

# gcam\_ah\_19900728\_t1\_02.mp3\_edit

 Tue, May 23, 2023 1:47PM  52:17

## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

people, gay, aids, lesbian, year, life, die, bill, person, fight, houston, miller, congregations, san francisco, david lewis, assisted, remember, church, disease, homosexuals

---



00:02

Oh, I certainly feel that in this country in this time, nothing can stop it. And that AIDS horrendous as AIDS is. Array AIDS has become a rallying cry for our dignity and our capacity to love one another. And that that nothing is going to stop that and nothing is going to stop the young people who are coming up now and coming out now in ways that's just simply astonish me, bro. As they say, We must understand that we are the light of the world, that the rest of the world looks to us gay people in Russia, to talk to friends of mine who are in Russia and say you only you know, they, they know what it says in the New York native. They know what it says in the advocate. Some how this program will be deemed they're here hither and yon so that people will hear about it. I mean, people tell me about books of mine that they have acquired in Europe, in the most strange places. But you can't. You can obliterate people. That's what we've learned from the Holocaust. That's what we've learned from what's been done to the American Indian from, you know, there have been a complete obliteration. We must understand that it's, we can't be glib about it, we must continue to fight. But honestly, life is about fighting. You know, it's just otherwise it's just so self centered.



01:16

That's the book. The book is about fighting and living and when anybody



01:20

can read my book and fight because of my book then or read it.



01:24

The book is called borrowed time, and we've been talking to Palma net. This is buddy Johnston. Speaking for Pacifica radio from Silesia. KPFT in Houston. Thanks for listening.



01:55

How did you like that interview? It was great, wasn't it? Yeah. It's very good. This is the second

time I've heard it. I mean, just as good now as it was the first time Yeah, I liked a lot. A lot of the subjects he covered. You can really tell his love for Roger. In just hearing him talk about Roger. Yeah, and I liked the references to the quilt that he made, too. And I might remind you that this was done the year last time the quilt came to Houston and maybe it's a little ironic that we're playing it again. When the quilts coming to Houston again on October 6 through eight at George R Brown Convention Center. We're really excited about this. And if anybody out there wants to volunteer their time because the names project Sure, use your help. We've got a couple of numbers we can get in touch with some people 8689837 or 5241680 If you missed those call us at the station at 529-526-4000 right RG six worth acid and either Roger or Richard add in the hobby can give you that information or we have volunteer forms here at the station. He can come and fill them out and find out about it and not only that volunteer forms are in replaced all around town in some of the bars I know over at Lobo when Inklings and places like that. So head had you read borrow time or love alone?



03:55

Now I've read the review for a time.



03:58

I've got a copy of love alone. 18 elegies for Raj. It's it's incredibly raw. And I use that emotionally. And Paul just lays himself bare at what he went through with Roger and and that's the best kind of writing. Yeah, it's quite a powerful book



04:28

it's along those same lines. Something pretty powerful is a tape that we have of Ray Hill. That was done again, two years ago. That seems to be the magic number tonight to Yeah, Ray was on the show and there was a call in and he took the call and they started talking about the quilt. And then Ray talked about out the quilt coming to Houston. And it was so good that I see no reason why we can't run it again this year.



05:39

Right.



05:40

And so, yeah, you remember the Mary's panel?



05:45

All of the Mary's panels are so many.



05:48

Yes. And that struck me and my friend was not part of that. However, thing, that panel and thing those people I knew I didn't know of them. But that segment of panels brought me to my knees, Mac and Dory panel, Lord Mac door thing that at the far end of that quilt was a moving variance. And I know there are people out here listening to me who saw it also,



06:27

there are a lot of people listening this from all kinds of people listen to the after our show insomniacs people in their place. And so I want to say something that that perhaps will help those people that didn't experience the cruelty as you are having experienced losing someone to AIDS is everyone in this room? Hey. Let me tell you, I am 47 years old. I have lost more of my friends to AIDS environments than my mother has of her friends. And she's 74 That is an unnatural environment. That sort of thing ought never in the history of humankind to happen. But I have learned more about life. From the direct experience of learning about death and know how precious every minute that I have has. And I know how precious every minute that I spend with a friend is to my hope in the world. I want to invite you to start planning now to make time available so that you can come and experience the rich tapestry of people young and old, straight and gay who have died in at least some small part of the hope that never again will be hate one another. Never again will we waste our lives.



09:01

April 11 87 My friend Mike died passed on went somewhere else. I don't see him anymore. He left no arms, no legs left to walk beside me. Paths dogs concrete and trees. Why did he leave? I wanted to smile the way you touch your hair that glimmer in your eye. I want it you and whole body. I want you not to die.



10:00

On April the 11th 1987, passing through the pain Missing You, I keep hoping that you will walk in and tell me about a great new song. Or maybe we'll talk about the international politics of AIDS, the killings of gay men, while they're murderers walk free. We were from the same class, we were gentle together. But you had to go, Lee pass on, you just died. I wanted to be with you work with you have one last good time, but you didn't stay, you left past and died. I take your death one day at a time. I think dying is like reading a book, it will end the pain will end in the joy of it all will become clear. We will remember your love the beauty of your spirit, the lessons of how to live your humanity, your quest for life. After the pain, the last page in the book, we will all know what you have left.



11:36

Your friend, he taught you April the 11th 1987 to 38.



11:46

And that was Hitachi as these from KPFT who wrote that for Mike Nish. He used to work here at the station until aids took him and it's still going on. Nowadays, a sign of the times is watching a gay man go to Charlie's or the bars on a Friday afternoon and pick up a twit. And instead of looking through the first few pages, he automatically turns to the back where the obituaries are. And you can see on his face what he sees. You can see a sigh of relief if he didn't know anyone who died this week. And you can see that agony when he did and not only that, it's really what's worse. Is the phone calls that you get messages on your machine saying so and so died. It happened to me this week. Yeah. My friend Stuart called and he told me about a man he loved Curtis who died on Monday. Now Stuart is a friend of a friend so I don't get to see Stuart that often. Even so, I know that feeling. I've lost people to like everyone at the station has lost people. So for Stuart or is it for Curtis. I want to dedicate this next song by Carla bond off and it's called Goodbye my friend



15:09

It's okay now



16:13

right Okay.



18:17

It goes on you know something strange that tape of Pomona that was done two years ago. But it could have been done yesterday. Nothing has changed. That's right. We're still going through the same crap with drugs, trying to get them. I don't think anybody's living any longer than they did two years ago. Scientists are falling over themselves trying to come up. And the government's just adding red tape all along the way. Well, that's what they know how to do best. Right. And, you know, there's someone we can thank for all of this. And who is that? We can thank in part, Jesse Helms. Now I know he's the senator from North Carolina, but I just cannot force myself to use that title in the same sentence with that man's name. Because I think of a senator is something a lot higher than the one I think of Jesse Helms. And I'm going to read something from the twit, this week's twit these are some of the things we can thank Jesse Helms for. Is this the edited version? This is the Edit Well, okay. As far as I'm going to edit. Remember the INS anti discrimination policies against HIV positive persons, we can thank you SC for that. Remember the No prob promo homo amendments to AIDS legislation that prevent federal funding of projects that may promote or encourage homosexuality. We can thank Jesse for that. Remember the Mablethorpe controversy at the naa now fighting for its independence? Thank you, Jessie. Remember how the recent Americans with Disabilities Act came close to excluding HIV positive restaurant workers from protection? Thanks, Jessie. Remember the hate crimes Statistics Act, which mandates documentation of crimes motivated by hatred against gay men and women? It almost excluded anti gay and lesbian bashing. Thank you, Jesse. Also, every time some bill comes up, just he's trying to add some amendment to it. That limits government spending for AIDS research. And do you know who helps put Jesse into office? Yeah, we have. We sure have, because we buy things like Marlboro cigarettes. Miller

beer, Philip Morris contributes a lot to Jesse in his own home state. Now there's a big controversy going on over the SEC because Philip Morris owns Miller beer. But Miller is saying that Oh, well. You know, we're only two and a half percent technic two and a half percent. Yeah. And you know, we still we still contribute to AIDS. Would you call that blood money or what? Oh, yes. Okay. Okay. There's a controversy going on right now between Dallas and Houston about whether they're going to boycott Miller beer products that nobody has any problem with Marlboro. I mean, those are out. But there's this problem with with Miller at Dallas is for Houston's against it. Say but our fine gay leaders are forgetting that no matter what they say. The boycott comes from the people. You know, so it does not matter whether the beer is at the brewery with the distributor or with the bars because it's going to sit there and rot because we're not going to drink the damn stuff. Remember orange juice. There was a time when we bought boycotted orange juice. And no matter if the sign said Florida, or Texas, or California orange juice, nobody drank orange juice. And that's the way it's going to be with Miller products. And so, in that vein, I'd like to dedicate this next song to Jesse Helms. The so called senator from North Carolina. And before I do that, I want to urge everyone out there suggests he's coming up for reelection. That's right. And he has an opponent, Mr. Harvey Gant. And if you really want to help Mr. Harvey Gant directly if you don't care for boycotts or you don't think that's gonna do enough, you can send contributions directly to Harvey Gant for US Senate at PO Box 190712 Dallas, Texas 75219. That address will be here in the lobby. In case you missed it, you can call us at 526 4000 and get it. Meanwhile, government of the people for the people radio celebrating life in the heart of Montrose KPFT Houston 90.1 FM, it's 132 and a half in the morning and it is time for this way out.



24:45

So many faces so many T shirts with so many slogans



24:49

people who are terminally ill, I believe need to be heard when they say I've had enough I want to die. America



24:57

means very little. If it doesn't mean The opportunity to fulfill the goals and dreams of each of its citizens. I'm ashamed



25:05

of who I am. And I'm not going to tolerate letting people who don't share my experience or understand my experience to find my life for me.



25:28

Welcome to this way out the international lesbian and gay radio magazine. I'm Lucy Chappelle.



25:33

And I'm Greg Gordon helms razors lose as Disabilities Act awaits bush. Okay.



25:38

Lutherans reenact the Reformation and fight over gay and lesbian clergy



25:42

and solidarity with whom, and for what?



25:45

All that and more because you've discovered this way out



25:56

I'm Cindy Friedman. And I'm Michael Ward with news wrap a summary of some of the news in or affecting the lesbian and gay community for the week ending July 22 1990, Polish solidarity party leader Lech Valensa has promised to eliminate homosexuals from Polish society if elected president, according to Polish gay and lesbian leaders attending the 12th World Conference of The International lesbian and gay Association. They said the remark was made by Valensa in April at solidarity second annual convention, and was aired on Polish radio and television. The group told the conference the remark should be taken seriously because there would be widespread support for the anti gay and lesbian ideas. According to re s. R. Kiesel, editor of Poland's oldest gay magazine Philo, Boland say use the word eliminate in reference to moral undesirables, such as drug addicts and homosexuals. Keeseville compared the current climate in Poland to the situation in Germany before the Second World War.



27:05

Authorities in Singapore have apparently failed in their attempts to crack down on gay and lesbian nightspots since 1988. under orders from Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, police have been threatening to revoke the licenses of businesses which do not reject lesbian and gay customers. Business owners have not complied however, not only because of Asian customs of respect and politeness, but because they claim they just can't tell which customers are gay or lesbian. According to recent press reports, gay and lesbian nightspots in Singapore are not only busy and profitable, but new establishments have opened as well.



27:46

Researchers from throughout the United States held their quarterly meeting earlier this month

researchers from throughout the United States held their quarterly meeting earlier this month on government funded tests of potential AIDS drugs. And for the first time AIDS activists and people with the disease were official name tags as full participants in the gathering. Mary van clay reports.



28:05

The friendly reception came just weeks after AIDS activist shouted down a speech by Health and Human Services Secretary Louis Sullivan at the sixth International AIDS Conference in San Francisco. Larry Kramer, a New York writer and founder of the AIDS coalition to unleash power or AQAP was at the AIDS clinical trials group meeting. He says Dr. Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health, told the 1000 researchers there that input from activists is essential.



28:32

Dr. Fauci realizes the activists have had just about all the good ideas in the last couple of years. And he told the group that we have earned his trust and our placement there.



28:43

Nevertheless, creamy says the session was very depressing. The outlook



28:47

for treatment for us is exceedingly, exceedingly, exceedingly, exceedingly bleak fact, I don't know what's going to save our lives, but it's not going to come out of this system, not at least as presently constituted. This system is testing and retesting AZT until it's blue in the face against other drugs, DVI and DDC. And quite frankly, the investigators said that the system is going to be all stopped up with DDI tests for the next year and they were everybody's rather embarrassed because all the resources have gone to that and which and some money should have been saved for something else.



29:24

Kramer says groups like act up and project informed in San Francisco have lists of 100 potential AIDS drugs that can't find their way into the current testing system, calling the AIDS epidemic and outright plague. Kramer added that he thinks President Reagan and Bush are to blame for putting no one in charge of fighting the disease. In San Francisco. I'm Mary van clay.



29:46

The US military has announced that a colonel who performed in drag at a Colorado Springs Colorado gay bar will face General Court Martial beginning September 10. After 16 years in the service Colonel Edward Modesto has been charged with indecent exposure drug use, and

conduct unbecoming an officer. Modesto who has said he is bisexual has denied that his drag performance at the AIDS benefit was indecent. He contends that military investigators have singled him out because of his high rank. If found guilty, Modesto could be fined, dismissed from the service with loss of pay and benefits and in prison for up to 73 years.



30:31

In other stories making news this week, the Queensland New Zealand association of Catholic parents has called for gays and lesbians to be required to wear visible identification and to be counseled for what they call the depravity of their actions.



30:48

New York City's gay and lesbian community services center has been awarded \$100,000 by the State Division of Parks, Recreation and preservation. The matching grant is to restore the facade of its main building, which is in an historic district.



31:05

Abraham Aaron, openly gay leader of the Turkish green Radical Party will stand trial on charges of distributing leaflets charging police with the harrassment of gays



31:16

ruined Jerry Falwell, founder of the defunct moral majority has targeted a gay and lesbian organization in a fundraising letter for the reelection of Senator Jesse Helms. Falwell's appeal listed the Human Rights Campaign fund as the political committee of homosexual activist.



31:37

And finally, Martina Navratilova aced Wimbledon again this year, but seems out of bounds to former champ Margaret court. In newspaper and radio interviews following the matches, court said that never to lover is a great player. But I'd like to see somebody at the top to whom younger players can look up to it is very sad for children to be exposed to it. Referring to homosexuality. Court, a born again Christian went on to say never to live out was most likely influenced into a lesbian lifestyle by senior players during her early years on the pro tour. Court is concerned for young players and suggest they stay out of tournament changing rooms because of the so called problem. That's not what they mean by changing rooms, Margaret.



32:33

That's news wrap for the week ending July 22 1990, written by RJ curry of the gay and lesbian Press Association, compiled from publications and broadcast throughout the world.





32:46

Remember, an informed community is a strong community. Find out what's happening in your area by monitoring your local gay and lesbian media for this way out. I'm Cindy Friedman.



32:58

And I'm Michael Ward.



33:06

I'm Rob Atkinson from Vancouver, British Columbia, where Gay Games three and Cultural Festival will begin on August the fourth 10,000 athletes and cultural participants are coming from 26 countries. The Gay Games will be the largest sporting event to be held anywhere in the world this year. We'd like to see you all here to be a part of the Gay Games three and cultural festival. But if you can't come to Vancouver for the fun, listen to this way out for coverage of the games.



33:47

Singing



33:58

changing minds



34:05

these women living independently.



34:11

The US senate last week approved the Americans with Disabilities Act by a vote of 91 to six one day after the US House of Representatives gave a similar vote to the final version of the bill worked out in a house Senate conference committee. The Americans with Disabilities Act guarantees the nation's estimated 43 million disabled people including those infected with HIV, access to jobs, transportation and public accommodations from Washington DC Derrick Ward prepared this report.



34:38

The bill was heralded as the most significant piece of civil rights legislation since the Civil

Rights Act of 1963. This bill prohibits employers from discriminating against workers on the basis of their handicaps. Massachusetts Senator Ted Kennedy said the Act lists a curtain that barred millions of US citizens from participating in the American dream



34:57

in America means very little if doesn't mean opportunity for its citizens, and the ability to fulfill the goals and dreams of each of its citizens to the fullest.



35:12

Its movement through Congress had been slowed by the controversial Chapman amendment, which would have allowed employers to move people with AIDS out of food handling jobs for fear they could pass the disease to customers and co workers. That measure was defeated and its proponents of peace with a substitute amendment that calls for the Secretary of Health and Human Services to publish a list naming diseases that could be transferred through food. Gregory King is with the Human Rights Campaign fund, a leading gay and lesbian political group. He says the legislation represents a milestone and changing the way people with AIDS are treated



35:42

AIDS is a very difficult disease to catch, and you do not catch it from casual contact. And this is why it's so important that we not discriminate against people with AIDS.



35:54

Upon its enactment, employers will have two years to meet guidelines put forth by the legislation. First effect it will be businesses with 25 or more employees to be followed by those with 15 employees. But there has been concerned that the legislation would place a heavy burden on the smaller businesses, who in many cases would have to modify their facilities to accommodate handicapped employees. Utah Republican Orrin Hatch shares these concerns, but he also harbors optimism that government regulators will be mindful of the bills potential effect on business if our regulators



36:22

write the regulations too stringently and too tough. There are aspects of this bill that could make it very difficult for the free enterprise system. I don't think they will. I'm hoping they won't. And so I'm calling upon a cooperative effort between the administration and Congress to work out some of the difficulties that may arise.



36:41

... ..

The service industry businesses like restaurants, hotels and stores all will be affected by the bill. structural barriers that prohibit handicapped access to these facilities will have to be removed. Public transportation companies will also have to make their vehicles accessible to the disabled, and telephone companies would be required to facilitate the deaf and hearing impaired by such means as providing voice to Type to Text services via a relay operator. The magnitude of changes called for by the comprehensive legislation is rivaled only by the intensity of the drama which is surrounded floor discussion of the bill. For the first time live sign language interpretation was provided to close circuit viewers on the house debates. And Senator Tom Harkin of Iowa addressed the Senate and sign language a silent tribute to his brother who is deaf. President Bush issued a statement saying he's delighted with the vote and intends to sign the bill soon. Derrick Ward Washington.



37:44

David Lewis of Vancouver British Columbia's persons with AIDS Society recently revealed that he had assisted eight people in the last stages of the disease who wanted to end their lives. Louis talked with this way outs Rob Atkinson about his actions and the controversy surrounding them.



38:01

It all started with a simple news release from the Vancouver persons with AIDS Society, announcing a public meeting to feature a speaker from the Hemlock Society, an organization which believes people have the right to determine when they want to end their own lives. Within a couple of days, however, that press release created a media whirlwind, and the man who wrote it was front page news. 1000s of people in North America are dying assisted deaths, someone's helping them die every week. The Gallup Poll tells us that 77% of the people in Canada in the States support euthanasia in the right to die. Our legislation hasn't caught up with that public opinion poll. The attitudes surrounding euthanasia generally come from people who say you're playing God you have no right to take someone's life as a right to live. Yet, as I really look in my heart to see who's playing God and this issue, it's the people who prolong those lives of people with artificial drugs and artificial machines and force them to stay alive in spite of their wish to die. To me it's immoral to not say yes, when a person has approached me in every one of these cases, they are at the end of their life. They won't live much longer they're in agony they're blind emaciated in continent is suffering a great deal of indignity and they're saying enough, I want to die. I can't do it. I can't get out of bed. I can't get the pills. How tell me how can you do this? I hope them. Lewis a clinical counselor says in his practice, he has counseled well over 100 people who are suffering from terminal illness. Many of his clients have been HIV positive people. Lewis who has AIDS himself, emphasizes living with the disease in his counseling, but he advises not to ignore that death is part of life. We're talking about living with AIDS and living responsibly, we have to look at die. And we live in a culture that generally does not give people permission to really look at death, explore death come to terms with death, come to an understanding of death that will happen to them, whether they're aids or cancer are grannies in their 80s. Dying is the only part of life that will absolutely positively happen to everyone. Nothing else carries such an assurance is that statement. People who are terminally ill, I believe, need to be heard when they say I've had enough, I want to die. I think people need to be there and are there to help people affect that choice. I've certainly done that A times. Not everyone who asks would get David Lewis's assistance, he will not help strangers to die, only people he knows and with whom he has a strong emotional bond. He denies the

suggestion that he's helping people to commit suicide. Suicide is a very different concept. A person who commits suicide is generally a person who is just emotionally despondent. They don't have a terminal illness connected to their life at the moment, I would intervene to stop someone from commit suicide anytime that was presented to me and I have done that a lot. Euthanasia is when a person is terminally ill First off, and at the end stage of their life, and they know it and they request assistance in terminating their life, and someone helps them so this is a conscious decision on the part of the the person who's terminally absolutely if they're unconscious and can't articulate that they want to die, then it's murder. And I'm not advocating that in Canada, it is a crime to assist someone to commit suicide. But despite his revelation, there is very little chance that David Lewis will be charged. He refuses to reveal the names of the people he assisted. The Vancouver city coroner's office and police department, both state they cannot investigate on account of a lack of evidence. Lewis says he's never advised anybody that they should die. Only someone terminally ill can make that decision we have to fight on for life. I'm not saying everybody should go out and kill themselves today. I'm fighting for life. I'm trying to stay healthy and alive. I'm saying that at some point in everyone's life, you will get to a point where you are in an end stage of your life. And you need to be empowered to make some choices at that phase of your life as to whether or not you want to be kept alive artificially, or whether you want to be assisted in Dying with Dignity and choice and compassion and support.



42:50

you've tuned in to this way out the international lesbian and gay radio magazine with Lucia Chapelle. I'm Greg Gordon, the International lesbian gay association or yoga held its 12th Annual Conference in Stockholm Sweden earlier this month. Thanks to Cheryl berkovich of three CR Melbourne. This way, it will feature several major speeches from the conference in the coming weeks. We'll begin at the beginning with elgas Secretary General Lisa powers welcoming address to the gathering



43:24

I like your smile



43:31

shout



43:37

out never. Hello. It's wonderful to see you all again. And it's wonderful to welcome all the new people. So many faces, so many T shirts with so many slogans. It's been a historic year. In many ways. As we know, the barriers have gone down in Eastern Europe. Although in some ways I fear that some may come up and it is a much more complex situation than we have allowed for so far as any of the Eastern European delegates will tell you. It is also a historic year

for the people from South Africa, who will also be telling us I hope this year about the many changes that are taking place in their land. It's also a historic year for our host nation. And I would like to wish RSSL a very happy 40th birthday.



44:42

It's always very heartening to find a lesbian and gay organization which is older than you are.



44:52

Working as Secretary General this year, it has been very obvious that the name of the AI LGA is going out Around the world that many new people are hearing of us, there are many letters from people in Morocco, in Africa, in the Asian countries, people who want to get in touch people who would have liked to get here, but we're too late. And I would like to welcome the people who have made it here from a very long way away or through very difficult circumstances. There are more lesbians here than there were at Vienna, I never thought I'd see more lesbians than there were at Vienna.



45:39

As we go through this conference together, I hope that we will have the same good spirit that we have had at the past two world conferences that I have been at a spirit in which we could disagree with each other, and argue, but in the end, we always came together to fight our enemies outside. Because make no mistake, we have some very big enemies outside. We all know what has been happening in Iran where they are executing people for being lesbian and gay. In Latin America, the fighting struggle still goes on very hard and in other places around the world. Even in the countries that many people talk about as good for lesbians and gays in Western Europe, there is a huge rise in Neo fascist movements, who have been bombing our places and doing awful things. There is a rise in fundamentalist politicians in the US which threatens the enormous amount of lesbian and gay work which goes on there and we need to work together against all of these and also in the fight against AIDS and the fight to recognize our place in the fight against AIDS and to be realized for our for worse in the work that we do there and elsewhere. And that is what the AI LGA should be about is recognizing our worth. Because we are worthy Thank you very much for coming and let's get working.



47:27

More from Stockholm Sweden at the 12th annual World Conference of The International lesbian and gay association in the weeks to come on this way out



47:36

they got off my boat



47:45

they got off my boy



47:54

to go away my drums I do day I am isolated I was on my own by the my



48:22

by



48:36

a disciplinary committee of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America has given five year suspensions to the to San Francisco congregations that ordained to lesbians and a gay man earlier this year. This unprecedented action against the St. Francis and United Lutheran churches was regarded on both sides of the issue as a compromise. Heidi Zima reports.



49:03

The Reverend Lyle Miller, Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America looked at he explained the decision of his disciplinary committee but his message was no more than a slap on the wrist of the too rebellious San Francisco congregation and his tone, conciliatory



49:24

truth, mercy and justice shouldn't tell members of congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to review their attitudes, words and actions regarding homosexuality. Christians need to be more understanding and more sensitive to light as experienced by those who are homosexual.



49:43

Phyllis Dill Hart, Ruth Frost and Jeff Johnson cannot be recognized as pastors according to official church policy, unless they vow celibacy, Kathy Kelly, co chair of the disciplinary committee explained to the official Lutheran In church policy persons with homosexual orientation may become ordained ministers of the church, but the church precludes practicing homosexuals from the ordained ministry. While the committee could have expelled the congregations from the church as a whole, it only suspended them as a voting entity for five years. During this time, the entire church must debate the issue of human sexuality, and the case of the San Francisco gay and lesbian pastors. Both San Francisco churches and their pastors have vowed to support their lesbian and gay clergy, even if it means expulsion. The pastor of the United Lutheran Church says his congregation with only one openly gay person will refuse to give its

gay clergy and also celibacy, if that's what the entire church should decide. Meanwhile, lesbian assistant pastor Ruth frost of St. Francis Lutheran Church says it's about time the issue of sexuality came out into the open in church. I'm not ashamed of who I am. And I'm not ashamed of my relationships, or my commitments to my relationships. I can lead an open healthy, loving, self affirming gay authenticating life. And I'm not going to tolerate letting people who don't share my experience or understand my experience to find my life for me. lesbians and gay men have given all of their lives to the church to define for them. And we are not doing that anymore. says it should be a hot debate. I'm Heidi's Emma