

***An Attempt to Mend a Broken Network  
& Save the Cause of Christ from Reproach***

Home Page  
Tommy Shelton

## **Tommy's Ordination Suspended**

[Following the allegations of Brad Dunning and three other boys, Tommy's ordination with the Church of God (Anderson) was suspended in 1985, and Tommy was notified of this fact via the following letter.

This letter claims that Tommy "admitted" to certain "improper counselling procedures." When asked what that might have been, one alleged victim recalled that when the charge was made that Tommy had propositioned a boy, the explanation was given that he was trying to expose that boy as being someone who was trying to lead other boys in the school into homosexual activity.

When the boy in question, Brad Dunning, now a United Pentecostal preacher, was asked on January 3, 2007, about this explanation, he said that that was the first time he had ever heard of such a thing.]

### **The 1985 Illinois Ministerial Credential Committee Letter**

#### **GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CHURCH OF GOD IN ILLINOIS**

GEORGE L. NEWTON  
Executive Secretary/Treasurer

October 25, 1985

Reverend Tommy Shelton  
Route # 1 Box 189-B  
West Frankfort, Illinois 62896

Phone: (XXX) XXX-XXXX  
P.O. BOX J  
MT. ZION, ILLINOIS 62549

Dear Tommy :

On October 25, 1985, the Illinois Ministerial Credentials Committee of the General Assembly of the Church of God in Illinois met in regular session at the Church of God State Office building at 4225 South Camp Warren Lane, Decatur, Illinois at Camp Warren. In concern for your best interest and the Church of God, the following action was taken:

"The ordination of Tommy Shelton has been suspended immediately until further notice pending the results of the official police investigation concerning criminal sexual abuse charges against him. This action is effective this day, October 25, 1985."

This action was taken for the following reasons:

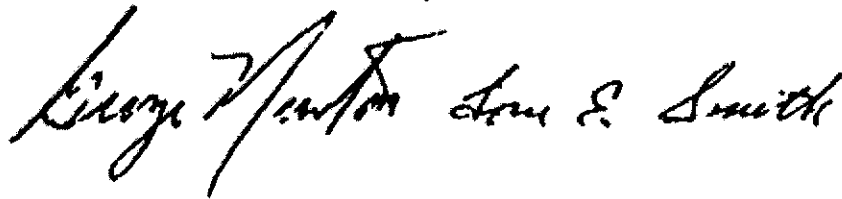
1. Improper counseling procedures followed by you and admitted by you.
2. Numerous charges of misconduct reported to this committee.
3. We have been advised that an investigation is underway by the West Frankfort Illinois Police Department concerning criminal sexual abuse charges against you.
4. Controversy surrounding your ministry and personal lifestyle.

Tommy, you are advised to surrender your Ordination Certificate to this office in the enclosed self addressed envelope and to cease all activities related to ministries of the Church of God until you are further advised by this committee.

Be assured this was not an easy decision for this committee to make. We will be praying for you and your family that God's complete purpose will be accomplished in your life.

If we can be of help in any way, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,



George L. Newton  
Executive Secretary

Tom E. Smith  
Committee Chairman

GLN/TES: jn



Copy Furnished: Keith Huttenlocker, Division of Church Service  
Edwin R. Beasley, State Chairman  
Pastors - Southern Illinois District Churches of God

*"Illinois Ministries... Striving for Excellence"*

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE  
CHURCH OF GOD IN ILLINOIS**

October 25, 1985

Reverend Tommy Shelton  
Route # 1 Box 189-B  
West Frankfort, Illinois 62896

GEORGE L. NEWTON  
Executive Secretary  
Phone 672-6411  
PO BOX 4  
MT JON 61408-0004

Dear Tommy:

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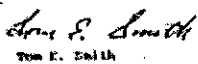
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 Tom E. Smith  
 Committee Chairman

CLM/TNS:ja

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Edwin R. Pessley, State Chairman  
Pastors - Southern Illinois District Churches of God

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