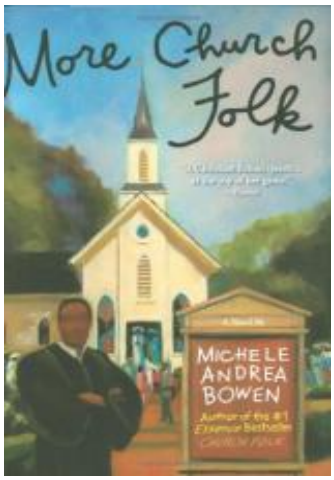
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More Church Folk

by Michele Andrea Bowen



About the Book

It is now 1986, and the preachers of the Gospel United Church are preparing for their much-anticipated Triennial General Conference. The last time readers encountered the good Rev. Theophilus Simmons, he was a newlywed and the pastor of a modest-sized congregation in Memphis. Now he's the father of three and running a congregation in St. Louis. His best friend, Rev. Eddie Tate, is now with a fast growing church in Chicago, but he is getting real frustrated with the way things are run in the Gospel United Church. Marcel Brown and his father, Ernest, along with Sonny Washington and Bishop Larsen Giles have had two decades to perfect their slimy methods of "tapping" church funds and other misdeeds. Now they've found a secret weapon that will allow them to make fast money and accomplish what they failed to do 20 years ago --- buy off enough power to dominate the entire denomination, put their cronies in key spots, and ransack the church like it is the spoils of war. It won't be long before the two opposing sides face off..."church-folk" style.

Discussion Guide

1. God and Mammon. The Word clearly states that you can?t serve both. But we know that there were some folk in **More Church Folk** who really tried to make that work. Who were they? How did they try to work this craziness? And how did righteousness prevail in spite of their efforts?

2. What preachers were truly called to serve in the Gospel United Church? Who had been called and then lost their way? Who do you think were never called? And why do you think some folk enter the ministry knowing good and well that they have never been called? Is there a way to stop this from happening?

3. Why was WP21, or Watermelon Powder 21, a problem and, even worse, a threat to the well-being of the Gospel United Church?

4. At first glance, it appears as if the battle between the good and bad preachers is simply about power, dominance, and control. But if you scratch beneath the surface, there is a more ominous battle raging in the church. What is it? And how did they (meaning the good guys) fi ght it? Plus, do you think that they were successful when they waged war against the bad guys?

5. Why did Theophilus Simmons, Eddie Tate, Murcheson James, and Percy Jennings need the help of Denzelle Flowers and Obadiah Quincey?

6. Do you think they could have made things work without the two younger pastors?

Author Bio

Michele Andrea Bowen graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with an M.A. in History and a M.P.H. in Public Health. She lives in Durham, North Carolina. Michele is the author of the No. 1 *Essence* bestsellers **Church Folk** and **Second Sunday**.

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