



# Integrity InfoLetter

November 2006

## *Integrity's Hopkins Fund Gives \$7,500 to Support Millennium Development Goals*

During the Integrity Eucharist—a signal event for the gathering at General Convention this summer in Columbus, Ohio—President Susan Russell announced that the evening's offering would be used to help fulfill the Millennium Development Goals through Integrity's Hopkins for Fund for Global Mission. Worshipers generously contributed almost \$7500. Integrity's Board of Directors has voted to donate this collection to Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation [[www.e4gr.org](http://www.e4gr.org)].

Commenting on the contribution, Integrity USA President Rev. Susan Russell said, "This is the truly vital work of the church, and we have been distracted from it too long by forces who are more interested in dividing us than bringing us together in mission. We're honored that those who attended the unforgettable Integrity Eucharist this summer at General Convention in Columbus gave so generously to the Hopkins Fund, so that we in turn could make this contribution to Episcopalians for Global Reconciliation in support of the MDGs."

## *Dioceses Push Back on B033: Integrity Tracks Dissenting Resolutions*

It's annual diocesan convention season, and one diocese after another is passing resolutions dissenting from the notoriously discriminatory B033 resolution rammed through General Convention this summer in Columbus. Integrity is doing it's best to track them all. Here are the dioceses that have passed anti-B033 resolutions so far...

- California
- El Camino Real
- Michigan
- Northern Michigan
- Olympia
- Rochester
- Utah

There are lots of annual conventions yet to be held. If you know of a diocesan convention resolution bearing on LGBT issues, including dissents from B033, give us all the details at [www.integrityusa.org/resolutions](http://www.integrityusa.org/resolutions).

## *Does the New Presiding Bishop Need Our Help?*



It's been suggested that some of the calls for support of the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, the newly invested 26th Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, have a sexist ring to them—as if being a woman makes her less fit to the tasks before her. It seems nothing could be further

from the truth. All signs point to a strong, decisive leader who knows what she'd like to see the church do and whom it will take to do it.

After a rough start with the LGBT faithful and their friends at General Convention this summer, when she called for passage of the infamous resolution B033, Bishop Katharine has publicly and repeatedly supported the full inclusion of all the baptized in the Body of Christ—yes, Virginia, including LGBT folks—as well as bringing the blessing of our relationships into the full life of the church.

Now that's something we can get behind! And since we're the experts in overcoming the obstacles to full inclusion, it's fair to say Bishop Katharine might welcome our insights. And knowing just how much unflattering mail and e-mail she's bound to get, one suspects a warm welcome from the LGBT community is just what she will need.

To offer Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori your congratulations and good wishes, these addresses should get your messages to her...

*The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori  
815 Second Avenue  
New York, NY 10017  
[pboffice@episcopalchurch.org](mailto:pboffice@episcopalchurch.org)*

## ***Four Months Since Columbus: Rev. Caroline Hall Updates Where We Stand***

It's been four months since the General Convention, and where are we now?

Conservative factions continue to maneuver towards their goal of establishing an alternative Episcopal Church which they hope will eventually be recognized as the "real" Anglican Church in the U.S. In addition to making changes to diocesan constitutions, they are working hard to solidify support for their position in advance of the official primate's meeting in February of next year. The "shadow primates' meeting" in Kigali in September surprised no one with their strong statement dismissing the actions of our General Convention as inadequate, and making thinly veiled threats to exclude Bishop Katharine.

This is currently a war of words, and the conservatives are proving themselves excellent at both creating news events and in using anything and everything that comes to hand to portray themselves as a persecuted minority being hounded by the heretical Episcopal Church megamachine. A carefully worded letter from Episcopal Church Chancellor David Beers regarding the constitutions of two traditionalist dioceses was denounced by Bishop Jack Iker as "shocking" and led to a storm of protest even before the actual letter was made public. Most people will remember the protest and the rhetoric—not the strong but mildly-worded, two-paragraph letter that provided the basis for Iker's "shocked" reaction.

Bishop Katharine is in an unenviable position as she steps into the storm as our new "chief pastor." But in addition to her own gifts and the support of the Holy Spirit, she has the advantage of being able to learn from Archbishop Rowan Williams' experience. Williams' appointment was as unpopular among British evangelicals as Bishop Katharine's is among conservative groups both in the U.S. and overseas. On appointment Williams received vast quantities of hate mail, and his consequent attempts to appease his opponents by asking (celibate gay) theologian Jeffrey Johns to step down from being appointed as Bishop of Reading, failed miserably. Instead of appeasing conservatives, it emboldened them even more.

Bishop Katharine is off to a good start with her courteous invitation to four leading Global South Primates to visit her when they are in the U.S. later this month. Although they are officially attending a meeting of the Trustees of the Anglican Relief and Development Fund (the conservatives' imitation of the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund), the primates have offered to have a meeting to discuss "alternative primatial oversight" with disaffected Episcopalians.

Apparently these "esteemed brothers in Christ" are not willing to wait for the Archbishop of Canterbury or the Panel of Reference to carefully consider the situation, but believe that urgent action must be taken to preserve the faith of the remaining faithful. They are in the midst of an offensive campaign, and their proactive tactics contrast starkly with the slow, careful workings of the Anglican Communion Secretariat. The recent recommendations of the Panel of Reference with regard to the Canadian Diocese of New Westminster—which declined to put dissident parishes under the "jurisdiction" of a different province of the Communion—have no doubt made them even more certain that they must take the law into their own hands if they are to achieve their ends.

Nigeria has just announced the creation of 20 new dioceses and, therefore, 20 additional bishops who would be eligible to attend and vote at Lambeth 2008. Is this another step in their bid to gain control of the Anglican Communion? Changing Attitude Nigeria reports that Church of Nigeria is in a significant fundraising campaign in order to dominate whatever gathering happens in 2008. Is this the most important thing they can find to spend their money on?

We are encouraged that on her very first day in office, Bishop Katharine took the step of challenging Global South leaders to meet her to discuss the Millennium Development Goals as a basis for shared mission. Will they accept her invitation or will they cast her as a latter-day Herod and go home by some other road? That will be their choice.

Integrity's ministry continues to be faithful to the calling of God to live our witness to the power of the Holy Spirit working in us, to contribute to the Reign of God and to be diligent in prayer for all those who struggle on our behalf and the behalf of all the oppressed.

### ***Bishop Gene Robinson at His Oratorical Best: DVD of Integrity Eucharist Now Available***

If you were there, you were no doubt deeply affected by the triennial Integrity Eucharist at General Convention 2006. If you weren't, you can share the experience via a new DVD just released by Integrity.

The DVD documents the service held Friday night, June 16<sup>th</sup>, in Columbus' historic Trinity Church—the same space where just days later Katharine Jefferts Schori would be elected our 26th Presiding Bishop. Over 1200 worshippers attended—a capacity crowd that had people (almost literally) hanging from the rafters, filling the church's undercroft, and spilling over into the surrounding street.



They were a blest congregation as the sermon was given by the Rt. Rev. V. Gene Robinson, Bishop of New Hampshire. Perhaps reflecting the roller-coaster emotions of the General Convention, especially for the LGBT faithful, Bishop Gene opened his heart to the assembly and poured out a sermon filled with joy, laughter, and tears. Add to that the lengthy procession of LGBT clergy, a moving liturgy, stirring music, awards of recognition, and Susan Russell celebrating Holy Eucharist—and you have a remarkable record of Integrity and its friends “being church.”

You can order your copy of the Integrity Eucharist DVD, made available to Integrity through the volunteer efforts of Jim Langton, for \$12.95—a portion of which supports the ministry of Integrity. To order, go to [www.integrityusa.org](http://www.integrityusa.org).

### ***Integrity Board Gathers in Pasadena, With Many New Members Joining***



Integrity's new Board of Directors held its first meeting at All Saints Episcopal Church in Pasadena, California, from October 12<sup>th</sup> through 14<sup>th</sup>.

The majority of the meeting was devoted to board orientation. Led by an organizational development professional, the Rev. David Norgard, the board took a critical look at Integrity's mission and programming. The board developed ground rules for working together. Members were provided with training on their

responsibilities—both generally as a board of directors and specifically according to their elected offices.

The final day was reserved for business issues. The following significant decisions were made...

- The Rev. Caroline “Caro” Hall was appointed Director of Intra-Communion Affairs. Caro was asked to chair a committee that will develop a procedure for making grants from the Hopkins Fund for Global Mission. Caro was also asked to serve as the primary contact between national Integrity and a new chapter that may be forming in Germany.
- Integrity will make a \$2000 donation from the Hopkins Fund for the upcoming Changing Attitude Nigeria general meeting.
- The Western Region will not be divided at this time. However, all regional vice presidents may delegate assistants if they wish.
- The board agreed to hold conference calls between board meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 6 pm Eastern Time.
- The board also decided to hold a strategic planning meeting from February 1st thru 3rd.

### **Chapter Status Review**

As part of the business session, the status of all local chapters was reviewed. The status of the follow chapters changed...

- Integrity/Northern Indiana's in-formation status was not renewed because there was little or no activity during the past year.
- The in-formation status of the following chapters was extended 6 months: Iowa, Pittsburgh, Western New York, Fort Collins, Fort Worth, Kansas City, Louisiana, Southern Nevada, and Utah.
- The decertification process was started for Integrity/Waterbury Area because it only has 7 members. This is known as a “first reading.”
- The Mid-Hudson and Houston chapters were retained in their “first reading” status. Both chapters requested a delay in final decertification so that they could have more time to correct identified problems.
- Integrity/Rio Grade was decertified because it decided to convert to a diocesan network.
- Integrity/Gulf Coast was certified as a full chapter.

### ***Now Join, Renew, and Give—24/7!***

While Integrity has been accepting donations online for a couple of years, the news is that we recently upgraded to a new product and can now also process new memberships and membership renewals online. To use this payment method, go to [www.integrityusa.org](http://www.integrityusa.org) and click this button...



## ***A New Resource Debuts: Voices of Witness DVD & Study Guide Released***

*Voice of Witness* is a 40-minute celebration on DVD of the lives, relationships, and belief of gay and lesbian Episcopalians. It premiered at General Convention 2006 and since then has begun to circulate amongst individuals and groups as a "contribution to the listening process" and a "gift to the Anglican Communion."

*Voices of Witness* was produced by Claiming the Blessing—which according to its website at [www.claimingtheblessing.org](http://www.claimingtheblessing.org)—is "an organization of Episcopalians promoting the church blessing of same-sex relationships and advocating for full inclusion of all the baptized in all sacraments of the church, including the selection of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered candidates as bishops, priests, and lay leaders where they are otherwise qualified."

A free copy of this DVD will be mailed in November to all Integrity chapters, networks, circles, and partners. The DVD will be accompanied by a new study guide written the Very Rev. Gary R. Hall, Ph.D., Dean, President, and Professor of Anglican Studies at Seabury-Western Theological Seminary. The other groups and individuals can order the DVD at [www.voicesofwitness.org](http://www.voicesofwitness.org). A \$4.95 donation is requested to cover postage. The study guide can be downloaded from the same site at no charge.

## ***Good News! Membership is Fully Deductible***

The new Treasurer of Integrity, Jeff Martinhauk, has determined that Integrity membership dues (not just gift above dues) meet IRS requirements for tax-deductible contributions. Please keep this in mind when preparing your 2006 tax return.

For gifts above dues, which are also tax deductible, Integrity has previously issued written acknowledgements. Effective immediately—as specified by IRS regulations—Integrity will only issue written acknowledgements for single contributions of \$250 or more. If you made a gift of this size during 2006 and have not received a written acknowledgement, please contact Integrity's administrator, John Clinton Bradley, at [johnclint@integrityusa.org](mailto:johnclint@integrityusa.org) or 800-462-9498.

## ***Recent Estate Gifts Ensure Future***

During the last two years, Integrity has been blessed with several substantial bequests from the estates of deceased members. These funds are enabling Integrity to do more ministry in the present while laying a sound foundation for the organization's future.

If you've considered remembering Integrity in your will, or would just like to explore the possibilities, you can find detailed directions for making a bequest at [www.integrityusa.org/estategiving](http://www.integrityusa.org/estategiving).