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May 1, 2006

Dear Members of Anglicans United,

As the title page of THE ANGLICAN VOICE suggests, we are 44 days from the beginning of the next General Convention – June 13-21! As you might guess, we have spent the past 4 months “getting ready” with airline tickets, hotel reservations, etc.. Materials are readied for shipment to Columbus. Equipment necessary for the publication of the Daily Report emailed to contributors is installed. (\*sign up below) Press credentials have been applied for. **AND, WE ARE IN PRAYER. WE DO NOT DESPAIR.** Neither should you. We are now busy collecting data about the issues that General Convention will debate, and of course, the two big elections: The next Presiding Bishop and the next President, House of Deputies. While the candidates for PB are set, the deadline for nominations for President is several weeks away and will be reported in the June General Convention ANGLICAN VOICE. The three nominations “from the floor” are on pg. 2 of this issue. The Pre-Convention issue of The Anglican Voice will be in the mail on June 2.

As promised last month, a copy of “WHAT IS ANGLICANISM?” 4<sup>th</sup> edition, has been sent to each Bishop and Deputy registered for General Convention. All 932 copies! Please pray that as envelopes are opened, hearts will be also.

As a deputy to the General Convention from the Diocese of Dallas, I received my copy of the well-known “Blue Book” last week. It provides all of the deliberations from the 2003 General Convention. The resident joke about this issue is the green cover of “The Blue Book”. The book then goes on to introduce the report on worship by the Standing Liturgical Commission. New prayers are included for life’s significant moments like your child’s first day of school or the eve of exploring their sexuality. There’s a prayer for every “significant” moment thinkable because, obviously, Episcopalians are not thoughtful enough to compose their own. With everything becoming significant is it any wonder that almost nothing is anymore? And so the process of expunging Cranmerian wisdom and language, as well as Reformation theology accelerates. It is totally revisionist albeit with sylvan tongue and a winsome, twisted smile.

People have been asking whom Anglicans United will endorse for Presiding Bishop. The answer is, “No one.” We worked for two months with an Orthodox bishop, encouraging him to run for Presiding Bishop. Why? We believed that the Convention needed to have a clear choice. And our candidate would have been a CLEAR choice: a Godly, Scripture based man who truly personifies Grace. In the end, our efforts failed. Other orthodox bishops discouraged the run, suggesting it would lead only to humiliation, for him and for orthodoxy; not to the choice we were trying to provide.

Two of the candidates for Presiding Bishop say they are “traditionalists”. However, voting against Gene Robinson’s confirmation does not equal orthodoxy. Most are smiley-faced, politically savvy folks. Would any display the kind of courageous orthodoxy we would deem necessary to effect a constructive turn of events in our church? Probably not. Yet, we expect the new PB to petition the Archbishop of Canterbury for 2 years to try and ‘turn things around in ECUSA’ and at stake is the invitation list for Lambeth Conference 2008. An uninvited bishop cannot lay legitimate claim to being Anglican.

“The Report of the Special Commission” is further indication of the leadership we are likely to see this year. The Windsor Report called for repentance on the part of the Episcopal Church in its consent to the election of Gene Robinson. The Special Report might be summarized as follows: “We’re sorry the feelings of so many in the Anglican Communion were hurt, but things will continue here as before.” Saddest of all is all the twisted sentimentality attached to the Sacrament of Baptism. The report preaches a Gnostic notion that baptism supercedes faith and behavior. (see I John 1:5-10). I was hard pressed to find a trace of orthodox theology in the pages of this report. And, I wanted to do so.

Is it really so easy to fool the Communion with this smarmy attempt to hide heresy and sin under the guise of concern for the poor and the oppressed? I hope not. The Millenium Development goals were adopted and endorsed by the U.N. in the year 2000. Why weren’t they discussed by our concerned leadership then?

We need to be at Convention – there to represent the many faithful Episcopalians who otherwise have no voice at Convention. We look forward to speaking the truth and sharing it with fellow Episcopalians – deputies, bishops and anyone who will stop and listen. Our efforts to network fellow Anglicans of like mind (both in the U.S. and internationally) continue unabated. Last week I met with solidly Anglican leaders from the now growing break away groups and made real progress in preparing the way for a faithful, orthodox and united expression of Anglicanism on the American shore.

And yes, we really do need your help. General Convention will cost this ministry in excess of \$20,000, even if we are extremely cautious in our expenditures. Our ministry will continue throughout the Convention and beyond. Without your contributions our voice will be silenced. Please return a contribution as soon as possible.

Most importantly, we need your prayers. Convention is a marathon of 18-hour days at locations within 1 square mile, with no public transportation. Each day begins at 8:00 AM with Convention worship and both Houses try to adjourn by 10:00 PM. Please pray for good health, stamina and the ability to think clearly and discern rightly. Sign up below for **DAILY CONVENTION REPORTS VIA EMAIL**. And may God bless you richly this day and always.

Yours in Christ, *Fr. Todd H. Wetzel* Thank you for your contribution to this ministry.

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I am enclosing \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the continuing work of Anglicans United. May, 2006

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Address \_\_\_\_\_

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I want to sign up for CONVENTION DAILY EMAIL REPORTS. (PLEASE PRINT)

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