

Dear Friend in Christ,

Last month we sent the announcement for the “**1st AAC Idaho Meeting**” and noted that a meeting of Anglicans might result in the formation of an Idaho AAC Chapter. As is often the case when pursuing the Lord’s work, the outcome and result of the letter was much different and much better than I envisioned. A meeting specific to AAC has not yet occurred, but a meeting of concerned Anglican’s is in progress weekly and an introduction to this group is provided in this Anglican Update (see *Church in a Box*). Please see below for and update on last month’s Idaho Anglicans.

1st AAC Idaho Meeting Response

The responses to last month’s letter from former Idaho Episcopalians, new Anglicans and current Episcopalians provided an example of the range of thought on the issues we face. At one end of the spectrum we found a former Idaho Episcopalian that felt so strongly that she left the Episcopal world behind and moved to Russian Orthodox...literally. She is now worshiping and living in Russia and has wished us the best of success in our spiritual journey. At the other end of the spectrum we received a very abrupt note from a St. Michael’s member that demanded immediate deletion from all correspondence. A summary of the current Anglican community in communication is shown below. A summary of the responses to last month’s questions is also provided.

RESPONSES TO NOVEMBER IDAHO AAC LETTER

Total Letters Distributed (E-mail and Post)	50
Addresses no longer in service	11
Question Responses Returned	6
Members no longer active	1
Requests for no future contact	1
New Contacts added	11
Idaho Anglicans currently in communication	48

General Comment Responses:

“My mother and I were glad to see your information about an AAC meeting”

“I would like to meet with you (or visit by phone) to learn the results...”

“Please include me in any further notices of the Idaho chapter of the AAC”.

“We have dear and faithful Episcopal friends. We would like to see an orthodox Anglican Church preserved in America.”

Question 1&2 Responses Regarding the Meeting Request:

“We’re unable to come at this time due to health challenges”.

“I am very interested in this, but do not travel in the winter so couldn't come to Boise”.

“We are very interested but don’t live in Boise”

Question 3 Responses Regarding interest in AAC

“We were long-time Episcopalians, and the liturgy is deeply meaningful to us.... We have also been blessed with excellent Bible teaching through the Episcopal Church years

ago, and through attending a non-denominational Bible Church and through radio ministries. As the Episcopal Church has evolved, with great sadness we found ourselves unable to continue as Episcopalians.

Question 4 Responses Regarding issues in the Episcopal Church

“I have become increasingly concerned about the direction and policies of the Episcopal Church (TEC) ever since the General Convention of 2003. It is not just the sexuality issues, although those are personally troubling, but, more broadly, the lack of commitment to Scripture, Creeds and basic tenets of the Anglican faith.”

“The straw that broke my back from calling myself an Episcopalian to being an Anglican was the election of Gene Robinson and the approval of blessings of same sex marriages. Although it started with Bishop Pike and Bishop Sprong (he says he doesn't believe in the Resurrection - that he believes that the disciples stole the body - if he doesn't believe in the basic fundamentals of our faith, what in the world is he doing being a priest, let along a bishop??).

The response to the request for an AAC specific winter meeting for Idaho Anglicans does not appear possible now due to weather and the timing of all the Holiday celebrations. Additionally, it is clear that a meeting in Boise cannot serve the entire state. Of the e-mail and post contacts, only the electronic e-mail correspondence proved to be effective for communicating with the vast majority of the group. For the remainder of the winter, we'll continue to work and build the Idaho Anglican community through e-mail dissemination of a newsletter monthly and on-going correspondence as Idaho activities and organizations develop. Although we won't have a traditional meeting, we have created a very viable forum for the continued development of our community. Please let us know if you have any local Anglican activities that we can promote and present as part of the new newsletter next month.

REGARDING LAST MONTH'S MAILING LIST

I've been asked a couple of times “where did you get my name for the mailing list”? I was also confronted on Episcopal Church steps by an angry member of the Clergy stating that I was misusing his church directory. So, in the spirit of complete disclosure, here is how the list was created last month and how it is being maintained going forward.

A few months ago, I was a disillusioned Episcopalian looking for folks that I could discuss church issues with openly. After not finding this in my parish and without any direction resulting from a meeting with Bishop Bainbridge, I reached out to AAC and asked to be put in contact with others in our area that shared my concerns. The very nice lady at AAC agreed to share a list of names that had expressed interest if I were willing to consider forming an AAC chapter and if I was willing to sign a non-disclosure agreement that guaranteed that I would not share the names on the list with anyone. These things I agreed to, and viola, you received your e-mail or letter last month.

This month, now that a communication network of Anglicans has been established in Idaho, I will be adding to the list folks who have become aware of our forum. If you are included in a message sent to me, then you can expect to be copied on the next letter. These new names as well as the original ones will be held with the same level of confidence. No one's name or contact information used for the mailing list for this newsletter will be shared with anyone. As our forum grows, some may choose to disclose their contact information to help further their

project or mission. The only time a private name and contact will be disclosed here will be when it is warranted and agreed to by the individual. If at any time, anyone chooses to no longer remain in contact, please send a note to me and I'll make sure that you are deleted from the list.

Church in a Box

Last month as I was accumulating the inputs from all of you who responded I received a couple of notes from members of a group working to create Grace Anglican Church in Boise. They have been meeting for a few weeks for evening prayer on Tuesdays and were kind enough to invite me to participate in their worship. Last Tuesday, I attended their first prayer meeting held in a church building. They were kindly loaned access to a facility while they are forming the ministry. Following a very warm greeting when I arrived, a brown cardboard box was opened containing prayer books, pencils, notes and in general...church stuff. It was obvious to me that this was the physical location of Grace Anglican Church. The moving, traveling, looking-for-a-home cardboard box contained a Church, just as would the floor, walls and majestic ceiling of the cathedral. Following an evening prayer that was heartily expressed by about 14 participants and led by laity it started to become apparent that this might be a very nice church.... After prayer, the Church was loaded back into the box and we all walked and drove to a nearby residence for coffee, treats and a conversation about how best to move Grace Anglican forward. Much to my surprise, the group was not composed of Episcopal malcontents, orthodox extremists for folks holding onto the baggage associated with the church controversy in America. What it was composed of was a group that included folks new to the Anglican tradition and Episcopalians looking for a chance to pursue the beauty of the liturgy and tradition in worship of our Lord and Savior. That is, the group was looking only to the future and focused on how they could best serve Christ. As the meeting concluded and I left the home, it dawned on me that this Church in a cardboard box, without even a priest, was probably one of the most beautiful Church's that I had ever visited.

Grace Anglicans are continuing the work of forming their Church and meeting every Tuesday. If you would like to attend or like further information please contact Lana Jutzy at LJutzy@aol.com.

Conclusion:

Feel free to share this newsletter (e-mail) with anyone interested in participating with the development of the Anglican movement in Idaho. Anyone that gets a copy of this e-mail and would like to be added to the list can be added by sending an e-mail to Doug's address shown below. If you wish to be deleted from the list, send an e-mail to the same place with directions to remove your name and contact information.

Doug Hackler
hacklerdr@yahoo.com