

# Love On Trial

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Rev. Amy DeLong, United Methodist Clergy in the Wisconsin Annual Conference, will be tried for living a larger love than is permitted by the United Methodist Church. Rev. DeLong finds herself on the wrong side of church law because of:

- **Pastoral Care** (she officiated at the Holy Union of a loving lesbian couple) and
- **Love** (she and Val, her partner of 15 years, share a life-affirming, deeply loving relationship).



In December, 2010, the Conference Committee on Investigation, following a required hearing with Rev. DeLong, forwarded the Bill of Charges needed to move into the trial phase of the judicial process. The committee also offered an unprecedented statement affirming: "Rev. Amy DeLong has shown extraordinary courage to step forward and freely acknowledge her sexual orientation, and her commitment to be in ministry to all persons, regardless of their sexual orientation."

A jury pool of Wisconsin United Methodist clergy has been appointed and from which 13 clergy will be selected to serve during the trial and subsequent penalty phase.

A first trial schedule was postponed. A second trial date has now been set for June, 21-23, 2011 in a second location, Peace UMC, Kaukauna, WI.

This delay is typical of a difficult path that has been well-traveled by gay and lesbian Christians and countless others (including women and people from a variety of racial and ethnic groups) who have been told by the Church that their identity and being are unacceptable. Please pray for and work toward the day when The United Methodist Church will surrender to the fullness of God's expansive love and end its restrictions and discriminatory policies.

Pray also for Rev. DeLong and Val and all those engaged in the struggle for fairness, equality and inclusion.

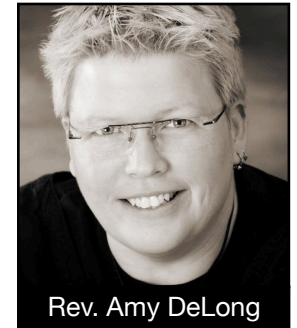
For more information about Rev. Amy and the coming trial, go to [www.LoveOnTrial.org](http://www.LoveOnTrial.org).

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