



Integrity

www.integrityusa.org/gc2006

Wednesday, June 14, 2006
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jesus is the Gay Agenda says Bishop Gene Robinson

Bishop Gene Robinson of New Hampshire this morning declared that 'Jesus is the homosexual agenda in the Episcopal Church, I believe that with my whole heart'. Addressing a press conference organized by the Human Rights Campaign and Integrity (the LGBT witness in the Episcopal Church), Robinson, the first openly gay bishop, said 'I am a beloved child of God because of the action of God in my own life... My agenda is to speak the witness that I know of this living, loving God.'

'Jesus rarely pointed to himself but to God', he continued, 'that's what homosexuals in the Church want to do.' He agreed with those who say we are fighting for the soul of the Church - will this be a church with walls, threats and schism, or a Church of the 'inclusive love of God in which every baptized person hears what Jesus heard at his baptism, 'You are my beloved in whom I am well pleased.'?

Robinson did not gloss over the differences between different groups within the Episcopal Church and some of its 'partners in mission' saying that it was not surprising to him that (for example) Archbishop Peter Akinola of the Church of Nigeria did not know any faithful, gay, Christian folk because it is illegal to be homosexual in Nigeria and there is legislation pending which will make it illegal for a heterosexual person in Nigeria to advocate on behalf of homosexuals. In the Episcopal Church, Robinson said, there is a different perspective because 'we know these people'. He said he believed that 'Peter Akinola is following his journey back to God as prayerfully and as faithfully as he can' and added, 'I am too.'

For the Rev. Susan Russell, president of Integrity, the faithful response of LGBT Episcopalians is 'to continue to do what we've done for thirty years' - to witness to the experience of God's love and 'stay at the table'. LGBT Episcopalians and their straight allies 'have never threatened to leave' the church, she said, 'our platform is the full inclusion of ALL the baptized in the Church of God.'

Neither speaker would make predictions about the outcome of this week's Episcopal Church Convention in Columbus, Ohio. 'I wasn't given a crystal ball at ordination,' declared Gene Robinson, but 'God's going to sort it out in God's time'.

Press Contact:

Ms. Louise Brooks
Chief Press Officer
626-993-4605
commteam2@integrityusa.org

620 Park Avenue #311 | Rochester, NY 14607-2943
800-462-9498 | info@integrityusa.org