

## “Recalling Our Roots”

### Trans Caucus Call 11.1.17

1. What was the initial need that Dignity Transgender Support Caucus was organized to meet? What “fueled our engine”?

- There a was need for a trans perspective- particularly in planning conventions;
- Fredrikka reflects, **“There was a realization that if we wanted any kinds of trans programming, we would need to do something ourselves;”**
- Discussed our timeline:
  - Fredrikka attended her first convention in 2007 in Austin and remembers a talk on trans topics- not sure if a caucus existed or not at the point but it wasn’t active
  - Marcia- joined DignityBoston in 2006- went to San Francisco in 2009- that conference did have some trans programming- Justin Tanis presented; fortunate families presented but didn’t have a trans focus;
  - leo was key at that point- he was the liason with the board;
- Marcia remembers there were trans folks in Boston in 2006- **there are more trans people who have been in dignity whose history we don’t know**

2. How did the mission of Dignity Transgender Caucus evolve over time? What drove those changes in how we did our work? Consider dynamics in the organization, in the Church, and in society.

- Fredrikka- **we evolved from focusing on having a trans presence at the convention to trying to integrate the trans community into the organization;**
- Fredrikka remembers being at DC conference and the marriage equality fight was happening in Washington-felt like it overshadowed any kind of focus on trans issues
- Marcia recalls that the caucus sent a survey to all the chapters about trans presence in their local communities around 2011- there was very poor response
- 2015- trans folks getting seen and heard- societal shift

-Linda- joined caucus in november 2016- trans visibility has increased in the past 3 years- media coverage- laverne cox, caitlin jenner- this impacts dignity- dignity has adjusted focus

-Jenna- in 2010 joined dignity NOVA; now a part of dignity Denver- not a lot has been done in Dignity/Denver, but the chapter has included intersex and gender fluid in their intro at mass and that is a step in the right direction

3. The theme of our 50th Anniversary Conference is “True to the Spirit, True to Ourselves”. In what ways has “being true to ourselves and true to the calling of the Spirit” evident in our history? Your local history?

-Fredrikka- the board has been paying more attention than in previous years- **Dignity seems to be recognizing that in order to be true to ourselves and the spirit , we must be trans inclusive, women inclusive, need to look towards women color**

-Linda- we have done a lot as a caucus, including changing SPP to address Trans, intesex issues, more visibility and exposure on website, doing a workshop, **which are all great and have been working on creating inclusive environment, but no we need the next step- how do we bring transgender people in?**

-Marcia- the jubilee gives an opportunity for everyone to make dignity what they want to see- dignity as a community needs to look inside and see what it wants to be

**-Linda-as trans visibility has increased, the Vatican has increased negative rhetoric, we need to continue our work**

Marcia- we need to include people of color

4. How has the Transgender Caucus changed lives for the better? Changed DignityUSA? Changed the Catholic community? Impacted the LGBTQ social justice movement?

-Fredrikka- **Change is not hear yet**

-Lauren- **as dignty looks back at our past, it is important to acknowledge where we have fallen short- and trans justice is one of those area**

-Linda- We have great strides within DignityUSA. Linda has provided exposure for the board and has been able to push them- she will continue to push

-Marcia- **We have encouraged awareness- people are paying attention to language**

-Fredrikka-hopeful about the future

-Linda- We are changing minds and changing attitudes, Dignity/Washington has greatly increase their awareness- now celebrate TDOR and trans pride;

-Jenna- so many members are people in 60s and 70s- need to be looking at the younger demographic; also reading out to gender non conforming people