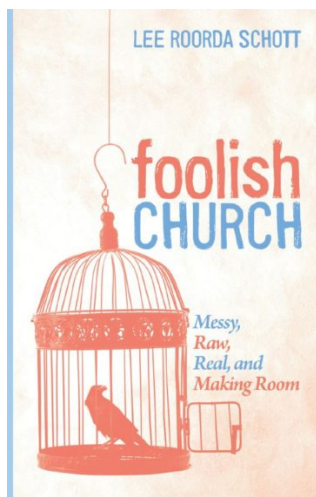


PRESS RELEASE



FOOLISH CHURCH

Messy, Raw, Real, and Making Room
by Lee Roorda Schott

Published February 2019 | \$20.00, 148 pages, paperback |
ISBN 978-1-5326-5327-8 | Cascade Books

I have a hunch that when we make room for, well, *anyone*, we're going to end up needing to make room for the people who have been waiting for the church that matters, for the church that's willing to be The Church in all its fullness. That's the foolishness I've discovered inside a prison.

— from the preface to FOOLISH CHURCH

Messy, raw, and real aren't the words most of us use when we say what's good about our churches. But what if they were? Author Lee Roorda Schott found out, serving a beautiful church inside the Iowa women's prison. A lifelong church person, she discovered more church and greater faithfulness in this most unlikely setting, with room for people the church has often overlooked. In FOOLISH CHURCH, she shares her lessons learned with the hope that leaders outside the prison's walls might be inspired, equipped, and encouraged to loosen the fetters that keep our churches so closed off.

Combine now with THE FOOLS' MANUAL (Cascade Books, October 2019), a crash course in making room. This companion guide offers chapter-by-chapter discussion questions, Bible reflections, and instructions for "practicing foolishness" that will change the way we see one another.

"We must be some kind of fools to be able to glimpse the wisdom of God," Schott writes in earnestness, but the need to do so is "deadly serious," especially as political posturing, social prejudice, and xenophobia continue to dangerously divide our country and world. FOOLISH CHURCH offers an alternative—and now actionable—vision for readers, lay leaders, and pastors who are committed to their church being a place of refuge amidst the rubble.

About the Author:

Lee Roorda Schott is a United Methodist elder and pastor of Women at the Well, a church inside the women's prison in Mitchellville, Iowa. She is a graduate of Saint Paul School of Theology and Harvard Law School and worked as a lawyer for fifteen years before becoming a pastor. Her writing has appeared in such varied places as the Immersion Bible Study series, *Doxology: A Journal of Worship*, and *Harvard Women's Law Journal*. Lee resides with her husband on her family's century farm near Prairie City, Iowa. Learn more about Lee at www.leeschott.com or join the conversation on the @FoolishChurch Facebook page.

WIPF and STOCK Publishers
combines innovative technology with academic excellence
to produce affordable books of enduring value

#FoolishChurch

Lee Roorda Schott, author
515.360.3977 or foolishchurch@gmail.com

Joe Delahanty, marketing coordinator
541.933.7123 or joe@wipfandstock.com