



Give the People Light and they will find their own way.

# The Wisconsin Light

## Lesbian Minister Faces Ouster

[Milwaukee]- Members of the Brown Deer United Church of Christ are expected to vote April 14 on whether to ask for the resignation of their part-time pastor, Rev. Janis Doleschal. The church's action follows Rev. Doleschal's admission that she is in a long-standing relationship with another woman. Doleschal has served the church for eight years.

Late last year, a church member asked Doleschal if it was true that she was a lesbian. When she told him that it was true, he took the issue to the church's Pastoral Relations Committee. The committee held several educational events for the congregation and then sent members a questionnaire asking them to evaluate Doleschal's job performance.

Doleschal told the *Milwaukee Journal*: "What disturbs me is that the issue of performance never came up before the issue of sexual orientation arose. I did nothing to precipitate this except to tell the truth when I was asked."

"I have always maintained the highest ethical standards and I have always demanded the same of others," Doleschal told the *Journal*. "I've held many civic positions and I have no idea what impact this will have on those. It would seem to me that if I did the job well before that I should be able to continue to do so."

Doleschal has been Commissioner of Interscholastic Athletics for the Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) since 1974. She has held positions on the Board of Directors of the Milwaukee Opera Company and the City of Festivals Committee. She is involved in many other community activities as well.

Bob Jasna, Associate Superintendent of MPS, noted that the state of Wisconsin and the Milwaukee School Board have policies which forbid discrimination based on sexual orientation. Jasna told the *Journal*: "I would hope there wouldn't be anyone who would think she would not be able to do her job."

MPS spokesman Dave Begel concurred: "This district doesn't discriminate. It never has and it never will. The issue of what is going on in that church has nothing to do with us."

The *Milwaukee Journal* has covered the Doleschal story aggressively, placing its initial coverage on the front page of the main section and following up with numerous features. *Journal* reporter Marie Rohde interviewed several MPS coaches who criticized some of Doleschal's policies as athletic commissioner. One of these was the imposition of stricter school attendance standards, which have caused a number of athletes to become ineligible.

Doleschal told the *Journal*: "I will go ahead and do my job the same way I have in the past... There are people out there who will understand and there are people out there who will not understand. There are people who have not liked me before. Now this will give them one more reason not to like me."

Rev. Robert Horst, the chief minister for the United Church of Christ denomination in Milwaukee, criticized media coverage of the Doleschal story. Horst told the *Journal* that bringing up past criticism of Doleschal's performance as athletic commissioner "almost seems like gay and lesbian bashing."

The General Assembly of the United Church of Christ has recommended that sexual orientation not be used as a reason to dismiss a pastor, but the policy is non-binding on individual congregations. Some choose to be "welcoming" congregations, others do not.

Another minister with the United Church of Christ in Milwaukee, Rev. Margarita Suarez, is an "out"-lesbian who has been fully accepted by her congregation, the New Hope United Church of Christ located at 14th and Greenfield on Milwaukee's south side.

In March, the 44-member Executive Council of the United Church of Christ updated the manual governing policies and procedures in the 1.6 million member church's executive offices and

## Only One State Lawmaker Supports U.S. Civil Rights Act

### Rep. Clarenbach Calling For 'Realistic Increase' In AIDS Funding

[Madison]- Rep. David Clarenbach (D-Madison) is calling for a "realistic increase" in funding for AIDS and HIV disease programs in the 1991-93 state budget.

Clarenbach says the funding proposals in Governor Tommy Thompson's budget fall far short of meeting the growing needs of the fight against AIDS.

"We sometimes get numbed by the devastating impact of the AIDS epidemic," Clarenbach noted. "But the human tragedy of this disease is growing, and state government cannot pretend that it is not."

By the end of the decade, it is estimated that there will be 30 million diagnosed AIDS cases worldwide — 10 million of them children.

Already in Wisconsin, there are 15,000 people with HIV infection.

"Behind these numbers is the reality that AIDS affects every segment of our society," Clarenbach said. "In fact, the fastest growing group of people with AIDS are racial minorities, women and children."

"Yet after a decade of progress in Wisconsin in the fight against AIDS, Wisconsin is in danger of taking a giant step backward," Clarenbach continued.

"The Governor's budget would deal an untimely setback to programs for people with AIDS and HIV infection."

The administration's budget proposal would: Eliminate \$150,000 in funding for the AIDS drug clinical trial program, which allows state residents to receive new drugs approved by the FDA;

Provide no growth in funding for life care services provided by AIDS Service Organizations, which provide in-home medical, nutritional and pastoral services designed to keep clients out of expensive institutional care settings; and

### Legislation Proposed To Strengthen Hate Crimes Law

[Madison]- Enforcement of Wisconsin's law against hate crimes would be strengthened under legislation being prepared by Rep. David Clarenbach (D-Madison).

Clarenbach, author of the 1988 law, will propose changes to assist the police and courts in applying enhanced penalties for violent crimes motivated by bigotry.

"Wisconsin has already sent a strong signal against gay-bashing, racism and religious bigotry with enactment of this law," Clarenbach said. "We must now act to make the statute as effective as possible in practice."

Under the hate crimes law, prison sentences can be increased by up to five years and fines by up to \$10,000 when a jury finds that a violent act was directed at an individual or group because of their encouraged the adoption of similar policies by the church's more than 6,300 local congregations.

Among other revisions, the revised manual prohibits "discriminatory behavior or harassment" against employees on the basis of "HIV/AIDS diagnosis or disability." The manual already prohibited such discrimination based on such factors as race, color, national origin, sex, age, sexual orientation and disabilities.

Rev. William R. Johnson, a member of the team which recommended the changes which have to do chiefly with HIV/AIDS discrimination said, "It (the revised manual) says to our members that the United Church of Christ's commitment to non-discrimination is solid." Johnson said he hoped the church's policies would be "a beacon to other denominations" as well.

Cap the AZT drug reimbursement program at 215 slots, despite estimates that 15,000 people in Wisconsin have HIV infection.

"These budget proposals ignore reality," Clarenbach charged, noting that the Madison AIDS Support Network has had a 34 percent increase in its case load in the past year alone.

Doug Nelson, Executive Director of the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) said that MAP's case load doubled in 1990 and he expected it to double again in 1991. Nelson also pointed out that it costs \$9,000 per year to care for a person who has HIV and is ill. That cost increases to \$69,000 per year for a person who has been diagnosed with AIDS. This includes hospitalization, drug costs and out-patient care. Nelson said that he believed Clarenbach to be "right on target" with his objections to the Governor's budget.

Clarenbach went on to say that "If these proposals are enacted, the skyrocketing number of people with AIDS and HIV infection will no longer have adequate medical and support services."

The cutbacks are especially short-sighted since the programs that the Governor proposes to curtail actually save taxpayers' money, Clarenbach said. "They work to keep the infected population as healthy as possible, out of expensive institutional care settings, and off medical assistance."

Clarenbach is working with key organizations to develop a budget amendment responding to the growing need for AIDS and HIV services.

"Wisconsin can win the fight against AIDS, but our efforts will be seriously set back unless the Legislature maintains a commitment to fund these programs," Clarenbach said.

[Washington, D.C.]- The Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) reports that with 93 lawmakers behind it — plus more signing on regularly — the Federal Gay and Lesbian Civil Rights Act was reintroduced into the 102nd Congress in March. Lesbian and Gay lobbyists have pledged to pass the bill in this decade.

Officially known as the Civil Rights Amendments Act of 1991, the bill would ban discrimination on the basis of affection or sexual orientation in housing, employment, federally assisted programs and public accommodations. The bill amends the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and 1968 which bans discrimination based on race, color, sex, religion or national origin.

The chief sponsors of the bill are Rep. Ted Weiss (D-NY) and Sen. Alan Cranston (D-CA).

In the Wisconsin Congressional delegation, only Rep. Jim Moody (D-WI) is listed by HRCF as a co-sponsor.

"This legislation would not establish any special treatment or rights," said Sen. Cranston. "It would simply extend to gay men and lesbian women basic protections against invidious discrimination because of sexual orientation."

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) and HRCF have worked together to introduce the bill. Both organizations have made the bill a high legislative priority and have formed a "working group" of D.C.-based lobbyists to strategize on the bill.

A federal Gay and Lesbian civil rights bill has been introduced in each Congress since the 94th session in 1975. Rep. Bella Abzug was the bill's first sponsor. The bill is currently designated H.R. 1430 in the House and S. 574 in the Senate.

HRCF and NGLTF lobbyists strongly urge gay men and lesbians to report discrimination and become involved in national and grassroots efforts to pass the bill. Contact Peri Jude Radevic at NGLTF (202) 332-6483, or Steve Smith at HRCF, (202) 628-4160.

## CCF Funds 5 Tons Of Food For MAP

[Milwaukee]- The Cream City Foundation has issued a check to a non profit foodbank which will allow the Milwaukee AIDS Project to withdraw from that food bank 10,000 pounds (5 tons) of food, which they will issue to persons with HIV who require nutritional assistance.

This \$1,000 grant was made possible in part by a designated donation, with the balance funded by general contributions to CCF. The CCF Grants Committee and Board agreed that routing the money through a non-profit food bank, operated by Second Harvesters, would give MAP and its clients the greatest "bang" for the buck. Second Harvesters receives donated food from numerous sources, which it then makes available to its client organizations. Although certain types of food may not be available at any given time, the food bank normally contains canned meats, vegetables, and fruits; dry goods such as cereals and pastas; milk and other supplementary powdered foods; and many other items. The Milwaukee AIDS Project may draw food on their account at any time, as the food is needed and when appropriate food items become available.

Contact the CCF at 414/ 265-0880 if you wish to participate in a future grant of this type, or for information on their other programs benefiting the Milwaukee Gay/Lesbian community. The Cream City Foundation maintains its offices at the Milwaukee Enterprise Center, 2821 N. 4th Street Suite 217B, Milwaukee WI 53212.

PLAN TO ATTEND MAP'S  
MAKE A PROMISE DINNER  
SUNDAY, APRIL 7  
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