



Presbyterians pave way for Gay clergy

Walls keeping Gays out keep tumbling as another mainline protestant denomination opens its clergy ranks to Gays.

Episcopalians, the Evangelical Lutheran Church USA, the United Church of Christ and Unitarians have Gay clergy, the Episcopalians bishops, and now the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has joined their ranks.

The Presbyterians passed a measure Tuesday allowing openly Gay men and women in same-sex relationships to be ordained as clergy.

The move reflects a monumental shift in the 2.8 million-member church, which, has had increasingly contentious debates and struggles over issues pertaining to Gay and Lesbian members. A majority of the church's regional bodies defeated a similar measure to allow Gay clergy two years ago.

“This is quite a day of celebration,” said Michael Adee, the executive director of More Light Presbyterians, a Minnesota-based church group that has pushed to allow openly Gay clergy in recent years.” We’ve restored

the longstanding Presbyterian understanding of ordination: that the most important qualifications are related to faith, not marital status or sexuality.”

Adee is a former member of Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church in

Cincinnati and now resides in Santa Fe.

Ironically, Minnesota's Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area's pro-amendment vote tipped the scale in favor of pro-Gay clergy church members with a majority 87 votes.

Kill the Gays Bill is back

From Soulforce

Urgent Action is needed because the Kill The Gays, the now-infamous Anti-Homosexuality Bill has been revived by Uganda's Parliament and hearings are currently underway. The bill, in its current form, calls for the execution of sexually active homosexuals who are HIV-positive or who are considered to be “serial offenders.”

The bill also imposes a sentence of life in prison upon conviction of a single “homosexual act,” and it

bans the production or circulation of any information that “promotes” homosexuality—almost certainly including information on sexual health and HIV Prevention, any religious leader who speaks of welcome and affirmation for LGBT persons, or any justice work on behalf and/or with LGBT persons.

President Obama and Secretary of State Clinton must speak out now in the strongest terms against this horrendous legislation. The time to act is now, as there have been numerous

reliable reports that it is likely the bill will be approved and signed into law by Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni by the end of the week unless the political debate takes a more humane turn.

This legislation is just one of example of a dangerous and rapidly deteriorating human rights environment.

At the National Prayer Breakfast in 2010, President Obama said of this bill: “Surely we can agree that it is unconscionable to target Gays and Lesbians

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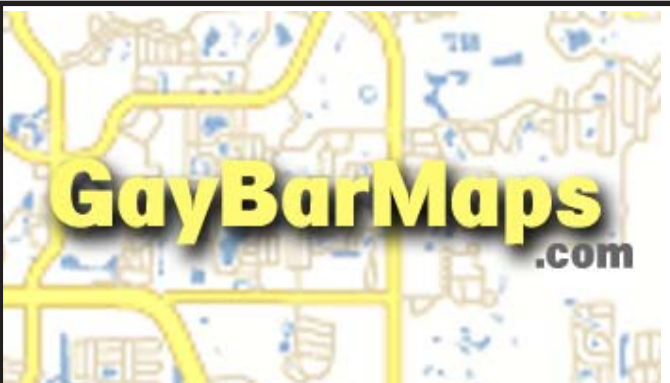
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for who they are, whether it’s here in the United States or ... more extremely in odious laws that are being proposed most recently in Uganda.”
On the same date and subject, Secretary Clinton said “I recently called President Museveni ... and expressed the strongest concerns about a law being considered in the parliament of Uganda.”

Soulforce calls on President Obama and Secretary Clinton to make even stronger statements about the United States Government’s opposition to the Anti-Homosexuality Bill immediately. The lives of many of our brothers and sisters in Uganda many depend on this simple action.

Please contact President

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Tell them you are opposed to this anti-homosexuality bill and urge them to publicly do the same.

Politics getting even uglier

Anti-Gay rights groups around the country will see a cash infusion over the next two years through a plan called “Ignite an Enduring Cultural Transformation.” The groups are remaining mum about who is responsible.

The campaign, which largely targets states where Republicans won control of legislatures or governorships, has garnered the support of

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Republican political superstars such as former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal, House Majority Leader Eric Cantor (Va.), Sens. Marco Rubio (Fla.) and Jon Kyl (Ariz.), and Rep. Trent Franks (Ariz.). (*Editor's question*—What is it about Arizona?)

The groups intend to pass anti-Gay marriage amendments, curtail abortion rights and, in at least one case, ban “transgender bathrooms.”

Family policy councils — a creation of Focus on the Family in the 1980s — have launched the Ignite plan in 15 states. Each family policy council has a three-prong plan to achieve their legislative goals over the next two years: lobbying for legislation, mobilizing pastors and social conservatives and supporting candidates that have backed their initiatives. Each group has used a stock brochure containing nearly identical wording to explain their plan and to solicit funds. In many

cases, an Ignite plan was launched with an anonymous matching-grant donor.

Requests for information from many of the policy councils were denied, and Focus on the Family told The **American Independent** that they have no involvement, declining to offer information on any organization that might back the plan.

Focus on the Family says that while the groups are “fully associated” with FoF, they “are independent entities with no corporate or financial relationship to each other or to Focus on the Family.”

While Form 990s — revenue and expense documents that nonprofits file with the IRS — don't provide detailed information on political organizing expenditures, **The American Independent** has provided each group's average yearly revenues for comparison to their two-year spending under the Ignite plan.

Already, the groups are seeing success in their respective states.



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