

Minutes of Integrity Board Meeting April 26-27 2002 : Home of Mr. Ball and Mr. Dowd, Naples, Florida.

Present: Douglas Ball, John Clinton Bradley, Bruce Colburn, Frank Dowd, Cynthia Gilliatt, Michael Hopkins, David Tarbet.

Friday, April 26

I. Morning Prayer 9 a.m.

II. Check in 9:15 a.m.

III. Business Session A: Initial Reports 9:45 a.m.

A. Agenda approved with the addition of certification of chapter status for Integrity/Central Pennsylvania.

B. Minutes of the previous meeting March 9-10, 2001, accepted as corrected. The secretary will send the corrected minutes to Michael for posting and distribution.

C. President's Report

1. Midwest Vice-President: Mr. Vogler has been out of communication with the President or members of the Board for some time and is unable to perform his duties. F.D. moved and J seconded a motion to declare the position vacant. Until a new Regional Vice-President can be appointed, John will be the interim Regional Vice President. He will ask the Midwest Chapters to propose a replacement before June 30, so that the Board can conduct an e-mail vote to confirm the nomination by the end of July. The Board voted unanimously to follow this procedure.

2. Appointments.

a. The Board unanimously accepted the following appointments, good through October, 2002, following a motion by JCB, seconded by BC:

Director of Programs: Elizabeth Kaeton

Director of Development: Jack Finlaw

Director of Communications: Susan Russell, subject to further discussion on the part of the President and Russell.

b. The President's appointments:

Representative to Council for Women's Ministries:
Elizabeth Kaeton

Representatives to Consultation: Michael Hopkins &
Elizabeth Kaeton

Representative to Religious Leaders Roundtable: Michael
Hopkins

Archivist: James Carson

Representative to NEAC: Bruce Garner

Representative to Episcopal Women's Caucus: Susan
Russell

Co-Chairs of General Convention Committee: Michael Hopkins & Susan Russell
 Representatives to Steering Committee of Claiming the Blessing: Michael Hopkins, Elizabeth Kaeton, Susan Russell, & Jack Finlaw

3. Uganda Trip: Michael will visit Uganda this summer for about two weeks, at a cost of no more than \$5,000, in order to express our solidarity and fellowship with our sisters and brothers there and to assess the situation not only of Integrity/Uganda, but also that of Bishop Christopher and others with whom we have been involved. Michael has been invited to preach a parish in Kampala, evidently the only 'liberal' parish in the diocese. Bishop Christopher seems to be in a fairly good state, having restarted his counseling practice, and one aim of the trip will be to determine the levels of support which Integrity can commit to in the future. This trip is not aiming to generate publicity, but rather to gather information. Michael's preaching will likely generate publicity. Several Board members asked for assurance that Michael will have security during his stay. In discussion it was noted that Trinity Wall Street's decision to withhold money from Rawanda in the wake of Rawandan Bishops being involved in the AmIA 'consecrations', African bishops hostile to l/b/g/t concerns have been less active. A continuing source of friction and misunderstanding between African Primates and the American church is their failure to understand that the Presiding Bishop here does not have the seeping powers over their bishops and priests which the African Primates do. JCB moved and CG seconded that Integrity allocate \$4000 for Michael's trip. The Board urged Michael to let us know the precise dates his trip as soon as possible so that we might uphold him in prayer.

4. Other matters:

- a. Integrity did lend its name to the recent Consultation of sexuality issues in Brazil, to which Louie Crew went. This was sponsored by Bishop Suarez of Brazil, and there did seem to be some positive movement.
- b. There will probably be a *Newsweek* article giving an overview of sexuality issues soon for which John and Michael were interviewed.
- c. It is hoped this will help in adding some perspective to the discussion of the sexual abuse issue in the Roman Catholic Church. Integrity has been careful to comment only after Dignity issued its initial response to the crisis and the attendant gay-bashing by some Roman clergy, and has deliberately not tried to comment on each development.

D. Secretary's Report: The secretary reported that all correspondence consequent on the March 2001 meeting had been sent, as had responses to correspondence forwarded by the Executive Secretary.

E. Treasure's Report

1. The Treasurer distributed the Balance Sheet.

2. The Treasurer presented a draft budget, explaining that it was, to a certain extent, a work in progress. This is in part the result of differences between the information supplied by Data-Gap and what the bank statements reflect. A major task for the Treasurer this year has been a major reconciliation of the books, which were left in some confusion. A great deal of that confusion has been taken care of. There is, however, a \$20,000 discrepancy between Data-Gap's figures and those arrived at by the Treasurer and the bank. The problem seems to be in the coding done for various moneys by Data-Gap. Michael will work with Frank later this summer to get this straightened out. Frank noted that he has *de facto* become both the treasurer and the bookkeeper, and this needs to be changed. It was noted that the Board had voted to explore changing from Data-Gap to another service, but had not yet done so. John agreed to prepare an RFP for a professional to do bookkeeping and membership work. There is some urgency to this as Integrity's part in "Claiming the Blessing" may be with managing finances. See below. Another issue with Data-Gap is their spotty performance in sending IRS letters to contributors. John and Frank will work on the details of the RFP by the end of June; if this does not work out, Integrity will not do that work for "Claiming." Frank took the Board through the details of the figures for 2001 and there will be a budget for 2002 later this meeting.

Our filing for our own 5013C to replace the one we work under via 815 needs to be done ASAP. We need our own in order to work with grant-making agencies.

The Treasurer's report was accepted as presented.

John moved and Bruce seconded a motion to put funds received from estates into the money market account. Michael is in discussion with someone who may be donating a substantial gift to Integrity which may be put into a trust fund for several years after which the balance would revert to Integrity.

John reported that he credit-card/web-page venture did not work out financially and further exploration of this is on hold.

F. Development Director's Report:

Jack was to have e-mailed but has not. There were two appeal letters last year; the next ones will focus on General Convention.

G. Integrity Partner's and Networks Programs:

John reported that there are now 34 Partners. A second invitation will be issued.

Networks: there are 19 of these, mostly diocesan, with one regional network.

We need to encourage communication, ask for help with fundraising through the networks, urge communication form networks to regional vice-presidents. John is getting at-large members' names to coordinators. Coordinators are to apply to Frank for expense reimbursement. David suggested we send some kind of reimbursement forms to the coordinators. Michael would like to see some kind of quarterly, brief newsletter that would go to network coordinators, partners, chapter conveners that would give progress reports on on-going projects, have action alerts, and the like. Congregational Circles – this idea has not been as popular as the networks; so far there are circles in Concord, MA and one forming in Charlottesville, VA at St. Paul's Memorial Church.

H. Executive Secretary's Report

- a. Many who correspond with the Executive Secretary think Integrity has a vast 'staff.' Electronic communication continues to be the bulk of the work: answering e-mails, address forwarding, answering requests for brochures, etc. , production of the magazine, the latest issue of which is in the mail as we meet.
- b. Board needs to address: our registered agent as a corporation in Illinois is retired and should be replaced so that the periodical official business we need to do may be transacted efficiently. John moved and Bruce seconded a motion to elect Doug to fulfill this duty. The Board concurred unanimously.
- c. The Scammer – is still at large, sometimes victimizing other denominations. After some discussion, John moved and Frank seconded a proposal, capped at \$3000.00 initial expense, to retain a private investigator, perhaps in cooperation with another religious group he has tried to victimize. The Board assented unanimously.

IV: Business Session B

[Michael asked that we readjust the order of items on the agenda and the Board agreed.]

A. [had been B] Ongoing Structural Issues

Michael voiced a concern that although Integrity has regional Vice-Presidents, it has no means by which to replace a President should he or she be unable to finish the term of office. After some discussion. Cynthia proposed and Frank seconded a motion stating that should the President be unable to perform the office, the Executive Secretary would so inform the Regional Vice Presidents. They would call a Board meeting within 30 days – in person or by conference telephone call – to select and secure the services of someone to perform the office of president until the next regular election. The Board passed this unanimously.

B. [had been C] General Convention

Michael reported that our presence at the next General Convention would be both similar to and different from our work in the past. He and Elizabeth have been meeting with representatives from beyond Inclusion and the Oasis ministries [in Newark, California, Missouri, and Michigan) to form a coalition titled "Claiming the Blessing," which would concentrate focus on the blessing

of same sex unions. This would be the sole focus of the coalition. Some unofficial representatives from other interested groups have been involved in some of the discussions. All participants are convinced that a major movement in this direction has to occur at this General Convention or the momentum from DO39 will be lost. Part of the purpose of the Coalition will be, between this fall and General Convention, to hire a full-time fundraiser and coordinator of efforts, possibly Susan Russell. Integrity's part in this would be to 1. Run the nerve center, as we have done in the past and to provide 2. a volunteer base, although Michael thinks we can do with fewer but well trained and experience bodies than we did last time. He believes that because there are now gay and lesbian folk placed on many of the major committees and commissions, we no longer need feel obliged to send a presence to every facet of General Convention. For fundraising, Jack Finlaw will work with the Coalition on behalf of Integrity. It does not seem likely that fundraising for the Coalition and our own fundraising for General Convention will conflict. David asked about what kind of rite the Coalition would be asking for, and John replied that at this point the thinking was to focus not so much on what kind of rite but on securing one by directing the Standing Liturgical Commission to produce one, and let them suggest where that happens. 3. National convention: this was originally A on the agenda. It had been thought that the organizations in the Coalition could meet in the fall [in lieu of Integrity's thrice annual national convention, which we have not been able to hold], but the organization responsible did not follow through. This would have served as a strategy planning meeting; e.g., how to deal with the House of Bishops. In fact, the understanding is that the liberal bishops or either ineffectual with their sisters and brothers or are in thrall to the Presiding Bishop, so we will concentrate on the Deputies. The other aim was to have been to come up with a strong unified theological position on same-sex blessings. 4. Violations of Canon 1.17.5: There have been several complaints about this, and attention needs to be drawn to the issue. John proposed that an article on this issue be prepared for the next issue of the Voice and that we use the web site to raise awareness and alert people to the problem. The Coalition steering committee will meet and it may yet be possible to combine the fall Board meeting with a larger meeting of the Coalition groups. It was emphasized again that our volunteer effort at General Convention needs to be concentrated and well-coordinated, especially if we go with a smaller number of participants. The Consultation has begun to take hotel bookings; we will go with 10 rooms, people 2 to a room.

V. The Blessing of a Home and Eucharist

Saturday 27 April

I. Morning Prayer 9 am

II Annual Chapter Review: before beginning chapter review there was general discussion of the idea of setting aside a place on the web page to report 'hate crimes' against glbt clergy and lay professionals, e.g., those who have been ousted from jobs etc. There was concern for documentation, for the site simply becoming a whining post. We will look in to how this might be done with a view to documentation, protection against reprisals, etc.

A. Midwest

In the absence of a Regional Vice President there was no report. Membership figures from Data-Gap seem to suggest that there are too few members in Central Ohio, but their data have been unreliable for a number of chapters, so there will be no 2nd reading.

B. Northeast: Bruce

Bethlehem: working on new leadership and meeting quarterly.

Brooklyn: in formation, socially active, will stay in formation at this time.

Central PA: applied for certification. Bruce moved, John 2nd. Unanimous.

Mid-Hudson: Ok.

NJ: In formation status to be extended until fall 2002

NY: Ok

Philadelphia: no contact yet with the new convener.

Pittsburgh: not meeting. Bruce moved, John 2^d to decertify. Unanimous.

R.I.: no signs of activity. Bruce moved, John 2nd to decertify. Unanimous.

Rochester: Dignity half of this joint chapter is the more active; trying to get some Episcopal leadership.

Staten Island: a good core group.

Waterbury Area: small core active.

Westchester: not responsive; unsure how active it is.

Western MA: meeting regularly.

C. South Central: David

Arkansas: this is a network – Ellie Atwood Tarbell is the contact.

Arkansas/Little Rock: seems healthy

Austin: active meetings.

Boulder: is active with large board; needs to apply for chapter status.

Colorado/Denver: active and seeking to be active in Boulder w/Ron Ramey.

Dallas: is going towards parish circle/network status but wants to keep chapter status.

Houston: being reorganizes and meeting quarterly.

Diocese of Kansas: is OK,

New Orleans: an in formation effort that has died

Kansas City: an in formation effort that has died.

Northwest Arkansas: no news.

Oklahoma Network: needs a new coordinator.

Rio Grande: occasional communications, not lately.

South Central Kansas: very active in their diocese; should apply for chapter status while extending in formation status – moved by Bruce, 2nd John, unanimous.

Tulsa: small but regular meetings; a joint chapter w/Dignity.

D. Southeast: John

Alabama: stable and active. Stand against AL Supreme Court justice's remarks.

Atlanta: stable and active

Baltimore: stable and involved.

Ft. Lauderdale: in formation, large, vigorous. John moved, Cynthia 2nd to extend in formation status. Unanimous.

Gulf Coast: In formation and welcome in that area.

Jacksonville: troubled, with no convener, and not expected to survive. Frank moved, Cynthia 2nd to write 1st reading of decertification. Unanimous.

Key West: not in communication.

Knoxville: attendance flagging, but unwilling to be a network Will try to change name and focus to minister to whole diocese.

Memphis: in good shape.

Meridian: needed in that area. Bruce moved, John 2nd to extend in formation status. Unanimous.

Middle TN: becoming a network. John moved, Bruce 2nd to decertify for this purpose. Unanimous.

Palm Beach: in formation and off to a good start,

Tampa Bay: dying and may transform into a network.

Virginia: 2nd largest in the region and going strong.

Washington DC: dissolved as a corporation. John moved, Bruce 2nd to decertify. Unanimous.

Wilmington NC: in formation and going slowly. John moved, Cynthia 2nd to extend in formation status. Unanimous.

E. Western: from Bruce M., by e-mail.

Columbia/Willamette: not meeting; becoming a network. Doug moved, Frank 2nd to decertify. Unanimous.

Desert/Palm Springs: very active.

El Camino Real: active and mobile.

Hawaii: not responding. An in formation group that appears to be dying.

N. CA: very active, meeting often.

Phoenix: no information.

Pocatello: no conveners; may be falling apart.

Puget Sound: OK.

San Diego: ok.

Treasure Valley: in formation. John moved, Bruce 2nd to extend. Unanimous.

Utah: active. Cynthia moved, John 2nd to extend chapter in formation status. Unanimous.

III Other Business

A. Budget

The budget still has some uncertainty because of uncertainty about Data-Gap's figures on income. We will continue to send Bp. Christopher \$500 per month, subject to revision based on Michael's findings from his trip. Should this need

continue at this rate, we will need to do some fundraising. The budget includes a modest raise for the Executive Secretary. Bruce moved and Frank 2nd the budget as amended be accepted. Unanimous

The next Board meeting will be after the Coalition leadership meets or at the Annual Convention/"Claiming the Blessing" meeting in the event that should in fact occur. Likely site, should the joint meeting not happened – Portland OR.

The Board voiced its heartfelt thanks for Frank and Doug's bountiful hospitality.

Doug moved and Bruce 2nd adjournment at 11:13 a.m. Unanimous.