

VERMONT'S VOICE FOR THE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, AND TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY

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## A Godly Gay



### Burlington Cathedral Supports Gene Robinson as NH Bishop

St. Paul's Dean Ken Poppe: "We are all made in the image of God."  
Stan Baker & Peter Harrigan (in the wall photo) celebrated their civil union at St. Paul's.



BY MARGARET PORTER

Despite two last-minute 'moral fitness' challenges, Rev. Canon V. Gene Robinson was confirmed as the bishop-elect of the Diocese of New Hampshire in early August. In addition, Episcopal General Convention delegates voted to allow individual bishops to decide whether to bless same-sex unions within their dioceses but stopped short of endorsing a denomination-wide liturgy for such ceremonies.

Ken Poppe, the dean and rector of St. Paul's (Episcopal) Cathedral in Burlington, said he has known Gene

Robinson for 30 years. "He will bring much to the church. His election makes an important statement about the welcome we bring to all people of faith, including all sexual orientations."

Poppe continued, "The Scriptures support moving ahead with social change. We are all made in the image of God, and if a person has been baptized, they should be able to be ordained. Of course, how we live our lives is important. We would not be in favor of promiscuity."

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, is head of the worldwide 77 million-member Anglican Communion (including the 2.3 million-member U.S.

Episcopal Church). Although he is considered a liberal, he has called for an extraordinary meeting of church leaders in October to discuss the unprecedented elevation of a gay man to the Episcopate. Earlier this year, he asked a celibate gay priest who had been appointed bishop in England to resign to avoid controversy. Anglican bishops in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, and Australia and conservative Episcopalian bishops in the U. S. have threatened to declare the U.S. church "out of communion" and/or to split the church over the issue.

The conservatives' position is based on traditional interpretations of a few passages of Old and New Testament declaring

that sex between men is an "abomination."

Robinson was quoted in the *Sunday Times* (London) as saying, "Frankly, most young people I've talked to have resolved the issue of homosexuality and think the church is hopelessly irrelevant fighting about it. Are we winning anyone to Christ with these battles? I think not." He has said he wants to be known as a good bishop, not the gay bishop.

#### The Web Site Challenge

Robinson, elected as bishop-designate in June by priests and lay leaders in the diocese of New Hampshire,

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Chair p. 18 You'll get 4 chances to see roots-folk duo Wishing Chair this month: a preview.

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