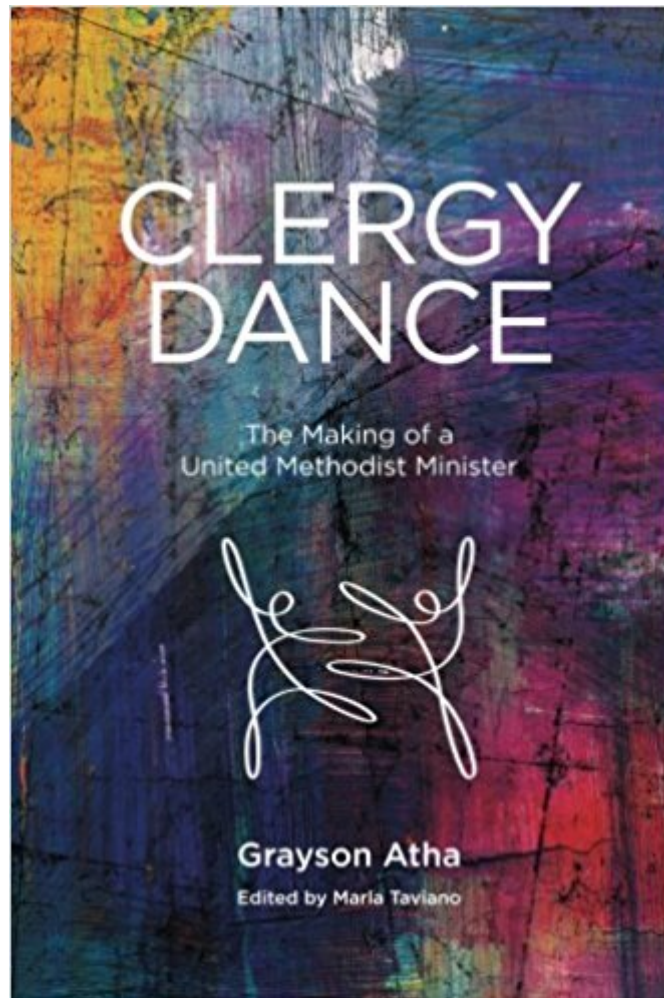




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The Clergy Dance



Synopsis

The Clergy Dance is a story of a person who it seems by mistake began his journey. The dance began on a very conservative dance floor in a small town, where dancing was forbidden, and continued in rural as well as urban settings. It continues through encounters with civil rights; to a cross-racial appointment; an accusation of assault; through leadership of a church where people who were Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender could be seen but not heard; the author was fired from that church, but then offered his job back and returned to a warm reception and helped hang a 30-foot banner on the church tower that said, "Experience worship as God intended; ALL are welcome here. Whichever you believe, or don't, about the church, religion is about people loving other people. It's about congregating, eating, people smiling, babies crying, marriage, divorce, and death. It's about strengthening your faith, and questioning your faith sometimes all in the same breath. It's about being angry, and about questioning God and the state of our world, and then it's about realizing that we must continue to move forward to help soften the blows of life for those around us. Church is about sanctuary. About peace. About love. This dance has victories, and defeats. It shows one man's journey to minister to people amidst the smiles, tears, marriages, divorces, deaths, lots of crying babies, and his own questions about the church, the ministry, and his own "call." It's about a person who doesn't have all the answers about God, or religion, or miracles, or tragedies. It's about a person who realizes that we must keep dancing with each other, our neighbors, our friends, our communities, our world, and our faith, in order to find the answers.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I was excited to read this book, as Grayson Atha was the minister of our small church when I was quite young. I think I was something like seven or eight years old when he left. Ours was his first church and I know several of the people he mentions in the book, including my grandmother, whom he mentions by name. But I found this book to be very insightful and a joy to read, even if I'd not had a personal connection. Pastoring a flock of human beings is indeed a dance and this collection of circumstances that he encountered throughout his ministry helps us understand how challenging it can be, while still staying true to God's principles. The Clergy Dance is an easy read, by a man who wants nothing more than to serve God by showing love and acceptance, and providing guidance, often in the face of opposition to his methods. Grayson Atha was mentioned at various points in my life, long after he'd moved on from my church. He made a real impact in our church, in our community, and in the lives of many. I'm glad to see he's still doing it.

Delightful, entertaining and educational history of a real pastor who isn't afraid to identify his shortcomings as well as his growth in ministry.

Since Grayson grew up in the same small town area that I lived in, it was interesting to read how he saw things and about his ministry.

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