

# Chicago Tribune

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### Ex-pastor Accused Of Sexual Assaults

July 01, 1999



WISCONSIN — The former pastor of a Chicago church was facing charges Thursday of sexually assaulting two teenage girls in a La Crosse, Wis., Bible class nearly 20 years ago.

Richard D. Ahlberg, 47, who now lives in Milaca, Minn., served as the youth pastor for the Bethany Evangelical Free Church near La Crosse from 1979 to 1982, when the criminal complaint alleged he committed numerous sex acts with the girls.

From 1982 until 1986, Ahlberg was the pastor of the First Evangelical Free Church, 5255 N. Ashland Ave. in Chicago, according to the church's office manager.

La Crosse County District Atty. Scott Horne said one of the girls made the allegations to church officials in the mid-1980s, but law enforcement authorities weren't notified until last year.

Horne said one of the alleged victims finally stepped forward after hearing that Ahlberg wanted to return to the La Crosse church as pastor.

Ahlberg was free on bond.

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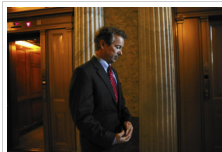
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