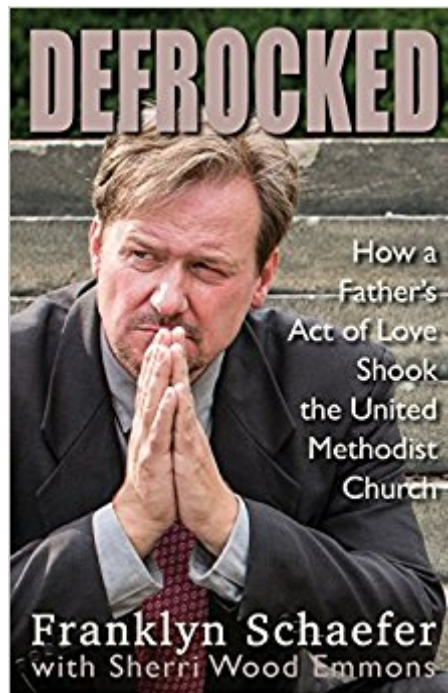




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Defrocked: How A Father's Act Of Love Shook The United Methodist Church



Synopsis

In *Defrocked*, Frank Schaefer tells the story of officiating at his son's same-sex marriage and, six years later, his subsequent trial by a United Methodist court. That trial stripped Schaefer of his ordination after more than 20 years of ministry in the nation's largest mainline Protestant denomination.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Franklyn Schaefer is a former ordained minister of United Methodist Church where he ministered for more than 20 years until December 2013. He is married to Brigitte and has four children. He was educated at Princeton Theological Seminary and also earned a CPE degree at Hershey Medical Center's residency program for chaplains. In 2013, Franklyn Schaefer was tried by a United Methodist court for officiating his son's same-sex marriage and was defrocked over his refusal to uphold the Book of Discipline, which meant virtually to denounce gay marriage rights. Now a United Methodist lay person, speaker and activist, he continues to advocate for human rights. Sherri Wood Emmons is a freelance writer and editor and has published three novels. She is a graduate of Earlham College and the University of Denver Publishing Institute. A mother of three, she lives in Indiana with her husband, two fat beagles, and four spoiled cats.

I was especially captivated by Schaefer's humble account of his struggles in faithfully witnessing to the power of love, as he chose to officiate his gay son's wedding. I highly recommend it to those

wanting to understand the human costs of the United Methodist Church's ongoing struggle to be a faithful church and affirm the sacred worth of all persons without regard to sexual orientation.

Frank Schaefer's experience, as well as this book, will be seen as a pivotal moment in United Methodism's decision to give equal justice to its LGBT members. Every United Methodist pastor needs to read "Defrocked," and then give it to someone they feel would benefit from understanding what Schaefer and his family have had to live through.

Read this well written summary of Frank's life after meeting him and chatting with him. He tells of his work as a pastor, and a very good one, including problems with church members disagreeing with his work. Tells his marriage, their children, their oldest coming out as gay. He shares their struggles with reconciling to their son they love, who then asks Frank to marry him and is partner. The resulting conflict with his Church is well done, and concluding pages new direction and hope.

An open and honest heart wrenching story of love, faith and commitment . Pastor Frank Schaefer's account of being defrocked and restored in the United Methodist Church gives me hope that someday our Church will be fully inclusive.

I heard rev. Schaefer speak recently at a conference, and he told the same story, just leaving out some of the details in the book. I wish that I could be as positive about the future of the United Methodist Church. I have seen first-hand how divisive this issue has been for 40+ years, and it remains so. It took almost 90 years for the church to heal over the issue of slavery. I hope that it will not take that long for us to reconcile on this issue. John suddath

I loved it ! A father's love out weighed the teachings of the church. I belong to the same faith and I feel the same way as Pastor Schaefer! Good read, Good man and God has much love for those who follow their heart! I have also bought a copy for my minster and my mom !

I've been struggling with my faith because I am apart of the LGTBQ community and what many of the churches I've gone to say about my lifestyle, the feelings of hurt and rejection don't scratch the surface of what I've been feeling but this book brought an immense amount of hope and healing to my heart. I recommend this book to anyone not just to the LGTBQ community, it gives a lot of perspective and embodies God's true meaning of love.

A wonderful story of a man and how he was willing to risk his job for the love of his son. When you see so many stories of families who turn their backs on their children when they tell them they are homosexuals it is nice to read a story about a man who truly knows what love is. The United Methodist Church should be embarrassed at how they are treating God's children.

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