

Admitted homosexual

Leggett ousted by Methodists

An admitted homosexual staff member of a Trinity University affiliate in Dallas was suspended from the Methodist ministry here Tuesday by the Southwest Texas United Methodist Conference.

Meeting in Travis Park United Methodist Church, conference delegates voted 144-117 to place F. Gene Leggett on "involuntary location," a method of withdrawing his ecclesiastical credentials.

Leggett is on the staff of the Trinity-affiliated Dallas Theater Center and has repeatedly

stated publicly that he is a homosexual. "It is with pain I must surrender my credentials," the ousted minister stated. "I likewise surrender my membership in the Methodist Church."

CONFEREES faced two other controversial issues during the Tuesday night meeting as representatives of the Student National Coordinating Committee (SNCC) returned to repeat a list of Monday suggestions. And delegates voted to approve an anti-segregation amendment reportedly aimed at Crystal City Schools.

Two SNCC members again called on the ministers to consider establishment of an East San Antonio legal defense fund, day care centers, methadone treatment clinics for narcotics addicts, and to stock church buildings with cots and other equipment to serve as "hostels" for "homeless and hopeless social misfits."

A conference board was to meet with the SNCC group early Wednesday to discuss the list.

THE ADOPTED anti-segregation amendment declared the conference condemned the use of church buildings or resources for activities "which support or contribute to the separation of radical, ethnic or economic groups."

The Rev. C. Jordan Mann, Kerrville District superintendent, said "a private group in Crystal City wants to set up a private school" in the United Methodist Church there. The school would include the first three primary grades, he stated.

"We cannot let our Methodist churches be

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GENE LEGGETT FIRED BY METHODISTS
he admitted being homosexual

STAFF PHOTO

centers of controversy since a La Raza Unida Party group won a majority on that city's school board. Charges of discrimination against some teachers have been leveled against, and denied by, the school district. The Crystal City Independent School District was recently officially boycotted by the Texas Classroom Teachers Association which is now encouraging members to shun the district.

Immediately following the conference's vote to suspend Leggett, two other ministers turned in their credentials in his support.

The long-haired ex-minister said he had found "hate" and "derisive laughter" at the conference and asked the group to deal with demands presented Monday by the Gay Liberation movement, a homosexual group.

THAT GROUP had come to Leggett's support Monday and also asked delegates to cease church opposition to homosexuality.

Leggett left the conference in the company of W.H.A. Schaefer, another defrocked minister stripped of his credentials earlier this year.

Leggett said
not on payroll
of Trinity U.

Ousted Methodist minister and admitted homosexual Gene Leggett is "not on the Trinity (University) payroll, for which I have to admit I'm thankful," the San Antonio school's dean said Wednesday.

Leggett, who was defrocked Tuesday night by the Southwest Texas United Methodist Conference meeting in San Antonio, is a staff member of the Dallas Theater Center.

"We have an affiliated agreement with the Dallas Theater Center," said Dean Bruce Thomas, "but it is not part of Trinity. It's run by a separate board of directors."

Thomas pointed out that Trinity and the Dallas group do have some common employees. "Paul Baker and two others, and we do give graduate credit for work done there." But, Thomas emphasized, "we do not have control over Dallas Theater Center employees."

He said the fact that Leggett is not on the Trinity payroll "saved me a very, very difficult decision."

A university spokesman who declined to be quoted by name was asked if Trinity had a policy on staff homosexuality and lesbianism.

"That's a difficult question to answer," he said. "We have, over the past, tried to get rid of people like that. The problem is being able to prove it. As far as I know, we have no known cases here at present, but I can remember two or three in the past."

The official said unwritten policy was to encourage homosexuals or lesbians to resign from the university staff.