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Minister accused of sexual abuse while pastor of Orleans church

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An area minister has been accused of committing acts of sexual abuse against children while he was pastor of an Orleans County church more than a decade ago, state police said Wednesday.

He has also been linked to sexual abuse in New York and other states dating back to 1974.

The Rev. Roy Harriger Sr, 70, of Middleport was arrested following an investigation by state police from the Albion barracks.

The Rev. Harriger, currently pastor of Community Fellowship Church in the town of Hartland, was charged with two counts of course of sexual conduct (a Class B felony), two counts of incest (a Class E felony), and four counts of first-degree sodomy (a Class B felony).

The alleged crimes occurred between September 2000 and September 2001 in the town of Yates, Orleans County, when he was pastor of the Ashwood Wesleyan Church in Lyndonville.

Investigation also revealed that alleged crimes have been perpetrated in New York, as well as the states of Michigan and Pennsylvania between 1974 and 2003.

The incidents that occurred in Michigan and Pennsylvania have been referred to respective state police agencies there.

Harriger was processed by state police in Albion and arraigned in Town of Yates Court before Judge Donald Grabowski. He was remanded to Orleans County Jail in lieu of \$250,000 bail.

He is scheduled to return to court on Dec. 3.

Anyone with information or who may have been the victim of sexual abuse in this case is asked to contact the State Police in Albion at (585) 589-4244.

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