

1. How is the national movement called Dignity different today than it was in the 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s? How is your local expression different? How are you different?

- The Church has become more accepting of us as being Children of God
- Other religions are more accepting of us and even advocate on our behalf.
- We are advocates using a prophetic voice.
- We are different because we have grayer hair or no hair ☺
- Younger people feel freer to attend without fear.
- Issues today are different, e.g.
 - we celebrate Transgender Day of Remembrance,
 - we do more networking (at gay and straight events),
 - the issues of what families are is different (due to gay marriage)
 - more non-traditional families feel free to come out and come to “church”
- We have changed from feeling “not worthy” to feeling “worthy”
- We have moved from being “invisible” to being “visible”
- No longer feel “approval” needed, we just want our sacred space.
- We are all being challenged to do/become more.
- Not afraid to be gay—“accept me as I am!”

2. Considering the passion and conviction that fueled our growth, how well is our “engine” running in terms of inspiring passion, involvement, change etc., in service to our mission today?

- “Engine Running” is a two –edged sword-our outreach is good, but need more “drivers” to keep engine running.
- Lots of one-shot visitors vs. long term attendees but these are issue facing other movements/organizations also.

-- Dignity local is running smoothly with worship, however would like to inspire more people to come back over and over.

--Local chapter maintains hope and faith by continuing to follow gospel of Jesus.

--Maintain belief that we are a family-this remains constant.

3. Is the mission and purpose of Dignity still relevant today? If not, why not? If it is, what key challenges and opportunities do you see ahead?

It is definitely still relevant today-w/31 states still able to fire a person today for being gay, we still have a lot of work to do.

Challenges

Keep fires burning

Finding creative ways to outreach to LGBTQ people

Keep people engaged

Stereotypes/attitudes

Reality or Institution-how do we want it to go?

Opportunities

fellowship

common experiences

Call to Action

Gay Pride

Social media

Liturgies for Holy Days

4. With the benefit of hindsight, how has Dignity changed lives for the better, locally and nationally? Impacted the LGBTQ social justice movement?

Locally, made changes in Dignity and church and how we are seen, been more visible. We have been asked for our input among other groups. We have spent more time showcasing ourselves so others see we exist. We have been more present at community events.

Nationally, overall, despite some pushback, the Church has become more accepting of us, despite that we still have to keep quiet a lot.