



# Integrity

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Integrity Applauds Election of Katharine Jefferts Schori as New Presiding Bishop of Episcopal Church**

Integrity USA congratulates the Rt. Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori on her election as the 26th Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church. Integrity President Susan Russell said, "We look forward to continuing the process of working closely with the Presiding Bishop toward the full inclusion of the gay and lesbian faithful in the Body of Christ. The historic election of Katharine Jefferts Schori is something for us and the whole church to celebrate."

Presiding Bishop-elect Jefferts Schori is a friend of the LGBT persons in her diocese of Nevada and the Integrity chapter there has enjoyed a warm pastoral relationship with her. Rev. Russell said, "What is really promising is Bishop Jefferts Schori's commitment to building bridges between people who disagree. That's important if we are to continue this conversation."

Russell continued, "We also expect our relationship with Bishop Jefferts Schori to benefit from her first-hand experience of, and support for, the witness of LGBT persons. We know that personal experience like Bishop Jefferts Schori's is what changes hearts and minds."

In an effort to share such experiences with the church and the wider communion, Integrity recently partnered with the Claiming the Blessing collaborative in the production of "Voices of Witness," a DVD telling the stories of gays and lesbians in the Episcopal Church. The DVD's producer/director Louise Brooks said, "In our screenings, we have seen that this DVD helps viewers put faces to the issue of gay and lesbian equality in the church." Complimentary copies of the DVD Voices of Witness are available at the Claiming the Blessing Booth #23 & 24 in the Exhibit Hall or by going to [www.integrityusa.org](http://www.integrityusa.org).

Integrity noted that Jefferts Schori was among the bishops consenting to the election of V. Gene Robinson as the church's first openly gay bishop in 2003.

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