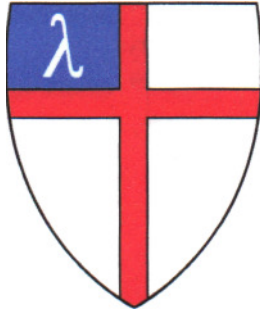


Integrity of Northern California



July 10, 2010

Dear Members, Friends and Supporters of Integrity of Northern California:

Recently Barb Chandler wrote a piece in Trinity Cathedral's E-news (July 1 st ed.) in which she said, *"Many people have contributed their time and talent to the ministry of Integrity/Northern California. I think it's important that details regarding this ministry be added to the archives for future reference."* For those of you may not know Barb, she is the person who started the Integrity of Northern California chapter many years ago. She blazed the path and set the standard. For that I am ever grateful, and I'm grateful for her article as it has prompted me to write this very overdue letter.

I'm writing to let you know my vision for Integrity National, tell you what is going on with INC, explain why you haven't heard from me for awhile, and lastly, issue an invitation.

My Vision for Integrity National

As you are aware, General Convention was a huge 'Yes!' from the Episcopal Church to it's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender members as well as a beacon of hope, love and acceptance to LGBT people worldwide. After that spirit filled convention, the question arose (actually it's been in the minds of many for the last few years): What's next for Integrity? That question requires understanding what Integrity has been fighting for all these years.

While the focus of Integrity's work has been the full inclusion of LGBT people in the church, the core of our work has always been a far wider scope. The wider work has always been to open the doors of the church to all of God's children, especially those who have always been left outside of the church, which includes all those who were never invited in the first place. Now that the resolutions passed at General Convention 2009 have lain to rest the intentions of our beloved church to fully accept LGBT people, it is my opinion that Integrity must now re-group itself to focus on what has always been at the core of our work: opening doors, both here and abroad, to all of God's people - and by definition we're all God's People. So while we must open the doors to all people, we must not forget that around the world LGBT people continue to suffer stigma, oppression and even death - and often at the hands of 'religious' people. Integrity still has a lot of work to do.

Why You Haven't Heard From Me

My life has taken an unforeseen, but very welcome, change. I am in the discernment process to enter the Diaconate, and for this reason I will be stepping down from my work with Integrity. I will still be a strong voice for our historical concerns, but I will not be able to continue in my role as facilitator for Integrity, Northern California.

What is Going on with Integrity of Northern California (INC)

All things have a time (Ecclesiastes!), and INC is no exception. For a variety of reasons we have not held meetings or any event in the last year. As I am stepping down, we need new leadership. In the mean time, Integrity of Northern California will continue to maintain a presence on the diocese website as well as that of Trinity Cathedral. This presence will allow people to contact supportive clergy as well as lay people for those all important private talks when people need them. So, while we are reforming the future of Integrity of Northern California, we will always be available to those individuals who need us. I ask that you continue to maintain your membership in Integrity as that will allow both Integrity National and Integrity Northern California to fund our work.

An Invitation

The work of Integrity will go on, but how it functions in the Diocese of Northern California is still to be determined. I would like to offer up a suggestion: those of you who may be interested in the future of INC's work could get together sometime this fall, at the Cathedral or perhaps a short meeting during the Diocese Convention (Nov. 12th - 14th in Redding) to discuss some possible ways of staying in touch with each other and working on projects. In that vein, if you're interested, you can contact me a by writing to the e-mail below. I'll keep track of the responses and get back to those who have written.

Blessings,



Steve Skiffington Facilitator,
Integrity of Northern California