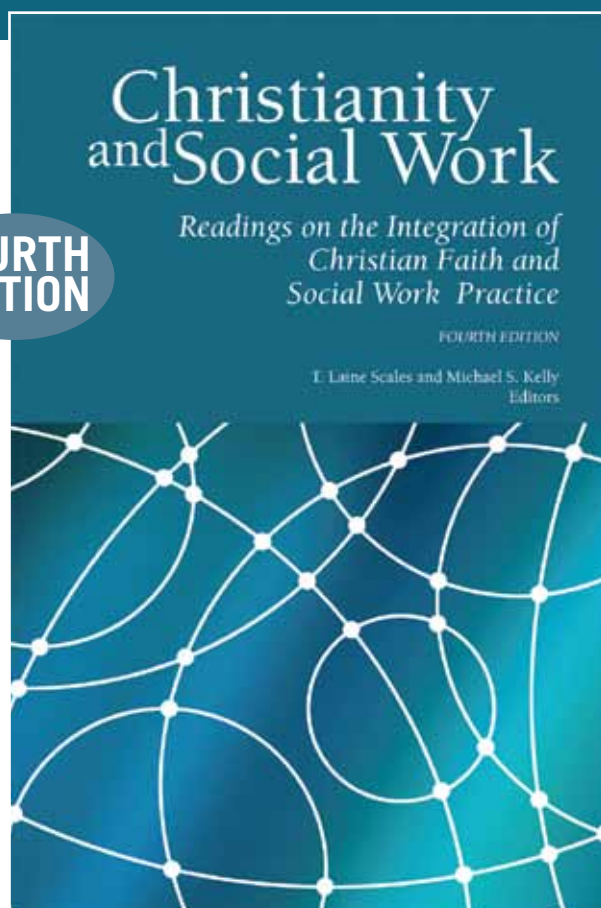
The 4th Edition includes 6 new chapters and responds to requests by readers of previous editions. We have included new chapters on issues of sexual orientation, Evidence Based Practice (EBP) as well as an enhanced section on the role of Christianity in social welfare history.

The 4th Edition is organized around four themes:

Section 1 – Christian Roots of the Social Work Profession

The early history of social work is deeply rooted in our biblical mandate to love, in Christian faith, and in social action to express that faith. Unfortunately, rather than exploring these narratives

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and celebrating our historical roots, our profession has often glossed over, or in some cases, even rewritten that history into an oversimplified version in which Christians are not portrayed very favorably. We intend Section 1 to provide a supplement and a corrective to the typical social work textbooks that may not speak to the Christian social worker's desire to understand our historical roots in deeper ways.

Section 2 – Christians Called to Social Work: Scriptural Basis, Worldviews and Ethics

Just as the earliest Christian volunteers sought to live out their faith through social action, today's Christian social workers listen to hear God's calling upon their lives. As they listen, Christian social workers seek to understand their own worldviews, as well as the worldviews of others and to practice ethically while living out their calling. Section 2 provides readings to help us explore our callings and worldviews, first by reviewing scriptural bases for social welfare, then by challenging us to think deeply about our worldviews and ethics, and finally by examining the stories of other social work students and alumni who have been called.

Section 3 – Human Behavior and Spiritual Development in a Diverse World

While the issue of spirituality is growing as an area of social work scholarship, we focus this section on an oft-neglected area of inquiry: how the Christian faith of social workers (and their clients) impacts the encounters inherent to social work practice. In Section 3, we review and critique several theoretical perspectives on individual spiritual development, and identify Christian teachings to provide a foundation to form a Christian vision for 21st century social welfare work. We also focus on understanding how best to work with LGBT clients in the 21st century, and offer a variety of spiritual assessment tools social workers can use to help diverse clients in varied social work practice settings.

Section 4 – Christians in Social Work Practice: Contemporary Issues

Christian social workers may view their clients and their work with particular lenses; through these specific worldviews, and there is much diversity among individual Christian social workers. These chapters attempt to reckon with the need for social work practitioners (both secular and Christian alike) to reflect on the difference between merely good intentions and demonstrable competence. We believe that the chapters in this section challenge readers to become more competent and evidence-informed in their approach to practice, as well as clear about how for many of us, being a Christian in social work is about more than just being competent.

Connection to the Educational Policy Accreditation Standards

In organizing this 4th edition, we have carefully considered the *Educational Policy and Accreditation Standards* (EPAS) from the Council on Social Work Education. It is important for schools of social work to show how they prepare students to demonstrate specific competencies in social work practice. To help with this integration we have included Appendices with charts that guide readers toward potential connections. These tools will be a helpful guide for students and instructors.

You can request an exam copy or order copies of *Christianity and Social Work—4th Edition (2012)* via email at info@nacsw.org, by calling 888-426-4712, or by visiting NACSW's on-line bookstore at www.nacsw.org

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