

1st Quarter 2009

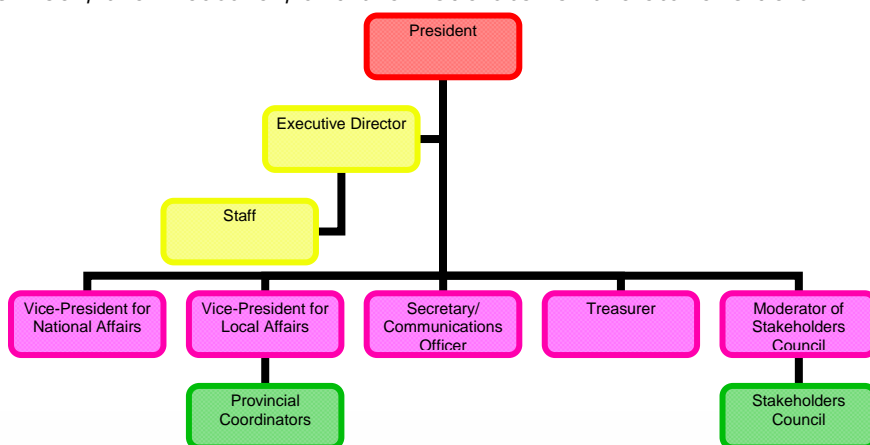
Looking Back

Integrity’s presence at Lambeth, by all accounts, contributed a positive and clear message that the LGBT are also God’s beloved. We were a part of an international network of support that provided opportunities for bishops and other members of the Anglican Communion present to have the face-to-face encounters that we know changed hearts and minds. Many bishops reported that the non-anxious presence of LGBT groups helped them enter into the spirit of indaba (face-to-face conversation) that was the focus of the event. We worked with many other groups from the Canada, Nigeria, Uganda, the USA, and the UK—strengthening the ties among us.

At the most recent national Board of Directors meeting we agreed to some major restructuring. The new model represents that of a “mature non-profit” as suggested by the grantors and consultants with whom we have been working. The new structure streamlines our board and will develop a “Stakeholders Council” to assure that the voices of many more constituents will inform our decision-making.

Pending membership ratification of amendments to the bylaws, a full-time Executive Director will become the person who makes day-to-day decisions, be the visible face and voice of Integrity, and serve at the direction of the Board. The Board will have two Vice Presidents—one focused on the national agenda, the other with an eye toward provincial and local development.

The President will work with these two Vice-Presidents to assure clear communication. The Secretary/Communications Officer, the Treasurer, and the Moderator of the Stakeholders Council complete the Board. If approved by the membership, this new structure will take effect on October 1st.



No good thing will God withhold from those who walk with integrity. Psalm 84:11

Looking Ahead

The Board will meet this spring in Anaheim. This is our opportunity to “scout out” the locations for General Convention as well as to prepare for our presence there. We have engaged Michael S. Bell as our General Convention Project Manager. After many interviews of highly qualified candidates, Michael was chosen for his prior project management and event planning experience in the healthcare sector and his skillful and tireless work as Integrity volunteer at Lambeth.



Integrity's field organizing at the parish and diocesan levels has generated many resolutions that will be considered at General Convention. Strategies have begun to assure an effective presence. As you know this is a costly undertaking, only possible through generous member support.

Profile

The Rev Elizabeth Maxwell has been a member of Integrity since her work on founding The Oasis in Newark. She brought her passion for inclusive ministry to The Church of the Holy Apostles in New York City 20 years ago.

“We are all in it together,” says Liz when asked about why her congregation has been a Legacy supporter of Integrity for many years. “Living without the gifts of our gay and lesbian parishioners would be unthinkable. Without them we would all be incredibly diminished,” she says, explaining why they fully support the work of Integrity.

“Grief and outrage” were words she used to express the fact that LGBT members still do not have equal access to all the sacraments. “The work is simply not done,” she says, urging more parishes to support Integrity knowing that they will receive gifts back that are of much greater value.

Frontline

We are proud of Integrity/Pittsburgh’s presence at the recent convention to reorganize as a diocese in The Episcopal Church and know that our presence here and in other dioceses in similar situations will be on the frontline of how Integrity will be a part of the future of the Church as we move toward the 76th General Convention on The Episcopal Church.

Thanks to Neil Houghton for assembling this edition!

Integrity USA

620 Park Avenue # 311

Rochester NY 14607-2943

web: www.integrityusa.org

email: info@integrityusa.org

phone: 1-800-462-9498

