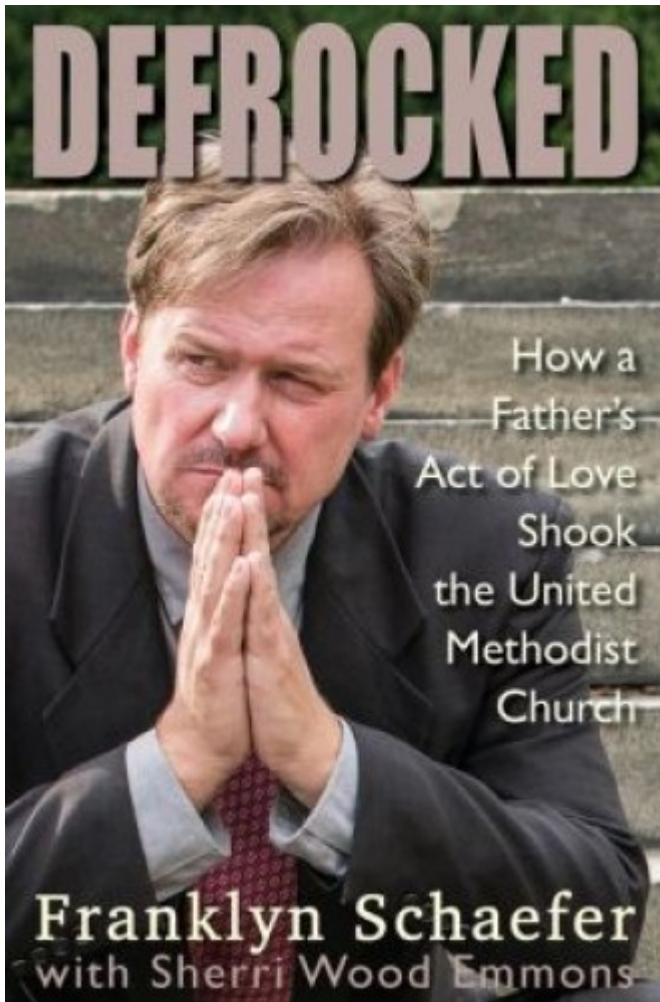


Defrocked, by Franklyn Schaefer with Sherri Wood Emmons

Books in the [November 26, 2014](#) issue

In Review



Defrocked

By Franklyn Schaefer with Sherri Wood Emmons

Chalice Press

Schaefer's story of being tried and defrocked by the United Methodist Church for having performed his gay son's marriage received wide coverage. Stories of conflict are never as simple as they're conveyed, and this is true here. Schaefer's church in

Pennsylvania was growing. A contemporary worship service was added to its traditional service and began to attract more worshipers than the traditional service. Congregants knew Schaefer had a gay son, and this led to the development of a “concern group.” Then the son of a disaffected chancel choir director pursued the case to prosecute Schaefer for disobeying church law. Although the accusation set in motion a chain of events that altered Schaefer’s life, he never regretted his actions. (Schaefer has recently been reinstated through an appeal process.)