



# Newsletter

January 2005

Happy New Year

## Major Changes for Dignity/Seattle

**Reminder: ONE Monthly Liturgy:  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday, January 9, 6:00 p.m.  
Ravenna United Methodist Church  
5751-33<sup>rd</sup> Ave NE, Seattle**

### Editor's Commentary

By Leo N. Egashira

The new year will be one of challenges and a major change in the direction and focus of our chapter. Jim Weston, President of Dignity/Seattle, wrote an eloquent letter on November 19, 2004, which was mailed out to the entire membership. He detailed the impact upon Dignity/Seattle of a policy directive from Dignity/USA, as well as long-standing membership, participation, and financial trends for the local chapter in the past 2-3 years.

Change is never easy. But the Board's decision to scale back weekly Masses to one "non-Mass" service a month was unavoidable, given the circumstances. Many, many chapters throughout the U.S. and Canada have addressed the same issues we are facing--some as far back as 1987, and have come up with creative solutions that behoove our attention.

How we remain together as a community, how we worship and how often we worship will be determined by the active participation of the membership. The fundamental question to consider is: "Should our worship service be the central focus of our chapter's activity and our sole identity as a community?" Take a look at our sister chapter in Vancouver, BC's monthly activities (in the next column), where there is one worship service a month, one shared meal a month, and one business meeting a month. With no dedicated gathering space, Dignity/Vancouver holds its meetings in members' homes or some other public space. Is this a model for our chapter to consider?

With regard to worshipping, do we empower our liturgically-trained lay leaders--especially women--to say Mass? Do we attend a regular parish Mass as a visible Dignity group, or rotate among several gay-friendly parishes? How about becoming a joint Integrity (GLBT Episcopalians) - Dignity chapter? Or, attending Integrity Masses as Dignity members? Not offering any worship services, but providing social activities and educational forums is another possible role for Dignity/Seattle. There are many, many options out there, and we should face our current challenges and take the opportunity to let our creative ideas flow.

Let the Board know your opinions! Contact a board Member or attend the next meeting. Better yet, join the Board and fill in the currently vacant position.

### Dignity/Vancouver BC

**Dignity/Vancouver BC 604/432-1230**

Monday, Jan. 10. 7:30 p.m. Business Meeting at Vince/Peter's. 604/325-1554

Sunday, Jan 23. 5:00 p.m. Preparing and serving dinner at Friends for Life.

Saturday, Jan. 29. 6:00 p.m. Joint Liturgy and Potluck Supper at Lee's. 604/408-3442.

Editor's Note: The Newsletter will continue to be published monthly, but will be limited to two pages of local news and business, and two pages to accommodate Dignity/USA's Monthly Dateline.

# Official Business

## Dignity/Seattle Board Members

Jim Weston President, Membership chair  
Jim Rankin Vice-Pres., Social co-chair  
Denise Arceneaux Secretary, Liturgy chair  
Delia Vita Treasurer, Special events chair  
Paula Lavallee At-large, D/USA Secretary  
Steve Kearney At-large, Social co-chair  
--vacant position-- At-large

Dignity/Seattle 206/325-7314  
P.O. Box 20325 Seattle WA 98102  
Website <<http://www.DignitySeattle.org>>  
E-mail <[weston16@msn.com](mailto:weston16@msn.com)>

Newsletter Editor: Leo N. Egashira  
206/723-4759, <[Legashira@yahoo.com](mailto:Legashira@yahoo.com)>

## Board Min. Summary, Dec 7, 2004

(Edited for publication.)

Meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. at Jim Weston's condo. Dignity prayer was said.

All board members present except Paula Lavallee who was on speakerphone

M/M/S/C: To approve the minutes as submitted

### President's report: (Jim Weston)

- M/M/S/C: To accept Steve Kearney as a member of the board.
- Change in Board Officers/Positions (see banner)
- Rewording of Dignity/Seattle brochure tabled until next meeting.

### Treasurer's report: (Delia Vita)

#### Checking Acct.

**Beginning Balance:** \$ 1012.30

Deposits: No Collections/Donations

#### Expenses:

RUMC rent: 75.00  
Liturgy stipend: 30.00  
Telephone: 36.75  
Newsletter: printing/postage/envelopes: 155.04  
Post Office Box: 38.00  
Total Expenses: \$334.79

**Ending Balance:** \$677.51

**Adjustment:** SGN Voided Check: \$300.00

**Ending Balance:** \$977.51

#### Savings Acct.

**Beginning Balance:** \$1,560.02

Interest income 0.32

**Ending Balance:** \$1,560.34

M/M/S/C: To accept financial report as submitted.

## Committee Chairs' reports:

### Liturgy Committee: Denise Arceneaux

- Jim W. to preside on December 12; Linda H. to preside on January 9. Jim W. asked if we liked the mini-Mass that he presided over in November. We all agreed that it would be a good idea to include the blessing and the breaking of the bread in. There are a number of Dignity chapters which do this.

## No Old Business

## New Business:

- Received letter from Dignity/USA President Sam Sinnet thanking us for the \$145 donation we sent them from the John Peterson fund.
- SGN Ad: Jim Weston temporarily stopped our ad in the SGN until resolution of billing issues. He spoke with the bookkeeper of the SGN who proposed that we pay 1/2 of the initial amount billed (about \$692) since we hadn't been billed in more than a year up to that point. Jim W. proposed that we could pay 1/4 the amount. We decided to pay up to 1/3 the initial amount or under \$500. The Board also decided to put the ad back in for once a month.
- Telephone: We decided to keep paying the phone bill though we may decide to drop it later.
- Newsletter printing: We decided to cut back on the printing since it is so expensive, and talk to Leo about scaling back on the newsletter to four pages. Also, Jim Rankin agreed to send all of the board members the list of people who currently receive the Newsletter so that we can review the list.
- Letter from Pat McCarron to defray expenses for Tom Fox, editor of the National Catholic Reporter and speaker at the 2005 Dignity National Convention in Philadelphia was read: It was suggested that our chapter and others on the West coast donate between \$200-\$500 to defray his expenses. Due to current financial difficulties, the Board respectfully declined from donating any amount for Tom Fox.
- At Lyndsey's memorial service, the Dean of St. Paul's Church came up to Jim W. and offered the Episcopal chapel free of charge. The Board, however, decided not to move due to parking considerations and the fact that we were happy with Ravenna United Methodist. Jim W. will write a letter to the Dean thanking him for the offer.
- Paula Lavallee agreed to update the website with the current Board members.

**Next Meeting:** Date to be determined.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:

Denise Arceneaux, Secretary