

'Homosexuals are sinners,' Orthodox spokesman says

Reform Judaism votes to allow active homosexual clergy

Reform Judaism's leaders voted recently to admit sexually active homosexuals into the rabbinate.

According to an Evangelical Press News Service report, the action, taken at the 101st annual meeting of the Central Conference of American Rabbis held in June in Seattle, Wash., makes the group one of only a few Christian or Jewish groups to officially accept homosexual clergy.

The issue deeply divided the rabbis, who represent the largest branch of American Judaism, with about 1.5 million members. The resolution which was adopted called for "all rabbis, regardless of their

sexual orientation" to be allowed to fulfill "the sacred vocation which they have chosen."

The report said the resolution stopped short of recognizing homosexual marriage,

saying, "In Jewish tradition, heterosexual, monogamous, procreative marriage is the ideal human relationship."

Under the new policy, rabbis will be recommended for new congregations without re-

gard to their "sexual preference."

Spokesmen for Orthodox Judaism condemned the action by Reform Judaism.

"Homosexuals should be considered like any sinners," said Rabbi Binyamin Walfish, executive vice president of Orthodox Judaism's Rabbinical Council of America. □

Domestic partnership health coverage may become trend

Health insurance coverage for homosexual partners of city workers has become a new issue facing voters in several U.S. cities.

According to a story in the *National & International Religion Report* newsletter, a new policy in San Francisco may become a national trend. That policy, initiated in a 70-page

statement by San Francisco Mayor Art Agnos, extended health benefits to city workers' unmarried partners and adult children.

Louis Sheldon, Presbyterian founder of the Anaheim, Calif.-based Traditional Values Coalition, said, "There is an onslaught of domestic partnership legislation facing U.S.

cities."

Last November similar proposals were defeated in Tacoma, Wash.; Athens, Ga.; and Concord and Irvine, Calif.

San Francisco's latest attempt at adopting the policy faces voters this November; Seattle voters will face the issue on their ballots as well, the report said. □

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morning a chapel speaker, clad in traditional circuit rider's costume, delivered a message.

The days concluded with the evening services, held at 8:30 p.m. At the beginning of each service, men dressed in frontiersmen-type costumes played old-time music and sang. Campers were then led in a series of entertaining and inspi-

ration songs.

One of the outstanding presentations from foreign delegates occurred Thursday evening when Will Thorne, national commander of Australia, and his associates presented Hunt with a gift of \$2,000 for the NRRTC. Paul Stanek, special speaker that evening, spoke on peer pressure.

The Friday evening service

was the final event of the International Camporama. Recognized during the service were each regional Royal Ranger of the Year and the FCF National Scout and FCF Assistant Scout, the latter two being nominated during Camporama.

Honors and awards

Awards were presented to districts and foreign delegations for those having the best camp archways, displays, standards or banners, camp crafts or displays, and best overall group.

The Illinois District won the award for best overall group. It was also awarded first place for best camp archway (the archway was an intricately handcrafted rendition of a fort front), first place for best camp craft or display, and second place for best display.

Other district or foreign delegation awards were:

■ Archway: Southern New England, second place; Iowa, third place.

■ Display: Louisiana, first place; United Kingdom, third place.

■ Standard or Banner: Australia, first place; Papua New Guinea, second place; Iowa, third place.

■ Camp Craft or Display: United Kingdom, second

place; Pennsylvania-Delaware, third place.

Following the Friday evening pageant, Hunt spoke on commitment to the Kingdom and "Where Are Your Treasures?" Two altar calls were given following his message. Young people were challenged to perpetuate the Royal Rangers ministry by themselves one day becoming leaders and ministers.

"The International Camporama was expertly organized, administered, and operated, which aided in the spiritual awakening of those present," Silas Gaither said. "Both leaders and boys were spiritually challenged and renewed to become directly involved in the Decade of Harvest."

—MARSHALL BRUNER
near Eagle Rock, Mo.



Photo by Paul Wharton

Rappelling down the tower

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