

Jubilee Discussions - Discussion Recording Form - 3

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Chapter or Community Dignity Honolulu (Discussion was held on 4/19/18)

SEGMENT THREE: DISCERNING THE PATH FORWARD

Facilitator / Recorder Worksheet

When we last met we talked about key challenges and opportunities we saw ahead. Those were.... How do we need to change to tackle the challenges and take advantage of the opportunities?

Challenges:

LGBT Rights:

-In 2013, states that had legalized same gender marriage, allowed couples to take advantage of the federal benefits of marriage (ex.- Massachusetts). This was the opportunity to extend this right to other states (Hawaii passed marriage equality in November 2013). This was discussed at the D/USA convention in Minneapolis.

-In 2015, on June 26, the Supreme court case Obergefell vs. Hodges, same gender marriage became legal in all 50 states. This was celebrated at the DUSA Seattle conference

-Issues addressed at DUSA Boston conference

* The presentation of the video "Gen Silent" addressing the discrimination faced by older LGBT people in senior living facilities

* LGBT people denied sacraments (baptism, funerals, etc.) from the Catholic Church or were fired from the employment in the Church, or were denied access to adoption (Catholic Charities)

* Cardinal Law from Boston (now in Rome) was indicted for harboring priests that molested children

* Current President and his administration which supports discriminatory policies towards LGBT people

Lack of diversity in Dignity USA leadership:

-Election and/or appointment of Dignity USA board members who are female, people of color, transgender or under 40 years old (ex. Lauren Carpenter)

...need to change to tackle challenges and take advantage of opportunities:

-Continue to challenge the established Church to follow Christ's teachings of love for all people and to engage LGBTQI people as part of the Church.

-Continue to promote same gender marriage

-Keep prominent care of elderly members and to promote the Young Adult Caucus

-Promote interfaith involvement (LGBT Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, etc.)

-Promote webinars that foster education and communication

-Support political candidates that promote progressive values such as LGBT rights

What should the key priorities of DignityUSA be in the next few years? What's most important to us; what values from our rich history do we want to ensure are carried forward?

Key priorities:

- Continue to have bi-annual conferences
- Continue to promote media and technology
- Revive webinars to provide additional information and enhance communications
- As a member of *Equally Blessed*, to continue to challenge the kyriarchy of the Church.

Key values carried forward:

- Champion marriage equality and promote successful relationships
- Promote use of inclusive language in liturgy and other discourse
- At biennial conference and at chapter level to promote understanding and appreciation of the church liturgical year, feast days, and special holidays and celebrations (Valentine's Day - blessing of couples, Martin Luther King Holiday, Pride /National Coming Out Day, Solidarity Sunday, Mary of Magdala celebrations, etc.)
- The role of chapters and caucuses and their constituencies, managing member dues and the value of supporting Dignity USA
- Recognition of Dignity USA "stars" or icons such as John McNeil, Kevin Calegari, etc.

What resources do we need to fuel our "engine" (passion and purpose) in the future? Why would people want to invest their life energy and financial resources in support of this desired future?

-At conferences, webinars, emails---the value of technology and social media should be promoted with alerts made regarding safety

* Books should be available at conference that pertain to relevant subjects and current issues that affect us nationally

-Like other non-profit groups, Dignity should have promotional wear (caps, shirts, book marks, pens, address labels, etc.) to visually identify members and allies, and attract potential members and collaborators.

-We need to let like-minded individuals and organizations know about the work of Dignity to be able to secure funding from grants and foundations so that the mission of Dignity can move forward to support LGBTQI Catholics and their families and friends

What is this community's guidance to the national leadership as they create a strategic plan for the next few years of DignityUSA's mission and work? Consider topics such as key commitments to mission, key goals, investments, financial resources, volunteer and leadership resources, talent recruitment and partnerships/outreach.

Guidance: The MISSION Statement that was revised/updated from the last conference should be clarified. For example, we should champion the contributions and commitment from lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex members and allies.

Goals: Should include workshops on how acceptance of LGBT people have been actualized in the military, church, society, and politics

Investments: Chapters that have been successful in fundraising efforts should be heralded and may serve as an example for Dignity USA fundraising activities

Financial Resources: Dignity USA could publicize more about monthly giving (Angels). Special charitable gifts (Ex--Day of Dignity, Planned Giving upon death) should be lauded and explained to arouse interest

Volunteer and Leadership Resources: Modeling others is the best teaching device. Highlight those who volunteer for the organization. Publicize individuals who are chapter/caucus leaders or serve on national committees as people to be emulated.

Talent Recruitment: Dignity USA make appointments to the board of talented people who represent the diversity within its membership ranks, such as people of color, those from the western part of the U.S., young adults, etc.

Partnerships/outreach: In the Advocate/Out magazines, there are lists of businesses that support LGBTQI causes. We should outreach to these businesses and other wealthy individuals or institutions regarding donations to Dignity USA.

Additional causes: Encourage Dignity members to come forward and testify at state legislatures or at county/municipal government to support causes important to LGBTQI people and other progressive causes that support the general welfare and well-being of society. Activities may also include - Martin Luther King Day marches/parades, Women's March, March for Our lives (against gun violence), AIDS Walk, etc.

SESSION FEEDBACK FORM

(To be completed following each Segment discussion)

- Approximately what percentage of your community participated? **30%**. How productive was this conversation for your community? **This was very productive since this was a way to prepare the chapter for the upcoming celebration of Dignity USA's 50 years of ministry.** As a facilitator, what worked well and why? **Just allowing members to share their thoughts and ideas with no fear of criticism.**
- What would you do differently next time? Consider both the preparation, the actual conversation and follow-up. **No change recommended. We chose to hold our discussions over dinner at a local restaurant.**
- What are your suggestions for improving the supporting materials, process and the discussion they were meant to encourage? **None- the materials used were fine. Some of the questions may have been challenging to some since some were relatively new to Dignity and were not familiar with the historical events in the organization's history.**