

# Minutes of Spring 2003 Board Meeting

By John Clinton Bradley

National Integrity's Board of Directors held its semiannual meeting March 21-22, 2003, at Trinity Cathedral, in Portland, Oregon.

President Michael Hopkins reported on several items:

- ? The recent meeting of the National Religious Leaders Roundtable in Atlanta. It was noted that the American Anglican Congress has become part of the Institute on Religion and Democracy.
- ? The status of Integrity Uganda. The chapter has finally been granted official status as a nongovernmental organization. Much of the monies there were raised in the United States to support Integrity Uganda have been spent. Additional fundraising efforts for this cause are needed.
- ? The recent meeting of The Consultation in Baltimore. He is on the platform committee.
- ? The recent meeting of the Episcopal Urban Caucus, which passed a resolution supporting development of a rite for the blessing of nontraditional relationships. [Visit [www.integrityusa.org](http://www.integrityusa.org) for a copy of the resolution.]
- ? The upcoming National Reconciliation Conversations in Los Angeles. Both he and Director of Communications Susan Russell will be participating. [NOTE: The reconciliation conversations have since taken place. Visit [www.integrityusa.org](http://www.integrityusa.org) for a report from Susan Russell.]

The status of Integrity Lightspeed (an unofficial Internet news and discussion list for Integrity members) was discussed. Subscriber levels continue to fall due to high message volume and occasional acrimonious exchanges. The board voted to replace Integrity Lightspeed with a threaded discussion area hosted by the Every Voice Network.

Secretary Cynthia Gilliatt presented the minutes from the November 2002 meeting. They were approved with minor corrections. They can be found at <http://www.integrityusa.org/minutes>.

Treasurer Frank Dowd reported on the organization's financial status. At the end of 2002, assets were approximately \$13,000. Income during 2003 was about \$98,000. Expenses during 2002 were approximately \$119,000. The president volunteered to launch an appeal to the membership.

The treasurer also reported that an accounting firm in Naples, Florida, has been secured to conduct the annual review of Integrity's books.

Executive Secretary Doug Ball reported that he has been filling a large number of requests for free literature. The board authorized him to begin enclosing "invoices" with

such orders stating the cost of the products contained and requesting a donation to cover the expense.

The board appointed Attorney Angelica Keene to serve as Integrity registered agent in the State of Illinois.

Director of Communications Susan Russell reported on her activities as Executive Director of Claiming the Blessing. See <http://www.everyvoice.net/susansblog> for details.

Regional vice presidents John Clinton Bradley, David Tarbet, and Bruce Mason reported on the status of the chapters in their regions. [Bruce Colburn was unable to attend.]

Action was taken on the following chapters:

- ? Boulder County--Extended in-formation status
- ? Brooklyn--Extended in-formation status
- ? Chicago--Decertify (with regret because it was the first Integrity chapter)
- ? Dallas--Decertified (transformed into diocesan network)
- ? Lutherans Concerned/Integrity/Southwest Minnesota--Decertify
- ? Minnesota--First reading to decertify
- ? New Jersey--Extended in-formation status
- ? Northeast Ohio--Decertify
- ? Palm Beach--Extended in-formation status
- ? Staten Island--Clarify status
- ? Tampa Bay--Decertified (transformed into diocesan network)
- ? Treasure Valley--Extended in-formation status
- ? Utah--Extended in-formation status
- ? Westchester--First reading to decertify
- ? Wilmington--Extended in-formation status

Plans for General Convention 2003 were discussed. Over 20 members applied to serve as volunteers. The key issues in Minneapolis are likely to be:

- ? Authorizing a rite for the blessing of nontraditional relationships.
- ? Changes to the ministry canons prohibiting discrimination in the call to a ministry.
- ? Approving the election of the first openly gay bishop (should Gene Robinson be elected by the Diocese of New Hampshire).
- ? The election of a new president of the House of Deputies (Dr. Louie Crew is challenging the Rev. George Warner).
- ? Opposition to "reparative therapy."

Integrity, as part of the Claiming the Blessing coalition, is focusing its efforts on a rite for the blessing of nontraditional relationships.

The board approved a statement, drafted by Director of Programs Elizabeth Kaeton, in response to the report from the House of Bishops Theology Committee. The text can be found at <http://www.integrityusa.org/press/>.

The board traveled to Mount Hood, enjoying dinner at the home of former Presiding

Bishop Edmond Browning. For details and photos, see Elizabeth Kaeton's article at <http://www.integrityusa.org/TheBlueberryMan/>.