

*Question One: What changes have we seen over the years? What things have remained the same? What now challenges us?*

1. We've seen changes in our leadership over the years, and throughout the periods of both growth and stasis, a continuing constant has been our sense of being a liturgical community.
2. We have less connectedness now with the larger LGBTQ social sphere.
3. We've become a community that celebrates Mass together and little else, save for some traditional social events.
4. We wonder if the larger church has changed as much as society as a whole has.
5. We feel limited because of our aging membership, and an inability to attract potential members of a younger age bracket.
6. A question of how we could work with neighboring parishes is unresolved. What kind of social-context place would a parish make available to us? How much do we want to merely blend-in?
7. We used to receive more people who found themselves in a searching mode, coming to terms with sexuality and spirituality.
8. Even though we have fewer people arriving at our door, those who still find us are motivated by the same reason: a desire to worship as part of an LGBTQ community.
9. Some visitors have found us to be "not enough like a church".
10. We have a great strength in the diversity of our male and female presiders.
11. Our website is a likely limitation because outreach now involves interactive websites and social media. People don't seem to join groups in the same way as before. They employ different ways of connecting and interacting.
12. We are challenged by a popular assumption that the Vatican is always right. We are called to be assertive about the fact that we indeed know our faith. We are not merely "petitioning to be heard".
13. Throughout the years, we have been very fiscally responsible, even when going thru some lean times. Our building is in need of many repairs, including exterior updates.
14. We continue to examine the viability of attempting to outreach to our local church hierarchy.

*Question Two: Are we still relevant in the wider church/social community? What are the opportunities for moving ahead?*

1. One of our most consistent outreach connections is our years-long financial support for the local Garvanza Grade School.
2. We can consider what other non-Dignity groups are doing. There is an Archdiocesan Ministry with the LGBTQ Community that is active in several parishes. We know of one nearby Catholic parish that has an LGBTQ support group, though it never seems to discuss sexuality as a specific area of concern.
3. A possible focus for us could be "Community Awareness" and "Being Instruments for Change".
4. Let's move ahead by promoting that we have women priests in ministry with us. Can we attach videos of our women presiders on our website? How about a TV ministry provided on our website, with weekly updates?
5. Could our website provide a "Donation Button" a la Pen Pal? We have heard that MCC offers ministry by video, with public support (\$\$\$) for their broadcasts.
6. We remain very relevant because the larger church has issues with LGBTQ's and with women as equals. Dignity is more progressive as a movement as needs to continue to set an example. Time and resources are needed to heighten our profile.
7. We see role models among us like the many Dignity chapters that are small in membership and yet very vibrant in their faith lives. Many chapters have large numbers of women members.
8. We can look to our national Dignity leadership and the many tasks they take on and accomplish so admirably. They are the national-level voice for our local identities.
9. We see the Jubilee celebration as an occasion to reinvigorate our grassroots. Los Angeles is the mother chapter, and our history is the beginning of our relevance.

*Question Three: How is the "engine" running, in terms of inspiring passion, involvement and change, all in service to our mission?*

1. We have to ask if we are following up with visitors who don't come back, and if we are communicating with members who have ceased attending, at least for a time.
2. We haven't had a membership committee chairperson for some time. This has been a tough position to fill.
3. Time, talent, and a willingness to stay involved with members are needed for a person to be effective in this capacity.
4. Our commitment to minister to our own membership has been lacking. We have been putting out some effort but much more is needed.

5. Our chapter by-laws were written over twenty years ago and in many ways do not speak to our current reality. They were written with great care but at a time when the membership was much larger. We are constrained by the out-of-date by-laws.

*Question Four: What clues might the Spirit be giving us?*

1. There have been instances in the past where the chapter was feeling some financial constraints and considering some drastic options. Things then turned out that funds became available to the chapter in the form of bequests from the estates of deceased members. This "miraculous" gain of funds at the neediest moment could be a clue from the Spirit.
2. We question if the needs of our small community are being met in the larger, older building that we occupy.
3. We wonder if there might be an implied message in being a small-sized community.
4. We ponder if we could ever be a community without a place. Some members have indicated they will cease to attend if there is a community move away from the present location.
5. Our first priority should be being attentive and responsive to our members in some distress or with a pressing need.
6. We have to take into consideration the needs of all members. If we are seen as a community that truly looks after one another,  
that will be the dynamic that will attract others.

**END**

#### SESSION FEEDBACK FORM

1. Our "Taking Stock" discussion occurred on May 19, 2018, and the participation was about 75% of the community. It was a productive experience in the sense that it brought together people with disparate visions of future directions. We gave them a safe space to open up and express their sentiments and measure the responses they got. What worked especially well from a facilitator's standpoint is that we had to set parameters and keep the discussion on the here-and-now. Many attendees had an inclination to bring up issues that we intend to be the business at hand for the third session. Another tool that was effective was showing a number of video clips of personal testimonies of LGBT Catholics. This was done at the beginning of the evening as a prelude to the discussion itself.

2. I think next time, which will be the final session, I might invite specific people to make a commentary of some sort. There are a number of members who have attended both sessions, and have not put a single word into the discussion. I think for the final meeting, I'll point out that their opinions matter and that it will be their last chance to contribute. In terms of preparation, I will need to single out some key people for an orchestrated, personalized invitation to be a part of the process. I think some members have skipped attending because they plan to attend a subsequent session. Also, we'll need to be more flexible about the preferences of the attendees. This last session was intended to be refreshments first, followed by discussion. The chairs were all arranged for a snack time first. Those in attendance expressed a desire to discuss the business at-hand first, before eating. We had to do a quick re-arrangement of chairs to accommodate a group discussion before refreshments. We'll have to re-emphasize the value of the summary of our discussions being sent to the national leadership.

3. The attendees again expressed a preference for simplified questions without seemingly convoluted wording. Some attendees thought that there was a confused message with the questions, that it was not clear if the inquiries being made are directed at the Dignity USA structure and functioning, or are they meant to pertain to the chapter specifically? There were comments that the topics and concerns addressed were getting more vague and imprecise as this three-fold process goes on