

Feb. 24, 2018

St. Francis House, Madison, Wis.

Segment 2: PRESENT

How is Dignity different in 2018 than 1960-99?

Is Dignity still relevant/working OK?

How has Dignity changed lives/communities

We have more politics. Inclusive language is no longer unusual. In the late 1980s and early 1990s we were sometimes the only place to host AIDS memorial services, individually or annually for the community. We've moved from that heaviness.

I/D-Madison introduced many Madison-area clergy to GLBT people, which helped them form support groups in their own denominations. As a result, the need to orient local pastors is lesser now.

We are often a stepping stone for many people on personal journeys, with a core group for whom Dignity IS the destination.

Dignity has been a media contact nationally and locally, a way to publicize scandals and injustices.

Dignity is a stepping stone in and out of church attendance.

Dignity offers chances for interconnections with other groups like Pax Christi.

"I never felt abandoned [by God], but now I have a larger understanding, and I'm not afraid. My compassion has opened up more. I have been able to remain in a prayer group. "

"I'm back in the Church because of Dignity. I never really stopped being Catholic. It's a call to ministry, a chance to minister."

"I'm happy with life's direction despite obstacles."

"The Spirit's a free-ranging bird. Not a trained falcon sitting on the arm of a bishop."

"Just being me." ... is being true to myself. Coming out resulted in a time in a homeless shelter, now have a new circle of family/friends.