



11175 READING ROAD
SUITE 103
CINCINNATI, OH 45241
513-733-5775
513-733-5794 FAX
INFO@CCV.ORG

Phil Burress
PRESIDENT

David Miller
VICE PRESIDENT
PUBLIC POLICY

Jerry Lyon
VICE PRESIDENT
OPERATIONS

OFFICIALLY
ASSOCIATED WITH
FOCUS ON THE FAMILY AND
FAMILY RESEARCH COUNCIL
AS AN OHIO FAMILY
POLICY COUNCIL

IN THIS ISSUE:

- 6 Day of Truth in Public Schools
- 7 Indecency Bill a Must for Families
- 8 CCV Sues a Public Library

Courier Citizens'

◆ PROTECTING THE FAMILY SINCE 1983 ◆

Vol 6 Issue 2

Winburn Joins CCV Staff Former Cincinnati Councilman Heads Statewide Campaign

Rev. Charles (Charlie) Winburn has joined the staff of Citizens for Community Values in a temporary, hands-on consulting capacity to head the organization's most pressing statewide campaign — exposing and attacking all forms of sexual exploitation in Ohio.

"Attacking the pervasive, ever-expanding and criminal sex-for-sale industry in all of Ohio's major metropolitan areas must be CCV's number one priority," says CCV's president, Phil Burress.

"Charlie Winburn's experience, first-hand knowledge, passion, and compassion make him the ideal candidate to drive this campaign. We feel truly blessed to have a person with Charlie's credentials to lead this effort."

For the past several years a significant portion of CCV's human and financial resources have been poured into the Community Defense Act (CDA). Passed finally in November of 2007 by a 75 percent majority in both chambers of Ohio's Legislature, CDA regulates on a statewide basis all legally defined "sexually oriented businesses" (pornographic book and video stores, strip clubs and the like), requiring them to close at midnight and prohibiting physical contact between nude or seminude employees and patrons.

Once past all the legal challenges to CDA filed by desperate sex business owners, CCV's staff will be working with local communities across the state in the enforcement phase of CDA.

Burress is quick to say, though, that the passage and enforcement of CDA do not spell the end of sex-



Rev. Charles Winburn
"The ideal candidate to drive this campaign."

for-sale in Ohio. He explains, "The legally defined sexually oriented businesses whose operations will be regulated by CDA are only one component of the vast sexual exploitation industry in Ohio. 'The tip of the iceberg,' if you will."

"All of Ohio's major cities are plagued by a criminal undercurrent of 'sex-for-sale.' Prostitution and sexually slavery are rampant in our major metropolitan markets. And wherever you find sexual exploitation, the other arms of the 'iron triangle' will be flourishing as well — illegal drugs and gambling."

Burress says that CCV's board and staff were unanimous in identifying this larger sexual exploitation issue as CCV's top priority.

"The only question that we had," says Burress "was how an already stretched staff could effectively embrace such a major cam-

paign. The legal and enforcement phases of CDA plus all of CCV's ongoing projects already were consuming us. We needed an individual to drive this effort, and that individual would need very special qualifications."

"We knew that the ideal candidate for this position would need more than just good management skills, and more than just a passion for this issue," elaborates Jerry Lyon, CCV's vice president of operations. "We needed an individual with a first-hand, working knowledge of what was happening on the streets of our cities and of the important role that elected officials and law enforcement personnel would play in the process."

Divine Direction

Lyon said that it became clear that God's hand was in the campaign when, at the end of last year, Winburn came knocking at CCV's door.

By a very narrow margin, Winburn recently had lost a race for Cincinnati Council. His entry into that race was driven by a desire to stop the bleeding in greater Cincinnati caused by prostitution and other forms of vice.

"A new position was the last thing on Charlie's mind," Burress recalls. "He had come to us to discuss what he had seen on the streets of Cincinnati — the toll that prostitution and other forms of sexual exploitation were taking on so many women and children. He knew that these problems were common to all of Ohio's cities. And he came seeking our direction

Continued on page 2

“The time is far past due to confront this criminal industry head-on.”

on other avenues that he might pursue to stop the devastation.”

As Charlie poured out his heart to CCV’s staff, Burress immediately saw in Winburn the perfect candidate to lead CCV’s renewed statewide sexual exploitation effort. He had the passion, the experience, and the first-hand knowledge necessary. And Burress felt confident that he had the energy and drive to tackle the assignment without detracting from his pastoral duties.

With the board’s approval, Burress officially approached Winburn about joining the CCV team in a temporary, hands-on consulting capacity.

After securing the approval and blessing of his elders, Winburn agreed to lead the campaign. And on January 1 he joined the CCV team.

The Plan

A detailed master plan to address the sex-for-sale industry in all of its manifestations — and in all of Ohio’s major cities — is still in the development stage. All of Ohio’s cities are plagued by this criminal industry, but each of

Ohio’s cities has its own unique structure and personality. Addressing sexual exploitation in each city will require localized plans and grassroots community involvement. Cincinnati and Columbus, in which CCV already has established offices, will be the first metro targets.

Six underlying objectives will shape each individual plan.

- **Reaching out to the victims of sexual exploitation in our cities.** For the most part those victims are the women — too often young girls — who fuel this degrading industry. Often those women are, themselves, guilty of prostitution or related crimes and thus are criminals who must be prosecuted. Almost without exception, though, they are victims. Victims of an abusive family environment; victims of controlling, abusive pimps; even victims of organized sexual trafficking.
- **Exposing mainstream advertisers who are promoting and profiting from the commercial sex industry.** A look through the Yellow Pages directories of any of our major cities or through their

alternative, give-away newspapers will reveal thinly veiled, often graphic ads for prostitution and related sexual services.

- **Working with the Ohio General Assembly to pass a Human Trafficking law.**
- **Lobbying the Ohio General Assembly to increase the penalties for prostitution and related offenses,** not only for prostitutes, but for the real villains, the pimps as well. Under Ohio Revised Code these penalties do not match the crimes.
- **Increasing public awareness of the fact of prostitution, sexual slavery and other forms of criminal sexual exploitation in our cities.**
- **Letting law enforcement and elected officials know that citizens consider vigorous enforcement of these crimes a high priority.**

Off to a Running Start!

Since officially joining the CCV team on January 1, Charlie Winburn already has spent hundreds of hours meeting with local police department personnel and elected officials as well as with organizations that minister to victims. In addition, he has participated with other CCV staff in training in the area of sexual trafficking.

“The sex-for-sale industry is a disease that is crippling all Ohio cities. The demand is great, and there are forces exploiting our women and children to meet that demand,” says Burress.

“The time is far past due to confront this criminal industry head-on. And I’m confident that placing a seasoned, streetwise, compassionate veteran like Charlie Winburn on staff to develop and implement our plan of attack was a very positive and God-directed first step.”

Charles Winburn’s Bio



In 1986 Charlie and his wife, Coleen, asked a few friends to join them in the formation of a new, non-denominational church. Today that church, The Encampment, serves over 300 families in the College Hill/Mt. Airy community of Cincinnati. While serving as Executive Pastor of that growing, active fellowship, Charlie also has served in various public service positions, including:

1986-1987 – Deputy Director in the Cincinnati office of Ohio’s Department of Administrative Services.

1987-1991 – Executive Director of the Ohio Employee Compensation Board.

1991-1993 – Executive Director of New Wave 2000, a public policy think tank focusing on urban issues.

1993-2000 – An elected member of Cincinnati City Council, a position in which he distinguished himself by concentrating on economic growth, fiscal responsibility, public welfare and public safety issues.

2001-2006 – Appointed by the Governor to serve on the Ohio Civil Rights Commission.

Charlie holds a bachelor’s degree in urban management and a master’s degree in social foundations of education, both from the University of Cincinnati, and also successfully completed the urban leaders program at Harvard University.

Ohio Legislative Update

Of the 36 bills currently being tracked by CCV's Director of Governmental Affairs, Barry Sheets, four have been flagged as "high alert" due to their current status in the legislative process and/or their potential to impact family values in Ohio. Please keep these bills on your daily prayer and action lists.

Ultrasound Viewing Option Bill, H.B. 314 — Sponsored by Rep. Shannon Jones (R-Springboro), H.B.314 would require that, if an ultrasound examination is performed prior to or during an abortion, the abortionist *must* give the woman an opportunity to view the active ultrasound image of the unborn child and an opportunity to receive a physical picture of the ultrasound image.

Ultrasonounds provide scientifically accurate information that women should have an opportunity to view in order to make a more informed decision about abortion. Seeing those live images of the human life growing within her has touched the heart of many an abortion-bound woman and saved the life of her unborn child.

H.B. 314 passed the Ohio House by a vote of 73-20 on December 12. The bill is expected to be passed out of the Senate Health, Human Services and Aging Committee, and then passed on the floor of the Senate. H.B.314 would then move to the desk of Gov. Ted Strickland, where its fate is less certain.

Be prepared to respond to our e-mail requests to flood the governor's office with messages at the appropriate time. If you do not currently receive CCV's e-mail "Perspectives," please visit CCV.org and request to be included.

The Ohio Cloning Ban Bill, S.B.174 — Introduced by pro-family Sen. Steve Buehrer (R-Delta), this bill would bring Ohio into the company of six other states that prohibit the cloning of human embryos, whether for reproductive, therapeutic, or research purposes. It represents a clear statement of

the value of human life and individuality.

S. B. 174 was given its second hearing in front of the Senate Judiciary Committee on Civil Justice, chaired by Sen. David Goodman (R-Columbus). Please pray for the committee to be favorably influenced by the testimony provided by Dr. David Prentice of the Family Research Council and Dr. Dennis Sullivan of Cedarville University.

The Prevention First Act, H.B. 251 — Introduced by Rep. Jon Peterson (R-Delaware) and Rep. Tyrone Yates (D-Cincinnati), H.B. 251 is an omnibus package of changes to Ohio law to benefit Planned Parenthood, their affiliated organizations, and NARAL Pro-Choice Ohio.

H.B. 251 would repeal Ohio's abstinence education law, send millions of tax dollars directly to abortion providers, and mandate that all public schools teach condom-based "comprehensive sexuality education" to students.

Planned Parenthood has organized a citizen lobby day to promote the bill on April 9. It is currently assigned to the House Health Committee, chaired, fortunately, by pro-family Rep. Lynn Wachtmann (R-Napoleon). The bill has not yet been scheduled for hearings. Please pray that our legislators will understand the devastation brought to so many by abortion and the promotion of risky sexual practices to our youth, and reject this dangerous bill.

Sexual Orientation as a Protected Class – (As this *Courier* goes to print, neither the

House or Senate versions have been assigned a number.) Companion bills were introduced on March 11 in both chambers, with considerable media fanfare. The legislation seeks to make "sexual orientation" one of a list of protected classes for purposes of the state anti-discrimination law.

Backed by Equality Ohio and other homosexual advocacy groups, this legislation is a reintroduction of legislation that has failed to find necessary support in several previous sessions. Equality Ohio has planned their "Lobby Day for Equality 2008" for May 14 to lobby legislators in support of this and other special rights bills. Please pray that our legislators will understand the inherently discriminatory nature of this and other legislation that equates sexual preference with immutable characteristics such as skin color, race or gender and give special protections to persons who identify themselves as homosexual, lesbian or bi-sexual.



Barry Sheets
CCV's DIRECTOR OF
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Ohio's Premier Charity Golf Event

Tuesday, May 27
The Heritage Club in Mason



For reservation and sponsorship information contact CCV.org or 513-733-5775

70,000 and Counting: Obscenity Reporting Web Site Arrives at a Milestone

But Prosecutions Still Lag

For years Bob Peters recognized the need for a link between citizens whose homes and children are assaulted by Internet obscenity and the federal authorities charged with enforcing federal laws against Internet obscenity.

After years of planning and developing, in 2002 Morality in Media (MIM), the organization that Peters heads, launched such a link.

ObscenityCrimes.org is a Web site that enables citizens, who are unintentionally exposed to pornography on the Internet, or whose children are exposed to pornography on the Internet, to quickly and easily report possible violations of federal obscenity laws to the proper authorities – their local U.S. Attorney and the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) in Washington, D.C.

National opinion polls have consistently revealed that more than eight out of ten adult Americans support vigorous enforcement of federal laws against Internet obscenity.

Peters was aware of that fact, but early on he still questioned whether citizens would take the few minutes necessary to use MIM's site to report possible violations of obscenity laws when they or their children were exposed.

Six years later, he no longer entertains that question. Many citizens whose homes have been invaded by obscene Internet pornography have indeed been willing to take the time. They've gone to ObscenityCrimes.org, clicked on "How to Make a Report," and filled in the information required by the DOJ.

On February 23, 2008, ObscenityCrimes.org recorded citizen complaint number 70,000!

Of those 70,000 complaints, 2,227 were registered by Ohio citizens.

Faithfully, MIM personnel have forwarded each of those complaints to the appropriate U.S. Attorney General and to the DOJ in Washington.

MIM even took the reporting process a step further. In 2002 the organization hired two retired law enforcement agents, with extensive experience investigating Internet pornography, to follow up on complaints submitted by citizens through their site and to prepare their own investigative reports, which describe in detail the promotional material and sexual conduct that the agents observe on various 'adult' Web sites.

On several occasions the DOJ itself has expressed appreciation for the ObscenityCrimes.org project, including once in testimony before a Senate Committee. In 2005 and 2006, Congress even earmarked funds for the project.

70,000 to 0

But in spite of accolades from the DOJ and remarkable success in terms of citizen involvement, Peters states that the site has failed to achieve its purpose.

He explains, "(t)o my knowledge, the DOJ has not initiated a single prosecution in response to a citizen complaint submitted to the site. Accolades without enforcement action are meaningless!"

"... eight out of ten adult Americans support vigorous enforcement of federal laws against Internet obscenity."

"With the apparent blessing of President Bush and Congress," he notes, "they (DOJ) have focused almost exclusively on curbing sexual exploitation of children and trafficking in women and children."

"These, too, are important battles," Peters is quick to say. "But 'adult' obscenity also causes great

Web sites that allow children to view hardcore pornography free of charge and without proof of age."

David Miller, CCV's vice president of public policy, shares Peters' concern and disappointment.

"The DOJ needs to understand what numerous reports substantiate – that there is a direct

low point through the gate of adult obscenity. When the 'high' achieved by viewing adult pornography begins to dull, as inevitably it will, the pornography addict must search for ever more distorted forms of obscenity. The addict escalates from adult pornography to child pornography.

By refusing to enforce adult obscenity laws, we are creating tomorrow's child pornography consumers."

Peters adds, "During the Reagan/Bush presidencies, the Justice Department's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section had great success prosecuting both 'adult' obscenity and

"...many of the persons 'hooked' on child pornography arrived at that low point through the gate of adult obscenity."

child pornography. By 1994, however, President Clinton's choice for Attorney General, Janet Reno, brought enforcement of federal obscenity laws to a virtual standstill. Now, once again, pleas to take strong action against the explosion of 'adult' obscenity apparently fall on deaf ears at the White House, Justice Department, and FBI."

The solution, according to Miller, is two-fold.

"First, continue to use ObscenityCrimes.org every time that you are assaulted by obscene pornography on the Internet.

The DOJ must be made aware that we consider enforcement of federal laws against Internet obscenity a priority."

"Then," says Miller, "be an informed voter this November. Use OhioElectionCentral.com to find out where the candidates for federal office stand on the issue of enforcement of federal obscenity laws. And then vote your values!"

imes.org

Morality in Media, Inc.

educating the reporting possible net obscenity laws

Search

- Current News
- Sign up for Newsletter
- Request for More Information
- About MIM - Make a Donation

stop to this!

number of complaints forwarded to each U.S. Attorney. Complaints to ObscenityCrimes.org.

r e-mail newsletter, published periodically, with news,

site helpful, tell a friend.

s site are used for illustrative purposes only.

Rights Reserved.

harm. Among other things, addiction to hardcore pornography contributes to sexual harassment and violence against women and to the breakup of marriages. Evidence also abounds that large numbers of children stumble into and seek out hardcore pornographic materials on the Internet. At this time, 'adult' obscenity laws are the main legal weapon that society has against

connection between adult obscenity and child exploitation," says Miller. "They must understand that many child sexual predators use adult obscenity to arouse themselves and to arouse, instruct and desensitize their victims. And perhaps even more importantly, they must understand that many of the persons 'hooked' on child pornography arrived at that

"Day of Truth" - April 28, 2008

A Compassionate, Orderly Response to "Day of Silence"

day of Truth

In this postmodern culture, hearing the truth about homosexual behavior – its causes and its consequences – is difficult.

Advocates of homosexual behavior have so loudly and repeatedly denied the truth and proclaimed the lies about homosexuality that many have difficulty recognizing the truth.

Those who do recognize the truth often remain silent through fear of harassment or marginalization.

Most persons reading this *Courier* are aware of many of the ways such lies are spread: through mainstream media; through the entertainment industry; through corporate boardroom policies; through resolutions and legislation at all levels of government.

Many, however, may not be aware of the one arena in which homosexual advocates have worked the

hardest to distort the truth about homosexual behavior: our schools.

Methodically and quietly homosexual advocates have successfully altered our textbooks and changed our administrative policies to reflect their mis-truths and untruths. Concepts such as the traditional family, respect for parental authority, the unique roles of the genders

– all have been removed from the curricula and from the materials that educators use to shape the worldview of America's children.

But the efforts of homosexual activists to distort the truth about homosexuality go beyond these behind-the-scenes tactics.

Entrapment

The organization GLSEN – which stands for Gay, Lesbian, Straight Educational Network – is the leading national educational arm of the homosexual advocacy movement. This well-funded organization has free access to most public schools and to many private schools.

Through GLSEN-sponsored clubs, often called "gay-straight alliances," the organization encourages students who may be confused about their sexuality (and what student isn't, at some point in time?) to experiment with homosexual behaviors that have long-term physical, emotional and spiritual consequences. Once lured into such behaviors through questioning and experimentation, impressionable students are encouraged to accept and internalize their new identity.

In 2001, GLSEN became the official sponsor of the national "Day of Silence."

The idea began in 1996 on a single college campus and quickly spread to other colleges and universities. With GLSEN's funding and network, the project now boasts more than 450,000 participants, most of which are in K-12 schools.

This year's "Day of Silence" is April 25.

"The Day of Silence" format is simple. For the entire day, participating students simply go silent. If called upon to answer a question either around campus or in the classroom, a participating student presents a card, which explains

I am speaking the Truth to break the silence.

True tolerance means that people with differing — even opposing — viewpoints can freely exchange ideas and respectfully listen to each other.

It's time for an honest conversation about homosexuality.

There's freedom to change if you want to.

Let's talk.

day of Truth

The Truth cannot be silenced.

©2008 Day of Truth

www.DayOfTruth.org

"You shall know the Truth, and the Truth shall set you free."

JOHN 8:32

Action

Students who want to organize a "Day of Truth" event on their campus, as well as parents and other adults who may want to see how they can support such a student-led initiative, should visit the "Day of Truth" Web site www.dayoftruth.org.

Many schools across the nation actually are participating in the "Day of Silence" project. All citizens can contact their local schools or school district offices to inquire whether schools are participating in "Day of Silence" or what the school's response would be to students who "go silent." Refusing to speak, even in response to teachers or administrators, is both disruptive to the educational process and disrespectful of authority. Let your school officials know that you feel that they should not tolerate such disruption to the classroom, especially when doing so promotes a lifestyle that may cause serious physical and emotional damage to the students under their care.

that their silence is in support of "homosexual, bi-sexual and transgender" students.

In the words of GLSEN's "Day of Silence" Organizational Manual (available at DayOfSilence.org), participating students take their day-long vow of silence "to recognize and protest the discrimination and harassment – in effect, the silencing – experienced by LGBT students and their allies."

The purpose of the event is two-fold. First, it perpetuates the myth (lie) that students who identify themselves as homosexual, bi-sexual or transgender routinely experience discrimination and harassment, and thereby qualify for special protection.

Secondly, the "Day" serves to enlist impressionable young people into support of issues such as "same-sex marriage" and adoption demands of same-sex couples.

Let's face it: the natural rebelliousness in all young people attracts them to any cause that features a safe way to defy authority and disrupt class.

A Truth Alternative

It was to counter this promotion of the homosexual agenda and to express an opposing viewpoint

Continued on page 7

Indecency Bill Will Close a Critical Loophole

Profanity and nudity at any time of day!

That's what the major networks are fighting for the right to broadcast.

And in our federal court system, they are winning.

A June 2002 decision by the 2nd Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals overturned an FCC decision finding that airing of the F-word and S-word during live broadcasts of the 2002 and 2003 Billboard Music Awards' shows was indecent. The FCC has appealed that decision to the U.S. Supreme Court, which has not yet decided whether it will consider the appeal.

In September, the 3rd Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals heard arguments on the infamous Janet Jackson/Super Bowl case. Although a ruling has not yet been handed down, most observers expect that court, also, to overturn the FCC's

decision that the CBS Corporation's airing of the Janet Jackson nudity prank was in violation of federal broadcast indecency laws.

In their decision against the FCC the 2nd Circuit Court claimed that the FCC's authority to rule against networks for indecent broadcasting doesn't apply to "fleeting" instances of profanity or other highly offensive content.

Two identical bills currently under consideration – S.1780, sponsored by Sen. John Rockefeller (D-WV), and H.R.3559, sponsored by Rep. Charles Pickering (R-MS) – would close this court-imposed "loophole."

The bills' single purpose is straightforward: "To require the FCC, in enforcing its regulations concerning the broadcast of indecent programming, to maintain a policy that a single word or image may be considered indecent."

CCV's vice president of public policy, David Miller, calls the proposed legislation a "must for parents and families."

"If the 3rd Circuit Court follows the decision of the 2nd, and both rulings are not overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court," says Miller, "the major networks will have a free pass to air indecency – both verbal and visual – even during the hour when children are most likely to be watching. Protecting our children from indecency on television will become next-to-impossible."

Action

- Contact your U.S. representative and senators and encourage them to vote for, and to do everything within their power to secure passage of, the Protecting Children for Indecent Programming Act (S. 1780 and H.R. 3559). Phone 202-224-3121 to be placed directly in contact with your representative's or senators' offices.
- To easily send a pre-composed message to your representative in Congress, visit CCV.org and click on "Broadcast Indecency."
- Contact FCC Chairman Kevin Martin to thank him for protecting the family by making enforcement of federal broadcasting indecency laws a priority. By mail: Federal Communications Commission, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, D.C. 20554. By phone: (202) 418-1000. By e-mail: KJMWEB@fcc.gov.

DAY OF TRUTH

Continued from page 6

(the Truth) from a Christian perspective, that in 2003, the Alliance Defense Fund (ADF) began to sponsor the "Day of Truth" in schools across the nation.

This year's "Day of Truth" is April 28, the Monday following Friday's "Day of Silence."

"Day of Truth" provides an opportunity for young people to make a strong, thoughtful and compassionate response to the tacit lies and subtle intimidations put fourth on the "Day of Silence."

Before and after school and in between classes, "Day of Truth" participants hand out their own cards (*see page 6*), offering to share a loving, fact-based counterpoint to the unspoken assertions of the advocates for homosexual behavior.

Unlike "Day of Silence" participants, "Day of Truth" students do not disrupt classes. Compassion and respect – toward fellow students, teachers, and

administrators – characterizes their approach.

Because Christian students have encountered strong opposition on many campuses for daring to speak the truth in love on these issues, the Alliance Defense Fund offers free legal resources to ensure full recognition of the "Day of Truth" participants' First Amendment rights.

If a principal, teacher or other authority figure asks a "Day of Truth" participant to cease speaking the truth or passing out their cards, ADF's "Day of Truth" organizational manual advises them first to graciously ask that person to check with his/her own supervisor. If that request does not resolve the issue, the participant is advised to stop immediately, and then call ADF's toll-free number so that one of their attorneys can quickly resolve the situation.

ADF understands that students have a right under the First Amendment and the constitu-

tions of all 50 states, to speak and hear the truth in their schools. Their manual repeatedly stresses that Truth "must never be communicated in anger or with a mean spirit, but always in a loving, but uncompromising, manner."

Why ADF?

With their staff and allied attorneys busy defending religious liberty across the nation, why has ADF added this school-based project to their agenda?

Because ADF's stated purpose is "defending the right to hear and speak the Truth."

Because ADF, like the homosexual advocates who organize the "Day of Silence," know that the most important strategic battle for Truth is fought in the minds of today's students.

And because, as their Organizational Manual states, "only the Truth can truly set someone free and allow them to fully experience God's love and grace in their life."



David Miller
VICE PRESIDENT,
PUBLIC POLICY

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT OF PUBLIC POLICY

ADF, CCV File Suit Against Columbus Area Library

Groups Claim Religious Discrimination

On March 7, 2007, attorneys with the Alliance Defense Fund (ADF) filed a federal lawsuit against the Upper Arlington Public Library Board of Trustees on behalf of Citizens for Community Values after the library denied CCV use of their public meeting room.

During the month of February CCV held a series of presentations in southwest and central Ohio entitled "Politics and the Pulpit." The presentations, which were open to the public, dealt primarily with the topic of what pastors, churches and other non-profit groups were allowed to do to encourage involvement in the political process. The meetings also included a discussion of Biblical teachings on the subject of political involvement, plus a period of singing and thanksgiving to God for the freedom Americans have to participate in the political process.

"Thanks to a lot of misinformation and threats from groups like Americans United for Separation of Church and State, there's a lot of confusion among clergy and congregants about what churches can and cannot do," explains CCV's vice president of public policy, David Miller. "Early in the year we called our legal partners at ADF

and asked if they could help us set the record straight."

When Doug Napier, one of ADF's staff attorneys replied that he had three open days on his calendar during the week of February

request, stating that our proposed meetings violated library policy because they contained 'inherent elements of a religious service.'"

ADF legal counsel Tim Chandler knew that the Board of

"Christians have the same First Amendment rights as everyone else."

The screenshot shows the ADF website with a navigation bar (ABOUT ADF, ISSUES, WHAT WE DO, ACTIONS, GET INVOLVED), a search bar, and a main banner with the ADF logo and the tagline "a legal alliance defending the right to hear and speak the Truth". Below the banner are several featured articles and links, including "ADF attorneys file appeal in lawsuit involving pro-life Pittsburgh nurse" and "THE FUTURE OF MARRIAGE IS ON TRIAL".

25, CCV's staff immediately began to search for available locations to hold meetings. Public libraries, because of their central locations and cost effectiveness, were the first choice.

"The public libraries of Dayton and West Chester immediately replied that their meeting rooms were available on the requested evenings and approved our reservation requests," said Miller.

Not so with the Upper Arlington Public Library.

"To our surprise and dismay," Miller reports, "the Upper Arlington's Board of Trustees denied our

Trustees action was out of line: "Christian groups shouldn't be discriminated against for their beliefs. The government cannot treat people with non-religious viewpoints more favorably than people with religious viewpoints. Christians have the same First Amendment rights as anyone else in America."

Chandler offered to file suit against the library on CCV's behalf.

CCV's board and staff accepted ADF's offer, deciding that court action was appropriate in order to prevent other individuals or groups from being discriminated against on the basis of their religious views.

A copy of the complaint filed with the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio, Eastern Division, is available at ADF's Web site, TellADF.org.

Courier Citizens

JERRY LYON
Editor

Citizens for Community Values
11175 Reading Road - Suite 103
Cincinnati, OH 45241
info@ccv.org • (513) 733-5775

PROTECTING THE
FAMILY SINCE 1983