

Lesbians And The United Methodist Church

Last Saturday's edition of The Lufkin Daily News (Feb. 8), carried an Associated Press article titled "Minister won't face church trial" under "Religion Briefs." The article stated, "A ruling by an appeals committee within the United Methodist Church will allow a lesbian pastor to avoid a church trial and pave the way for her return to ministry." It went on to note that the UMC embraces lesbians, but has a law that bars "sexually active" homosexuals from being ordained. One member of the appeals committee stated that such a law is "'morally' and theologically untenable."

Is this how local United Methodists feel? Does the local UMC support the idea of lesbians as ministers? If they do not, then will they continue to support the national UMC?

The Bible teaches that women cannot be preachers (1 Tim. 2:12). It is also clear about homosexual behavior. It states, "For this reason God gave them up to vile passions. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature. Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due" (Romans 1:26-27). In other words, it is wicked.

Homosexuals are loved by God, as are all people (Jn. 3:16). However, the practice of homosexuality is an abomination and bars one from heaven (1 Cor. 6:9-10). So, how can the United Methodist Church accept such behavior and still consider itself as honoring God?

We wonder what is next for those who have no respect for God's word. If homosexuals and lesbians are accepted now, will other deviant sexual behaviors be permissible ten years from now? Twenty? Sin acts as a leaven, when one is tolerated, more are sure to follow (1 Cor. 5:1-6). "But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived" (2 Tim. 3:13).

Steven F. Deaton