

INTEGRITY
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Minutes of the Spring 2005 Meeting of the Board of Directors

The morning of April 29, 2005, started with a Eucharist presided over by Michael Hopkins, rector of the Church of St. Luke and St. Simon Cyrene, Rochester, NY in the parish church's chapel. Integrity thanks Michael and the Two Saints for hosting our spring board meeting. With the start of the meeting after the Eucharist, Susan invited each of the board members and staff to do a brief catch-me-up on their lives since the last board meeting. In attendance for this meeting were: Susan Russell, Frank Dowd, Neil Houghton, David Tarbet, Brad LaMonte, Pam Stephens, Bruce Mason as board members and John Clinton Bradley and Doug Ball as staff members. Michael Hopkins who does many duties for national Integrity was also in attendance.

The draft minutes from the November 28, 2004 board conference call were approved with minor changes; John will make the changes and post the minutes to the website.

Doug presented to the board the discussion he had with Angelika Kuehn, national Integrity's attorney, about the organization's need to have an annual meeting in order to conform to the incorporation rules under the State of Illinois. Angelika suggested that the national bylaws be amended to eliminate the annual convention and substitute an annual meeting. Michael volunteered to draw up the appropriate bylaw language for the board to vote on. On Saturday morning (as the first "Parking Lot" item), Frank moved that the new language be substituted in the bylaws, and Pam seconded the motion. After brief discussion, the board approved several amendments to the bylaws changing the annual convention to an annual meeting. In the next issue of the Voice of Integrity, Doug will include an article about the amendments and a ballot for the membership to vote on the changes.

As the next item of business, the board passed a resolution appointing Frank as Integrity's representative to negotiate the details of receiving a bequest from David Lochman's estate. The corporate resolution required by Harris Bank, Chicago, IL. who is handling the investments of the estate was signed by Susan, Frank, and John, and with related documents will be sent to Harris Bank by Doug. Michael will ask Jim Rosenthal and Grant Gallop, old friends of David Lochman, to write an article about David for the next Voice.

Doug announced that the missing display stand (better known as Big Red) has been located by UPS and will be shipped back to Naples, FL., its home base. Doug will inspect the item to ensure that nothing is missing, and John will reactivate the reservation form on the website. John will modify the display stand instructions to include our UPS account information, and Doug and all users will insure Big Red for \$1500 during any shipping.

Frank gave the treasurer's report which was received by the board. He also presented a draft accounting review (as specified by the bylaws) which was accepted by the board.

Susan mentioned that the Director of Development position on the board remains unfilled. She will check to see if an individual in the Lexington chapter would be interested in the position, and Michael will give Susan a copy of the Director of Development position description.

As Integrity Representative on the Religious Roundtable of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) (for five years now), Michael gave a report on its doings. It appears that the Left is waking up to religion and would even be willing to do workshops at our conference events in the future. Michael announced the **Creating Change** conference to be held on November 9-13, 2005, in Oakland, California. He suggested that Integrity should target people from various chapters to go on scholarships to this NGLTF-sponsored event. He urged everyone to go. The board approved limited scholarship assistance from the regional budgets; interested people should contact their regional vice president. Michael also represents Integrity on The Consultation which is posing a bit of a problem for them since we have no Deputy to GC as one of two eligible representatives. It would be great to have Elizabeth represent us on The Consultation since she is a Deputy, and Michael may become an alternate deputy in the fall of this year. Susan and Michael will work out the representation issue, and Integrity will go with The Consultation for booth space at next year's General Convention in Columbus, Ohio. The Episcopal Peace Fellowship has asked Integrity to go in with them on a hotel block of rooms for General Convention.

Susan announced the *Big Tent Event* for 2005: it is called **Values, Vision, and the Via Media: A Pathway to Action**, to be held on October 13-15, 2005, at Washington National Cathedral. Once the details are firmed up, Integrity needs to promote this conference, and we could have a workshop for the event. Doug will put information about the conference in the next InfoLetter, and John will put a banner ad on the website.

On a personal note, Susan explained some changes at Claiming the Blessing; she is now convener of this ongoing program, not the executive director as in the past. And Susan has become full time at All Saints, Pasadena.

Michael presented a report on Integrity Uganda; a group of approximately 30 individuals meet on Sunday evenings at a location in Kampala. National Integrity underwrites the meeting space and supports Bishop Christopher (still inhibited and ostracized in his diocese) who also uses the physical space for consultations. The fraud situation of the past has pretty much dried up, but games continue to be played. This ministry in Uganda is a valuable grass roots presence.

With regard to the January trip to London by Susan and Michael to talk with Anglican Communion officials, Susan felt that she and Michael were listened to and considered during the deliberations by the primates later in Northern Ireland. Susan believes that ECUSA has met the stipulations put forth by the primates. Representatives from Integrity will go to the ACC meeting in June if we are asked to come and make a presentation, not just show up as we did in Plano, Texas.

The morning session ended by Neil leading us in Noonday Prayers.

On Friday afternoon, John led off on chapter business by reporting on the Partners program; Integrity had lost past Partners because the former Data Administrator only sent out one reminder notice to parish churches. John has sent out reminders to former Partners, and seven have responded favorably. Susan recommended sending out a fresh invitation to parish churches across the country; have a template created that Integrity members can use to invite gay-friendly parishes. Doug will include information in the next InfoLetter encouraging members to invite parishes to become Partners. John will create the letter template that members can use for this purpose.

John went on to a brief discussion of the network coordinators and parish circles.

The next lengthy item of business for the board was John's guiding everyone through the chapter list by region for a status report. The summary is as follows:

- Chippewa Valley: in-formation status extended for six months
- Iowa: in-formation status extended for six months; Pan will clarify whether the Iowa network is redundant
- Northern Ohio: in-formation status extended six months
- St. Michael's: in-formation status extended for six months
- West Virginia: in-formation status allowed to lapse
- Madison: Pam will encourage chapter to increase their Integrity membership
- Christ Church Gay Spirituality Group: in-formation status extended for six months
- Rhode Island: in-formation status allowed to lapse
- Southern Tier: in-formation status extended for six months
- Western Massachusetts: first reading to decertify
- Woodbridge: in-formation status allowed to lapse
- Tulsa: first reading to decertify
- Diocese of Kansas: decertified at chapter's request
- Fort Collins: in-formation status extended for six months
- Kansas City: David will send John information on co-conveners
- New Orleans: in-formation status extended for six months
- Norman: in-formation status allowed to lapse
- Naples: John will transfer Doug & Frank to this new chapter

- Palm Beach: in-formation status extended for six months
- Tidewater: John will moved Heather & Ann to this chapter
- Wilmington: in-formation status extended for six months
- Southern Nevada: in-formation status extended for six months

John encouraged the regional vice presidents to contact all chapters that have not submitted an annual report as required by the national bylaws and asked the regional vice presidents to encourage all in-formation chapters to move toward full certification by the next board meeting.

The special case of the New York chapter: Neil reported that dissolution of the chapter corporation will take place without any assets; a letter and ballot will go out to all calling for dissolution now that national Integrity has decertified the chapter. Neil will send the former New York members, now at-large, a letter emphasizing that they are still valued as Integrity members and what the qualifications are for a network coordinator, parish circles, etc. Integrity will store the vestments that the New York chapter turned over to national Integrity. The national organization will not financially support a phone line for the network coordinator and will underwrite the po box for 90 days or when the current contract is up.

Next important topic was Integrity's presence at General Convention in 2006: John reported that the Integrity volunteers and the Nerve Center will be at the Courtyard by Marriott (a nonconvention hotel) on Spring Street in Columbus, Ohio. Social space may be available as well. Fifteen double occupancy rooms have been reserved for volunteers. The Integrity Eucharist is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday evening, June 14, 2006, at Trinity Episcopal Church on Broad Street. All sites are in reasonable walking distance.

Discussion ensued as to whether all volunteers needed to be at GC for the full two weeks. An example was given that the volunteers on the legislative team don't really need to be there the full time. It may be easier to get volunteers if some would not have to commit to the full time, perhaps only for one week.

Although there will be a special committee to deal with the Anglican Communion issues, it is unknown at this time whether its authority will cover resolutions on human sexuality.

Peoples' spirits need to be kept up between now and GC 2006 especially since the ACC and the bishops meet in June and September respectively of this year. Michael is not sure what Integrity should push at this convention. Perhaps, a clear, new theological statement is now required. Integrity should encourage positive statements of response to the Windsor Report that don't give away our dignity and uphold our place in the church as gay & lesbian Episcopalians.

John will contact Mike Wernick at the local chapter to discuss preliminary logistical support from the local membership.

The Saturday morning session on April 30, 2005, started off with discussions of communication matters. Doug stated that the magazine, Voice of Integrity, is being issued twice a year and the goal has been to issue an InfoLetter to all members in between the magazine issues. Susan suggested that we should issue two InfoLetters between the magazines; hence, Doug will publish the next InfoLetter in June, and there will be another InfoLetter coming out in the summer prior to the summer/fall issue of the Voice. It was noted that we should make better use of official IntegNews as a major communication device for all people interested in Integrity, members and nonmembers alike. It could be used for news alerts since it goes to a far larger subscribed group of people than LightSpeed which is confined to members only and is unofficial. John will invite all members with e-mail addresses to subscribe to the news list.

Due to the amount of spam coming to our lists, John with board approval will move the website and all mailing lists to Tiger Technologies in May. At Susan and Neil's request, John will post information on the blog about how to subscribe to the news list and will stop updating the blog since it has not been getting much traffic right from its inception.

Susan says that reporters who cover Integrity and church news want Integrity to have a "rapid response team." This will become increasingly important as we approach General Convention 2006 and respond to significant Anglican and Episcopal meetings this year. Susan recommended that she, Michael, and Elizabeth make up that team. Susan will talk with Elizabeth about this change.

Moving on to the transgender community, Pam has had conversations with this group in her Midwest area; the general feeling is that the rest of the LGB community does not understand their point of view. Neil confirmed that it is a different kind of issue based on his conversations in Atlanta. Donna Cartwright gave individual contacts to John concerning developing a Transgender Page on the website, but those contacts have not as yet responded to John. Susan says that it is about identification of gender issues versus orientation issues of the LGB folks. There always have been one or two transgender persons on the Religious Roundtable. However, there is a political common cause issue with transgender people, but the rest of us cannot speak for them. A transgender person should be encouraged to run for the national Integrity board since our ministry is diminished without their input.

Parking Lot Matters:

- John pointed out that Integrity's current international postage is an extra \$15.00 per person a year, and this expense is far higher than what it truly costs Integrity to mail to international members. Neil moved and David seconded that the board eliminate the postage surcharge for international members.
- Frank moved and Pam seconded that the board increase the chapter share of the household dues from \$10 to \$15.

- John submitted the Admin/Database Report to the board. He mentioned that for security and privacy reasons, the entire database is not available on the website. John would rather use one tear-off letter for membership renewals instead of the letter and card now in use. The board approved the change.
- Discussion ensued on how best to approve new in-formation chapters; Vice presidents approve the new chapters after making contact with the contact person and assuring that the person is a member. By e-mail, vice presidents send all approvals of in-formation chapters to all members of the board and to John and Doug. John will contact Dylan regarding the status of in-formation letters. (If necessary, he will offer to take over that function.)
- It was noted that the board should take out a fidelity bond on John and that Frank as treasurer should be insured as well. Thus, Doug will investigate a fidelity bond for John and officers and directors insurance for the board.
- LGBT Archives: Does Integrity wish to affiliate with this creation of Mark Bowman's since we use the Episcopal Church Archives in Texas? Susan wants a clear understanding as to what it means to be a participant in LGBT Archives; hence, she will contact Mark Bowman for more information.
- What chapter programs work? Brad will compose a list of things that have worked for various chapters and where the chapter has been successful.
- Frank volunteered to locate information on the last production of the Louie Crew Award, and his record showed that Challwood Studios made the last award presented. Awards must be created and presented to Bishop Gene Robinson (at this fall's event at Washington National Cathedral) and sent to Carter Heyward.
- Doug will keep the master files of all chapters (including bylaws). The vice presidents should ask all chapter leaders to send in a current copy of their bylaws.
- World Pride in Jerusalem: in August, 2005; we should be aware of it, clear our calendars and go. **NOTE: This event has been canceled in May.**

The next board meeting will be held in conjunction with the Values, Vision, and Via Media conference in Washington, October 15-16, 2005. The board meeting will take place after the end of the conference on Saturday afternoon, October 15th and on Sunday, October 16th. The board voted to reimburse board members' conference registration fees. Doug will investigate lodging and meeting arrangements.

Respectfully Submitted,
Doug Ball
Executive Secretary
May 27, 2005