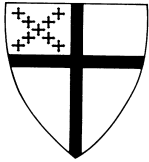


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# Holy Trinity Episcopal Church

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*Serving God  
and God's People  
since 1890*

March 20, 2009

To the editor of the Living Church,

I've seen the future . . . and it isn't a pretty sight!

As a long-time rector and member of the much-maligned, twenty-one person Episcopal Ministry Discernment Team of the Diocese of Northern Michigan, I can only express my deep disappointment and dismay about the half-truths and inaccuracies that have been passed off as fact in the Living Church and in the innumerable blogs that have worked overtime to discredit our diocese and assassinate the character of our bishop-elect, Kevin Thew Forrester. The sarcastic, mean-spirited misinformation that has been portrayed as truth is startling to read and a portent of our beloved Church's infection with the dirty politics we know only too well from the national political "dialogue." Have you no shame?

As an example, the editorial "One to Watch Carefully" perpetuates the deliberate distortion of portraying Kevin as a full-fledged Buddhist rather than as one of many across the Episcopal Church and beyond who have simply benefitted from the spiritual discipline of meditation, a practice our detractors would do well to emulate. The editorial also maintains the blatant fabrication that Kevin participated in, and "for all intents and purposes, served as the chairman of the search committee," when all he did was serve as one of four facilitators during the first two meetings in a year-long process to assist in "team building" exercises, long before the team even began to consider its course of action or talk about specific names.

It seemed ironic to me that on the page facing this editorial was an article by J. Fletcher Lowe, Jr. entitled "The Call of all the Baptized: How to Break from Clergy-Centered Ministry," which even quoted our retired Bishop, Tom Ray, whose support for our process and for Kevin has been well-documented. The article reflects well our long-standing diocesan commitment to reverse the damaging effects of clericalism by which "we lose sight of the preposterous calling of our baptism and its outrageous claims of doing God's work in God's world of daily life."

It's not too late to step back from wallowing in the culture of hate and fear so evident around us and become the people of truth and compassion Jesus calls us to be.

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