



Newsletter

March 2005

Dignity/Seattle Liturgy

Reminder

Liturgy is on the 2nd Sunday of the month **March 13, 6:00 p.m.**
Ravenna United Methodist Church **5751-33rd Ave NE** **Seattle**

President's Message

On Monday, February 14th I went to Olympia to participate in the Equal Rights Rally with the Religious Coalition for Equality. I was a passenger in one of the busses that were scheduled from Seattle. I represented not only myself, but Dignity/Seattle as well, by wearing my Dignity/Seattle button and leaving a letter for all of my local congresspersons using our letterhead.

The Friday before, February 11th, House Bill 1515 (the Equal Rights Bill) passed the Washington State House with a comfortable margin. That was a great buoy to our spirits on our journey southward.

The Senate Bill is now formulated and should be out of committee and on to the floor by March 7th or 8th at the latest. If it looks like that won't happen, there will be many of us who will be pushing our various state senators to do something about it.

This is the 16th try for Equal Rights for GLBQT people throughout Washington. King County (Seattle) has such legislation in place, but almost all of the other counties in the state do not. As you know, it is not "special rights" for us; rather, it is equal rights in housing, employment, insurance, credit and health matters.

My senator is one of the sponsors of the Senate Bill; however, with only a few sponsors, your legislative district senator needs to be pushed to get behind the bill in the Senate. With Democrats in the majority in both the House and Senate, this year is the time to get this done. Representative Ed Murray (a long-time, active supporter of Dignity/Seattle) is the legislator who has repeatedly pushed for this legislation. He is fighting for us.

Please do your part and contact your state senator urging passage of the bill. We enjoy the limited acceptance and support that we have today because of those who came before us; now it is our turn to do the same for ourselves and those to follow.

Thanks for your support of Dignity/Seattle.

Jim Weston

Dignity/Vancouver BC

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

Wednesday, Mar. 9. 7:30 p.m. Business Meeting at Lee's. 604/408-3442.

Saturday, Mar. 19. 6:00 p.m. Liturgy, followed by potluck supper at Gerry's. 604/435-1950.

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

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Board Minutes Summary, Feb. 8, 2005

(Edited for publication.)

Meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m. at Jim Weston's condo. Dignity prayer was said.

All board members present except Delia Vita.

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

(Minutes continued next page)

Registered for Dignity/USA's Convention in Philadelphia, July 7-10? → <www.dignityusa.org>

Treasurer's report: (e-mailed by Delia Vita)

Checking Acct.

Beginning Balance: \$977.51

Christmas Donation fr Bob M.: \$100.00

December Collection: \$105.00

January Collection: \$108.00

Membership Fee from Dignity/USA: \$60.00

Total Deposits: **\$ 373.00**

Sub-total: **\$1350.51**

Expenses:

Stamps paid to J. Weston: \$14.80

RUMC rent (Jan & Feb): \$150.00

SGN (paid in full): \$346.25

Telephone: \$35.75

Adjustment Rent Reported in Dec: \$75.00

Total Expenses: \$546.80

Ending Balance: \$803.71

Adjustment:

November Overpayment of Rent: \$75.00

Ending Balance: \$878.71

Savings Acct.

Beginning Balance: \$1,560.34

Interest income \$.44

Ending Balance: \$1,560.78

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

Committee Chairs' reports:

Liturgy Committee: Denise Arceneaux

- Linda Hapenstall to preside on February 13th. No one scheduled so far for March.

Membership Committee: Jim Weston

- There are several people due up for renewal this month. Paula informed us that a person is not considered lapsed (and thus not dropped) by National until there's been no contact from that person to National for 24 months; therefore, these people may not yet be lapsed.

Old Business

- Leo was happy to comply with our request that he keep the length of the newsletter down to 4 pages.
- National received our communication about Tom Fox and understood why we could not donate at this time.
- Rewording of brochure: We will put in a vision and mission statement. Women's Concerns will be replaced with a statement that we strive for gender equality. Paula posed the question of whether we are concerned about people voting without paying chapter dues? We decided to do away with the membership dues requirement and replace it with a statement saying that membership is free but a donation is greatly appreciated.
- Newsletter mailings: Jim R. handed out the list he uses for sending out the newsletters. We went through the entire list and deleted those people/organizations we decided we shouldn't send to anymore. Paula wants to try to get the newsletter sent out via E-mail to

reduce printing and save on postage costs. She wants to write to the membership asking if they would be willing to receive the newsletter electronically. We agreed with this approach.

- Both the national and local websites are already changed. It now reads that we only meet on the 2nd Sunday of the month.

New Business:

- Resignation: Jim Weston informed the Board that Rabbi Anson Laytner, who has been our homilist on several occasions, has resigned as Executive Director of Multifaith Works.
- Dale Meyers mentioned Dignity/Seattle in "Oasis," a new newsletter published by Dignity/Palm Springs. He mentioned in the newsletter that the president (Ed Shields) resigned over the new policy adopted by National regarding pedophilia.
- Possible changes for D/Seattle: Jim W. discussed Leo's suggestions in the January newsletter regarding the future of D/Seattle. Jim informed the Board that this past Sunday he attended the Integrity Service at St. Mark's Episcopal Church with a female presider. Attendance was equally divided between men and women and the service was very nice. Leo had mentioned in the newsletter that we might want to join with Integrity like several other Dignity chapters throughout the U.S. Jim W. felt that, due to all the major changes we've recently made to our organization, it would be premature to make a decision on this matter right now but he wanted us to keep our options open and perhaps bring it up for discussion with other members on the Sundays when we meet. The Board was in agreement and decided, therefore, to table this issue until a later date.
- Jim W. asked if we wanted to have a breakfast/raffle during Gay Pride week as in previous years. The Board decided to table this issue until next meeting as well to give it some time to reflect.
- Changes to bylaws: Paula said that she went through the bylaws and suggested that we change the number of board members required from 7 to 3 due to low membership. She said that if we start now we can change the bylaws by the next meeting. Jim W. suggested we go down from 7 to 5 instead. Paula said that she would begin the process of making the suggested changes to the bylaws.
- Steve suggested inviting people from St. Joe's and Integrity to some of our activities/services. It was indicated that we already mail out flyers to people associated with us from St. Joe's inviting them to potlucks, etc. No decision was made on this matter.

Next Meeting: Monday, March 7 at Jim Weston's.
Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Denise Arceneaux, Secretary