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November 4, 2009

2009 NOV -5 PM 1:16

Office of General Counsel
Federal Election Commission
999 E Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20463

OFFICE OF GENERAL
COUNSEL

RE: MUR 6222

To Whom It May Concern:

Information in the enclosed articles confirms that financial contributions intended for the Iowa Christian Alliance (ICA) were funneled through the West Hill United Methodist Church.

According to the Associated Press, "Complaint questions donations to Iowa church; Iowa Christian Alliance president says complainant a troublemaker," attorney and Republican activist Ted Sporer said he wrote two checks to the church. Mr. Sporer said, "The facts are, I was told that if I were to write a check to this church, I would get credit for being a sponsor at Christian Alliance events." He continued, "I was advised that if I wrote the check to the church I would be credited."

In The Hawk Eye, "Funds draw fire for pastor," Ted Sporer said, "I know I was solicited to give money to that church, and in exchange for that, I received admission to Christian alliance events."

Following The Hawk Eye article, a reader commented, "It is all true. I have been a member of this group in the past. I served on the board at one time. I have been party to and present when Steve made such deals. He is as unethical as they get. God bless you Stacy. Sorry to hear about how they tossed your mom Barb under the bus. She really did trust Steve far too much." I believe this comment was submitted by Dave Karwoaki of Davenport, Iowa.

To demonstrate the size of contributions made by Mr. Sporer and others so that their names would appear on a Host Committee for ICA events, I have attached this recent solicitation, "Iowa Christian Alliance 2009 Package Plan Levels and Benefits." Requested contributions range from \$250 to \$2,500 plus.

Thank you for your consideration.

Stacey L. Cargill
Stacey L. Cargill

West Des Moines, IA 50266

Subscribed and sworn to before
me on this 4th day of
November, 2009.

11/04/09

Enclosures

cc: John McCormally
Iowa Attorney General's Office
Hoover State Office Building
1300 E. Walnut
Des Moines, IA 50319



cc: *Charlie Stullison*, Executive Director
Iowa Ethics & Campaign Disclosure Board
510 E. 12th Street, Suite 1 A
Des Moines, IA 50319

cc: Dr. Arthur McClanahan, Director of Communications
Iowa Conference, The United Methodist Church
2301 Rittenhouse Street
Des Moines, IA 50321

10044264188

"Benefactor of the Family"

Contribution Level: \$250 to \$499

Benefits:

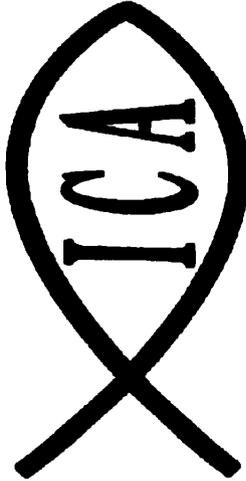
- Newsletter and e-mail updates.
- Listed as a Host for these events:
2009 Spring Kickoff Event in Des Moines.
9th Annual Friends of the Family Banquet.
Regional ICA House Party in your area.
- Two complimentary tickets to the 9th Annual Friends of the Family Awards Banquet.

"Guardian of the Family"

Contribution Level: \$500 to \$999

Benefits:

- Newsletter and e-mail updates.
- Listed as a Host for these events:
2009 Spring Kickoff Event in Des Moines.
9th Annual Friends of the Family Banquet.
Regional ICA House Party in your area.
- Two complimentary tickets to the 9th Annual Friends of the Family Awards Banquet. Photo opportunity with our Special Guest.



2009 Package Plan Levels and Benefits

"Defender of the Family"

Contribution Level: \$1,000 to \$2,499

Benefits:

- Newsletter and e-mail updates.
- Listed as a Host for these events:
2009 Spring Kickoff Event in Des Moines.
9th Annual Friends of the Family Banquet.
All regional ICA events across the state.
- Complimentary table of 10 to the 9th Annual Friends of the Family Awards Banquet in the premier seating area, plus photo opportunity with our Special Guest.

"Champion of the Family"

Contribution Level: \$2,500 plus

Benefits:

- Newsletter and e-mail updates.
- Listed as a Host for these events:
2009 Spring Kickoff Event in Des Moines.
9th Annual Friends of the Family Banquet.
All regional ICA events across the state.
- Complimentary table of 10, plus an additional 5 complimentary tickets, to the 9th Annual Friends of the Family Awards Banquet in the premier seating area, plus photo opportunity with our Special Guest.

Iowa Christian Alliance

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Chairman of the Board & Treasurer

Morris Hard

President

Steve Scheffler

Executive Vice President

Bill Clark

Vice President and State Finance Chair

Gopal Krishna

Lobbyist

Norm Pawlewski

"If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will go on prospering. But if we and our posterity neglect its instructions and authority, no man can tell how sudden a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury all our glory in profound obscurity." - Daniel Webster

Annual Spring Kick-Off Event



*Some of our past Spring Kick-Off Speakers:
Hon. Ken Blackwell, Dr. Lawrence L. White,
Jay Seflow and Gov. Mike Huckabee.*

ICA's Annual Spring Kickoff is an event that activists and state legislators look forward to attending every year. The 9th annual event will be held in early or mid-March. We are looking at securing a top-notch speaker to highlight our event, held in Central Iowa. Full details will be available soon. You won't want to miss this exciting event as we gather for great food and fellowship. Come hear about ICA's new outreach program in 2009 as we work to strengthen our foundation and prepare to secure future pro-family victories.

Annual Friends of the Family Banquet



*Some of our past Friends of the Family speakers:
Judge Roy Moore, David Barton, Phyllis Schlafly
and David Limbaugh.*

ICA's Friends of the Family Banquet will be held sometime in the fall. As in the past, we will secure a high profile speaker to help energize the base to fully engage with ICA and work towards the goal of making Iowa a more family-friendly place to live. This top Iowa pro-family banquet will help set the stage for the 2010 election cycle. Full details will be available soon. You won't want to miss this special event!

Watch our website for information.

www.IowaChristian.com

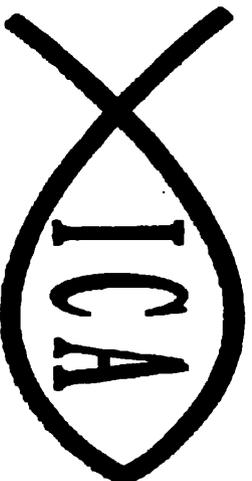
or call Steve Schaffner at 515-971-7363

Iowa Christian Alliance

Mission Statement: "Believing that if there is no moral order, there will be no political or social order, the Iowa Christian Alliance is committed in a conscious effort to develop the integrity and leadership needed to guide our fellow citizens toward the traditional values on which our national strength and survival depends."

Get Involved with ICA's 2009 Projects:

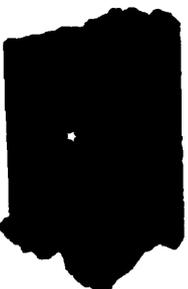
- Passage of State Marriage Amendment
- Lobbying State Legislators
- AMEN Church Outreach Program (American Ministry Educating our Nation)
- Volunteer network in your county
- Voter Guide Distribution
- Door to Door and Get out the Pro-Family Vote
- Delegate to County, District, State Conventions
- Formulation of Convention Platforms
- Election of Party Officials



Iowa Christian Alliance

2009 Package Plan

Levels and Benefits



www.IowaChristian.com

Paid for by the Iowa Christian Alliance

939 Office Park Road, Suite 115

West Des Moines, IA 50265

Steve Schaffner, President

515-971-7363

Office: 515-233-1515

06149244001

Complaint questions donations to Iowa church; Iowa Christian Alliance president says complainant a 'troublemaker'

Posted on Oct 22, 2009 by John McGlothlen.

<!--[if gte mso 9]> Normal 0 false false false EN-US X-NONE X-NONE MicrosoftInternetExplorer4 <![endif]--><!--[if gte mso 9]> <![endif]--> MIKE GLOVER
AP Political Writer

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) – A West Des Moines woman has filed a complaint with the Federal Election Commission accusing the Iowa Christian Alliance of steering campaign money through a Burlington church, a move that gave tax-deductible status to political contributions.

Stacey Cargill, who left the Iowa Christian Alliance after her mother lost her position on the group's board of directors, argued in the complaint that contributions were made to West Hill United Methodist Church, then forwarded to the West Des Moines-based alliance.

"It is my belief that these financial contributions violate campaign finance laws, the tax exempt status of the ICA and the tax exempt status of the church," Cargill stated in the complaint, dated Oct. 19.

The Iowa Christian Alliance is a key player in the state's Republican politics. The group states it isn't connected with any political party, but it's issues typically align with Republicans and its president, Steve Scheffler, sits on the Republican National Committee.

The complaint focused on Scheffler and Morris Hurd, a minister who serves as the group's treasurer and board chairman.

Hurd is a pastor at West Hill United Methodist Church in Burlington.

The complaint charges that Iowa Christian Alliance officials solicited money from potential donors, instructing them to send the money to Hurd's church, making it tax-deductible. Donations were made with the understanding they would be forwarded to the alliance, the complaint said.

Donations to political parties or candidates are not tax deductible but donations to churches can be deducted.

Scheffler dismissed the complaint as nonsense and said Hurd had filed earlier complaints that were dismissed as baseless.

"The woman is not dealing with a full deck of cards," said Scheffler. "The woman is a troublemaker. She attacks everybody and anybody."

Cargill responded that she only wanted the FEC to examine her allegations.

"Mr. Scheffler will have to explain that to the FEC. Everything I have submitted to the FEC is 100 percent factual," she said. "I am a woman of honor. This is not a personal vendetta. This is trying to hold the leadership accountable."

The complaint Cargill filed sketches a procedure in which Iowa Christian Alliance officials solicit a

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contribution.

"Once the donor writes a check for the ICA and sends it to the church, Pastor Hurd sends a document from the church thanking the donor for their 'charitable' contribution to the West Hill United Methodist Church," the complaint alleges. "To complete the transaction, Pastor Hurd forwards the contribution to the ICA."

In a phone interview, Des Moines lawyer and GOP activist Ted Sporer described a similar process to The Associated Press. He said he wrote two checks to the church.

"The facts are, I was told that if I were to write a check to this church, I would get credit for being a sponsor at Christian Alliance events," said Sporer. "I was advised that if I wrote the check to the church I would be credited."

Hurd did not dispute that churches offered financial support to Iowa Christian Alliance.

"There are churches and ministries in Iowa that have supported the ICA and have occasionally contributed to our nonpartisan voter education effort, including voter registration and nonpartisan voter guides," said Hurd. "They are fully within their right to do so under both the Internal Revenue code and the First Amendment."

FEC spokeswoman Carmen Gray said the agency was reviewing the complaint.

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 published online: 10/21/2009

Funds draw fire for pastor

Complaint alleges campaign wrongdoing by minister, Christian conservative group.

By JOHN MANGALONZO

jmangalonzo@thehawkeye.com

A Burlington minister has been accused of laundering large campaign contributions in advance of the 2008 Iowa caucuses.

On Tuesday a Republican activist filed a complaint with the Federal Elections Commission, accusing Morris Hurd, pastor of West Hill United Methodist Church, of funneling money intended for the Iowa Christian Alliance from the Mitt Romney organization.

Further, the complaint filed by Steacy Cargill of West Des Moines alleges the ICA received a \$100,000 contribution during the 2008 Iowa Caucuses from "mixed out" Romney donors — money she claims was made in quarterly payments through the West Hill church.

In addition to Hurd, Cargill named ICA president Steve Scheffler and their respective organizations as respondents.

According to its Web site, ICA is a non-profit organization that "seeks to make a difference in the public arena regarding the issues that matter most." It has been considered the state's most influential Christian conservative group.

ICA is organized as a 501(c)4 nonprofit, which bars it from trying to directly influence elections.

Cargill, whose 2008 complaint with the FEC against ICA was closed earlier this year — the elections commission determined the coalition did not violate campaign laws — said she refiled it because she came across information about the alleged money scheme in February.

The FEC criticized Cargill's 2008 complaint because she did not divulge her sources.

In her latest filing, Cargill said the money was funneled through West Hill United Methodist Church "so donors can make a tax deductible contribution to the ICA."

She cited a phone conversation with a prominent Des Moines attorney Ted Sporer, a close friend of Scheffler.

During that friendship, Sporer reportedly told Cargill that if a donor Scheffler "knows and trusts" wants to make a tax-deductible contribution to the ICA, Scheffler would tell the person to write a check to West Hill and send it to Hurd, according to the complaint.



John Galee/The Hawk Eye
 West Hill United Methodist Church is at 540 S. Leabrick St. in Burlington.

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Hurd on the left
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and Book Night

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Hurd, after receiving the check, would send a letter to the donor thanking them for the "charitable contribution."

Cargill said Hurd then would send the money to ICA. Sporer said he learned of the alleged arrangement during his friendship with Scheffler.

"I know I was solicited to give money to that church," Sporer said during a phone interview Tuesday, "and in exchange for that, I received admission to Christian alliance events."

Without providing specifics about the size of the check or when it was issued, Sporer said he made it payable to West Hill, "I think Morris (Hurd) was the pastor there."

"Nothing like that ever happened," Hurd said Tuesday when asked if his church handled ICA funds. "Well, I just, no, no, West Hill United Methodist Church isn't involved in anything like that."

Hurd wanted to discuss the matter with his attorney, but said the church "has nothing to do with Stacey Cargill or anything that she knows about or anything she's alleging."

Cargill, in an effort to confirm what Sporer told her, contacted Martya Popma, a former ICA consultant.

"She confirmed that financial contributions for the ICA were routed through Morris Hurd's church in Burlington and contributions were also routed through his previous church in Marango," Cargill said in the complaint. "She said that Mr. Hurd assured her that it was OK to process the contributions this way."

Hurd formerly was pastor at the United Methodist Church in Marango. Details of how and why he moved to Burlington in 2007 are unclear, but the current pastor there, Katie Dawson, said "It was not a good fit between him and the congregation, but that's all I know."

Hurd practiced law for 17 years but had his license revoked in 1985 for professional misconduct, according to Iowa Supreme Court documents, which Cargill noted in her complaint. The Supreme Court first suspended his law license in 1982, then again 2 1/2 years later.

According to snippets of the order handed down by the high court's grievance commission in 1985, "his conduct in first denying knowledge of the sexual abuse investigation of his client could have amounted to serious consequences for at least one minor child."

No further details of the license revocation were available Tuesday, but the vague order noted "the respondent apparently has not learned by virtue of his two previous disciplinary experiences."

Popma, now campaign manager for Republican gubernatorial candidate Christian Fong, declined to specifically comment Tuesday on the conversation.

"I spoke to (Cargill) in confidence on some things, and I just would rather not be commenting," she said.

In June 2008, Gentry Collins, a former state director for Romney for President, reportedly told Cargill of reading an e-mail supposedly from Scheffler to a Romney campaign operative, discussing a \$100,000 financial contribution to the ICA from "maxed-out" donors.

Cargill said she was told the e-mail was "damaging to Scheffler."

By law, contributions to federal candidates and their committees are limited to \$2,400 per election. Additional contributions can be made to local, state and national political action committees and parties.

The Hawk Eye left several messages on Collins' voice mail at the Republican National Committee in Washington, D.C. He could not be reached Tuesday to comment.

In 2008, Cargill filed a complaint with the FEC, alleging Scheffler allowed a Romney supporter to use ICA's office and membership database in December 2007 to influence social conservatives to back Romney over former Arkansas Gov. Mike Huckabee for the Republican presidential nomination.

She mentioned the alleged Romney contribution. The FEC, however, closed the case in part because "complainant did not provide any further details regarding the identity of this alleged Romney source or the time frame during which the alleged financial contribution was made to ICA."

In a signed 2008 affidavit addressing the former complaint, Scheffler said the alliance's database never was available to Marlene Ewell, a Michigan social conservative in the state promoting the visit of an anti-abortion lawyer on behalf of Romney.

Ewell's activities, as Scheffler put it, were limited to calling people "at my request."

Scheffler, could not be reached on his cell phone for comment Tuesday.



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Soon after Cargill filed her 2008 complaint, Hurd called Barb Taylor, Cargill's mother, and asked her to resign her ICA board membership. The call allegedly was directed by Scheffler.

Cargill said she's filing the complaint again to raise awareness of ICA's activities, which she contends are illegal. She also said she's doing it to honor the memory of ICA's founder, Ione Dilley. ICA used to be known as the Iowa Christian Coalition.

"(Dilley) built the Iowa Christian Coalition on the foundation of Christian principles," Cargill said. "And funneling money through a church, lying and deceiving the base does not follow the principles that Ione built the coalition on. And it is important for me to respect my friend and mentor who passed away in February of last year."

She added Scheffler and Hurd "need to be held accountable."

"I don't believe that Steve Scheffler and Morris Hurd should be allowed to operate a Christian organization by following illegal practices, if in fact, that's what the FEC decides," Cargill noted. "You'd expect that from lobbyist in Washington, and you don't expect that from the leadership of a Christian organization."

The West Des Moines woman described the alleged dealings as "shady."

During the Iowa caucuses, Scheffler and ICA were noted in national media outlets as the most powerful grassroots organization in Iowa.

But Cargill questions the notation.

"How did he obtain that?" she asked. Is it doing the right thing or is it following a dark path that is not ethical?"

Last week, West Hill United Methodist Church, 540 S. Leebrick St., was burglarized.

Police said several items inside the church had been rifled through, and a computer and undisclosed amount of money was taken.

Authorities, however, did not find any signs of forced entry.

Cargill says she still wants to see something good come out of the ICA, but that may have to wait until FEC issues its findings.

If four of the six commissioners vote to find reason to believe that a violation of the law has occurred, the commission may investigate the matter. If the commission decides that the investigation by the FEC's Office of General Counsel confirms that the law has been violated, the commission will try to resolve the matter by reaching a conciliation agreement with the respondents.

The agreement may require them to pay a civil penalty and take other remedial steps. If an agreement cannot be reached, however, the commission may file suit against the appropriate persons in federal court.

Leave a comment!

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All comments are subject to approval before being posted. Please keep comments brief (500 characters or fewer), constructive and relevant. Opinions certainly can be expressed, but comments that are rude, abusive, slanderous, threatening, sexually oriented, contain profanity or are vulgar will not be tolerated. Comments will not be edited. Any comment that violates the above-listed rules will be deleted.

2 comment(s) found

It's about time: 10/22/2008
It's about time someone exposed these frauds for what everyone inside the GOP knows has been going on for decades. Perhaps Scheffler can be made to resign his post as

National Committeeman? He's been a back stabbing two faced fake Christain for far too long. His betrayal of Bill Sailer was just one of the many times he's played one side for the money. Here he at least will be caught dealing for Romney and kicking Huckabee to the curb.

It is all true: 10/22/2008

I have been a member of this group in the past. I served on the board at one time. I have been party to and present when Steve made such deals. He is as unethical as they get. God bless you Stacey. Sorry to hear about how they tossed your mom Barb under the bus. She really did trust Steve far too much.

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