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## LaPorte Co. minister arrested for sex offender violation

April 08, 2013 | By Stan Maddux | WSBT-TV Correspondent



Darrell Roberts (Booking photo provided)

MICHIGAN CITY – A Michigan City clergyman was among the people arrested from a recent sweep of convicted registered sex offenders in La Porte County.

Darrell Roberts, 53, was taken into custody Friday on a warrant charging him with two counts of sex offender registry violations, according to La Porte County Police. Police said officers with arrest warrants issued out of La Porte Superior Court 4 found Roberts at the Deliverance and Victory Five-Fold Worship Center at 113 Skwiat Legion Ave. Roberts is listed as the apostle on the church website while his wife, Vera, is listed as the pastor.

According to police, Roberts began to resist officers and refused to comply with orders to place his hands and arms behind his back so he could be handcuffed. Police said he refused to be handcuffed until he made a telephone call. He was denied the call, though, and handcuffed without further incident.

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Roberts was booked into the La Porte County Jail and held on \$750 cash bond on each of the two Class D felony counts. According to jail officials, he was released later that day after posting bond. Roberts was among six people arrested out of more than 80 sex offenders whose addresses on the registry countywide were verified during a April 2 sweep. La Porte County Police Chief of Detectives John Boyd said Roberts first registered in La Porte County in November of 2010 after relocating from Missouri. He was convicted in Missouri in 2002 of sexual misconduct in the first degree and child molestation in the second degree, said Boyd. Roberts was sentenced to five years probation and ordered to be on a sex offender registry for the rest of his life. "He's classified as an offender against children," said Boyd. Boyd said Roberts signed onto the registry here after informing authorities in Missouri that he was moving to Michigan City. Court mandates to be on a registry follow offenders from one jurisdiction to the other even when the jurisdiction they now reside is in another state, Boyd said. "We've been tracking him ever since," said Boyd. Roberts in November 2012 listed the address of the church when he last updated his residency information, but an investigation showed he was actually living at 211 Ridgeland Ave., Boyd said. Boyd said the other violation alleges Roberts was living within 1,000 feet of a state-licensed daycare center. Roberts could face anywhere from a six month to three-year sentence on each count.



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