

Proposed Integrity/Greater Hartford By-Law Changes to be considered by the Chapter membership during its Annual Meeting scheduled for November 15 2009:

In an effort to expand the scope of our Chapter a proposal to has been made to change the words 'Greater Hartford' to 'Connecticut' wherever they appear in our By-Laws. Changes to the By-Laws are presented below – Items being amended are shown with a line drawn through them, followed in red by proposed changes.

Based upon discussions during our October 2009 Meeting members suggested amendments related to Board Composition. Those recommendations are presented in Section 1 – Election by Membership found under Article III Board of Directors and Officers.

~~GREATER HARTFORD~~ **CONNECTICUT** CHAPTER OF INTEGRITY'S CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

We, the members of the ~~Greater Hartford~~ **Connecticut** Chapter of Integrity, Inc. (hereafter "Integrity/~~Greater Hartford~~-**Connecticut**) recognizing the image of Christ in all whom God has created, and relying on the guidance of the Holy Spirit, have formulated this group as a charitable, religious, educational and literary not-for-profit organization for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (GLBT) ministry in the Episcopal Church, and do establish these bylaws as the statement of purpose, goals, and principles of governance of Integrity/Greater Hartford.

We are a ministry for the encouragement and nurture of GLBT persons in Christian life and community. We are equally a ministry of persons offered to the Church and to the world seeking unity and peace in the Body of Christ, justice and dignity for all persons, regardless of their likeness to or difference from ourselves, the end to human oppression, especially the oppression of people because of sexual orientation, and the building of a world and a society which are each safer places in which to love. We proclaim the good news that the world and all people in it have been redeemed by Jesus Christ.

We, the members of Integrity/~~Greater Hartford~~ **Connecticut** believe that GLBT people can express their sexuality in a manner that is consistent with Christ's teaching. We believe that all sexuality should be exercised in an ethically responsible and unselfish way.

As members of Integrity/~~Greater Hartford~~ **Connecticut**, we wish to promote the cause of the GLBT community. To do this, we must accept our responsibility to the Church, to society, and to the individual needs of the GLBT people in our community.

Integrity/~~Greater Hartford~~ **Connecticut** is organized to unite GLBT Christians and other interested persons in the ~~Greater Hartford~~ **Connecticut** area, to act as a support group for GLBT people, to develop leadership, and to be an instrument through which GLBT Christians may be heard by the Church and society. We commit ourselves to welcoming and encouraging all people of various religious backgrounds and traditions into full chapter membership.

GOALS

Spiritual development: We shall strive to achieve Christian maturity through all means at our disposal, especially through personal and corporate prayer, active love of neighbor and full participation in the sacramental life of the Church.

Education: We shall strive to inform ourselves in all matters of faith, especially those that concern the GLBT community, so that we may develop the maturity of outlook needed to live fulfilling lives in which sexuality and spirituality are integrated and to prepare us for service in the gay and straight communities.

Involvement: As Christian members of society, we shall become involved in those actions that bring the love of Christ to others and provide the basis for reform.

1. We shall strive to lead a life of service to others, hoping to render visible the love of Christ and to contribute our share to building a community of love.
2. We shall work with other homophile groups for the cause of justice, especially for GLBT persons, and shall strive to create a community of mutual support with those who share our work for justice.

3. We shall work with other groups, both religious and secular, in order to assist in understanding GLBT persons and assist in recognition and correction of present injustices. We shall give special attention to our witness to the Episcopal Church in our area.

Social Events: Activities of a social and recreational nature will be provided to promote an atmosphere where friendship can develop and mature, and where a sense of acceptance and wholeness may be experienced, strengthened and nurtured by gay and lesbian persons.

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I NAME AND AFFILIATION

Section 1: Name

The name of this organization shall be Integrity/~~Greater Hartford~~ Connecticut.

Section 2: Affiliation

This organization is a chapter of Integrity, Inc. All members of this chapter must be members of Integrity, Inc. This chapter shall submit membership dues, maintain contacts with both the Regional and National organization and otherwise fulfill the obligations of an Integrity chapter as set forth in the Bylaws of Integrity, Inc. as they currently exist or as they may be amended.

ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP

Section 1: Eligibility

Membership is open to all who subscribe to our statement of purpose who pay local, regional, and national dues. Membership is open to all regardless of race, religious beliefs, backgrounds or traditions, sex, sexual orientation, political beliefs or activities, or handicap.

ARTICLE III BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

Section 1 - Election by Membership

Integrity/~~Greater Hartford~~ Connecticut shall elect a Convener, Deputy Convener, Secretary, Treasurer, ~~two Member at Large (Member at Large One and Member at Large Two)~~ up to four additional members to serve on the board and such other officers as it may from time to time choose, to serve as the Board of Directors. The Convener, Secretary, and ~~Member at Large One~~ are one half the members elected for a two year term at the annual meeting of odd years and installed at the beginning of the even year. The Deputy Convener, Treasurer and ~~Member at Large Two~~ one half the members are elected for a two year term at the annual meeting of the even years and installed at the beginning of the odd year.

Section 2 - Eligibility

Only members in good standing, those that are fully dues paid members, may vote or serve on the Board of Directors. The Convener shall be an Episcopalian.

Section 3 - Annual Membership Meeting

Elections shall be held at the annual meeting in the month of November, which meeting shall be announced at least 30 days prior to the meeting date. Officers will assume responsibility as of the first scheduled meeting of the new calendar year.

Section 4 Vacancies

Vacancies will be filled by appointment of the Board until the next annual meeting when the membership will elect a replacement to fill the remainder of the term.

Section 5 Meetings

The Board shall meet at intervals as it shall deem fit but shall meet at least twice a year. All Board meetings should be announced at meetings and in the newsletter. All meetings of the Board are open to all members of Integrity/~~Greater Hartford~~ Connecticut.

Section 6 Responsibilities

The Board shall coordinate planning for the organization and shall be the general policy-making and executive body for the organization. The Board shall receive regular reports from the officers, coordinators, and committee chairpersons, and give its advice, determine policy and distribute duties as appropriate. It shall be the duty of the Board to present an annual budget to the membership at the Annual Meeting.

Section 7 Quorum

A quorum of the Board shall be the Convener or Deputy Convener and two other members or, in the absence of the Convener, three Board members.

Section 8 Committees

The Board may from, time to time establish committees as it deems appropriate. The Convener shall, subject to review by the Board, appoint the chairs and members of all committees and shall serve ex-officio as a member of all committees.

ARTICLE IV REMOVAL AND RECALL

Section 1 Removal

Failure to attend three consecutive Board meetings shall result in automatic removal as a member of the Board. If, in the opinion of the Board, the absences have been for good cause the member so removed may be reinstated by a majority vote.

Section 2 Recall

The Convener and Board members shall be subject to recall. This shall be done by a petition signed by one-third of the membership in good standing. When such petitions are presented, then the Board, less the recalled person, shall hold a hearing open to all members where due process rights are observed. This hearing can be no sooner than thirty days following the presentation of said petition or no later than ninety days following. Following the hearing a vote shall be taken by all present at the hearing. Two-thirds of the members in good standing present shall be needed to effect a removal from office.

ARTICLE V AMENDMENTS TO THIS CONSTITUTION

Amendments may be proposed by the Board or by a petition from the membership with at least 25% of the membership as signatories.

The proposed amendment(s) shall be voted upon at a meeting to be held not less than sixty days after presentation of the proposed amendment(s), unless such presentation is within ninety days of the Annual Meeting, in which case such amendment(s) shall be voted upon at that meeting. Notice of any meeting at which amendment(s) will be voted upon must be mailed to the membership at least two weeks prior to the meeting and shall include copies of the proposed amendment(s). A two-thirds vote of the membership present and voting shall be necessary to approve any amendments.

ARTICLE VI CONFLICT WITH BYLAWS OF INTEGRITY, INC.

To the extent any provision of this Constitution conflicts with the Bylaws of Integrity, Inc., as they currently exist or may hereafter be amended, the Bylaws of Integrity, Inc. shall control as to such conflicting provisions.

ARTICLE I DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

Section 1 Duties of the Convener

1. The Convener shall: chair the Board.
2. chair all membership meetings and discussions.
3. appoint the chair and members of, and serve ex-officio on, all committees.
4. have powers of supervision and management of Integrity/~~Greater Hartford~~ Connecticut affairs.

5. act as principal spokesperson and communicator for the organization.

Section 2 Duties of the Deputy Convener

The Deputy Convener, shall in the absence of the Convener:

1. perform the basic duties of the Convener.

Section 3 Duties of the Treasurer

The Treasurer shall:

1. collect, receive and act as custodian of all Integrity/~~Greater Hartford~~ Connecticut funds.
2. assure that the monies of Integrity/~~Greater Hartford~~ Connecticut are deposited correctly in a bank designated by the Board and disburse sums as specified by the Board or by majority vote of the membership.
3. present an annual Treasurer's report of income and expenditures and assets and liabilities to the membership.