

Women's Caucus

Session 2 Revised

1. How is the world different today than our starting point?

What has changed over time – within the Church, society, community...?

What opportunities do these present?

- *Role of Women increased.*
- *Allowed Men opportunity to see Women and their many gifts.*
- *Very difficult to have the impact of the Women Presence and be effective community when many chapters have no or few women members.*
- *Many Women feel Lonely and hard to feel Women's energy.*
- *We Need Solidary!*
- Efforts to connect so important!
- At Young Adults Retreat – More women than men – more women getting involved with leadership – a very hopeful sign.
- Church's problem with women is the same as church's problem with GLBT community.
- Society has changed but not church. The church has regressed.
- there is still more work to be done with our allies and within our own LGBTQ folks.
- It's not always easy and timing can turn things around when you least expect it.

2. What has changed within your community?

- More Women voices now from when just CWC in leadership.
- Caucus expanded so we have many women voices.
- Trans people have changed our community.
- Chapters have educated members on women and trans-more acceptance.
- Social justice is very important to many women and youth.
- Young people are involved in more chapters.
- More women on altar, etc.
- Lay lead liturgies have been used in many chapters.
- Women Catholic Priests are on the altars of some chapters.
- Inclusive Language has been a big change for the better.
- Still need more visibility of Women in chapters and on the altar.
- Come to the Table in NYC has expanded the Dignity community- it has a different appeal than the traditional Liturgy.
- Technology does help us connect better.
- It's important to support like- minded organizations with the LGBTQ community

3. How are these changes affecting your ability to thrive?

- *Just knowing that the Women of Dignity are out there is important.*
- *The Women of Dignity Never gave up – someone always kept the flame going.*
- *Helps to have each other to help each other thrive.*

How have you adapted?

- *CWC to Caucus.*
- *WOD is important to support each other – need each other's input- as member of chapters and leadership.*
- *Structure needed to support Young women and isolated women.*
- *Need to learn from past but not be stuck there.*
- *It's important to stay in contact with other chapter members – support each other.*

4. Is the mission and purpose of Dignity still relevant today?

Why or why not?

- *Need to be Enlightened Catholics to be relevant.*
- *Relevant – we need community and support to keep the mission going.*
- *Many Facing challenges to get to the LGBT community/dignity chapters as we age.*
- *Yes – maybe we need a different a model of chapters and worship.*
- *Need to bring in more women –more Outreach.*
- *But need to stay Relevant and more inclusive.*
- *Social Media is the key to future.*
- *Need to have more interaction with the WOD and other progressive groups.*
- *Newsletter is important – have to get it out again.*
- *Focus on Social Justice – will that expand the circle?*
- *Will it get more women of all ages involved?*
- *Newsletter – What's your Social Justice?*
- *Suggest "Meet up" for WOD when visiting another places.*
- *Need leadership to help find our voices and respond to the world and church.*

5. What are you learning as you grapple with these challenges?

- *Need to help isolated women more.*
- *Need to increase opportunities to connect – more phone liturgies or discussions or conversations.*
- *Need to dialogue on local and national level- it is the key.*

What wisdom and insight can you bring to the whole of Dignity about the future?

- *Gathering in Chicago – Telling our Stories – Intergenerational stories.*
- *Share our Wisdom.*
- *Need to share and save the stories of Women of Dignity.*
- *The leadership helps our voices be heard around the world.*
- *The Holy Spirit is with us!*