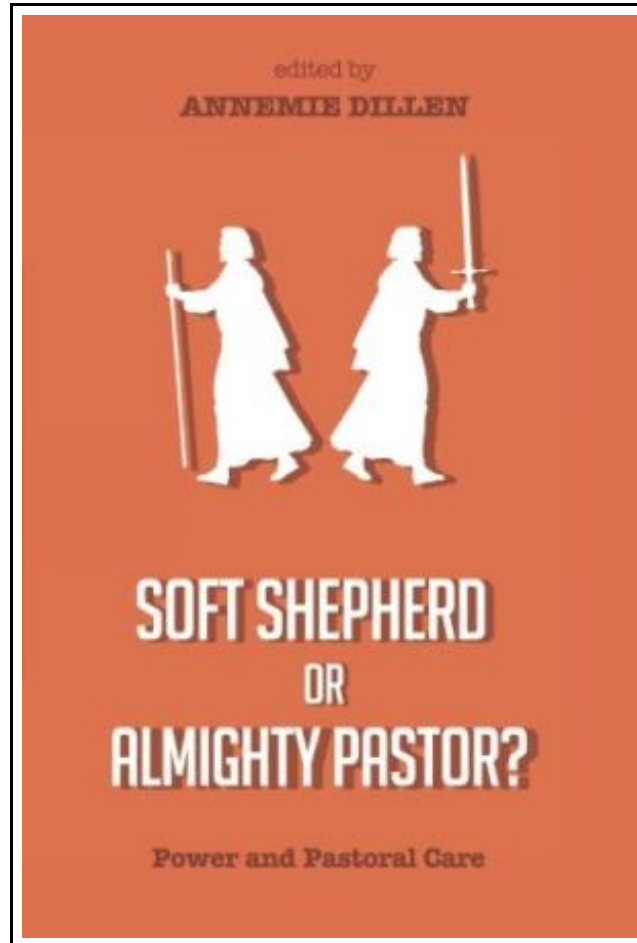


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Reviews

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Pickwick Publications, 2014. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****.In *Soft Shepherd or Almighty Pastor?* contributors seek to go beyond the taboo on power within pastoral contexts. They not only discuss fundamental theological and philosophical questions about power but also develop ways to prevent power abuse in pastoral context. Power is considered as omnipresent and is analyzed in its positive and negative aspects. Not only the classical associations of power over or domination are discussed in relation to ecclesial and pastoral situations, but also forms of power linked to service and care. A sacrificial spirituality might also be dangerous. *Soft Shepherd or Almighty Pastor?* gathers ten contributions, all of which reflect on the complexity of power issues, also in relation to sexual abuse. The authors argue that dealing adequately with power requires renewed forms of theological thinking, especially about ministry. From the evocative title to the final chapter, this collection provokes deep reflection on the multiple forms of power, powerlessness, and empowerment within pastoral relationships. I am especially impressed with the analysis of social, intercultural, and spiritual dimensions. The conference organizers and book editor have done an excellent job choosing just the right contributors, and just the right issues, to make this critical reading for ministers and those who teach them. --Bonnie J. Miller-McLemore, E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Professor of Religion, Psychology, and Culture, The Divinity School, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN It is the taboo surrounding power that makes power so powerful (Gartner). The taboo on power in pastoral counseling is broken powerfully in this book. Courageous pastoral care requires an honest encounter with the complexities of power in oneself, pastoral relationships, and structural dynamics. With this rich variety of perspectives, the caring pastor can navigate carefully through the maze of...

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