



Newsletter

January 2006

Happy New Year!

Dignity/Seattle Liturgy

Reminder

Liturgy is at 6:00 p.m. every 2nd Sunday: January 8, February 12
Ravenna United Methodist Church 5751-33rd Ave NE Seattle

Equality Day 2006 in Olympia: Monday, January 23

Equal Rights Washington and the Religious Coalition for Equality are organizing Equality Day 2006 in Olympia to educate people about the issues involved with marriage equality and anti-discrimination legislation, to provide education about how to visit with legislators effectively and easily, and to again show support for marriage equality and anti-discrimination legislation.

If you were at the Valentine's Day Rally last year, you know what an exceptional, exciting, exhilarating day it was. If you were not there, you will not want to miss this year's event.

Members of the Seattle Men's and Women's Choruses will again sing. Dynamic religious leaders will speak, and we will hear from prominent elected officials.

Schedule and Details

9:00 - 9:30 Coffee and donuts

9:30 - 11:15 Advocacy Workshops: Come to the Rally early and learn how to ask your legislators to support Marriage Equality and to support legislation which prohibits discrimination based upon sexual orientation.

Legislators and experienced lobbyists will provide helpful tips about how to approach your legislators and how to explain to them the reasons to support our issues.

Representatives of Equal Rights Washington and the Religious Coalition for Equality will discuss the message we want to convey to our legislators and provide key talking points.

We will have sessions for those who may be visiting legislators for the first time, as well as seasoned veterans.

You will have an opportunity to meet people from around the state and from your own legislative district as we prepare to march on the Capitol in support of Marriage Equality and anti-discrimination legislation.

11:45 - 1:00 Rally on the Capitol Steps: The debate over rights for sexual minorities has reached new intensity. Courts in King and Thurston Counties have declared the Washington Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) unconstitutional. The State Supreme Court will uphold or strike down those decisions. If upheld, there will be a move to amend the state constitution to prohibit same-sex marriages. If struck down we want DOMA repealed.

Legislation to include sexual minorities in the state civil rights came within one vote of passing last session. We want it to pass this year.

We know voices from faith communities have been the most vocal opponents of liberty. It is time for other voices to be heard.

More than 250 Clergy from our diverse faith communities have signed a statement calling for marriage equality for all. We are proud signers. Now is the time to do more. In order to be heard we will rally on the capitol steps in Olympia on January 23, 2006. Come and be with your clergy in religious garb and members of our faith communities in support of a more compassionate vision within our faith perspectives. Come and be with people from all across the state who support marriage equality.

We need two or more people from each legislative district who support marriage equality. We will train you in the morning and ask you to meet with your representatives following the rally. You can help our voices of faith be heard.

Whoever you may be, if you revere all persons and hold their rights in equal esteem, attend the rally in Olympia. Invite others to attend. Bring a car pool.

1:15 - 3:00 Visit your legislators

Pg. 2: WA Supreme Court Decision Day Rally

The Religious Coalition for Equality is an interfaith association of lay persons and clergy committed to this twofold purpose: to educate Washington State citizens about and to advocate for marriage equality for all couples and the civil rights of all. For further information, please visit: <[http:// www.religiouscoalition-wa.org/](http://www.religiouscoalition-wa.org/)>

An Important LGBT Court Decision, affecting equal access to marriage and all of its benefits and burdens will be made sometime soon.

The Washington State Supreme Court will decide a case that will affect the rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people to marry. Whether or not it decides to overturn Washington State's "Defense of Marriage Act" (DOMA)...We* are calling all who support LGBT people's right to marry to a community gathering to either...

PROTEST or CELEBRATE

Formerly planned for Seattle's Volunteer Park, it will now be held at

Seattle 1st Baptist Church

1111 Harvard Ave

at 5:30 p.m. on the evening of the

STATE SUPREME COURT'S DECISION

Supreme Court decisions are handed down on Thursdays, but announced on Wednesdays. This will give us only 24 hours to spread the word when notice of the decision is announced. Whatever the decision, we* call on all fair-minded Seattle area individuals and organizations to commit to quickly spread the word and to join together by attending this action. For more information please go to www.DontAmend.com

***Sponsored by:**

DontAmend.com * Lambda Legal * American Civil Liberties Union of Washington * American Friends Service Committee * Entre Hermanos * Equal Rights Washington * Freedom to Marry * Greater Seattle Business Association * Legal Marriage Alliance * National Gay & Lesbian Task Force * Northwest Women's Law Center * Parents, Friends & Families of Lesbians and Gays * Religious Coalition for Equal Rights * Seattle Gay News * Seattle Metropolitan Elections Committee for Gays, Lesbians, Bisexuals and Transgenders * Seattle National Organization for Women

Official Business

Dignity/Seattle Board Members
 Jim Rankin President
 Steve Kearney Vice-Pres., Social Chair
 Denise Arceneaux Secretary, Liturgy Chair
 Delia Vita Treasurer
 Paula Lavallee At-large, Membership Chair

DignityUSA Board Members from Seattle
 Paula Lavallee Secretary
 Leo Egashira At-large, Communications

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Board Minutes Summary, Dec. 6, 2005

(Edited for publication.)

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. at Delia Vita's home. Dignity prayer was said. All board members were present.

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

Secretary's report: (Denise Arceneaux)

- Received two messages on the phone line by people interested in coming to our services. Also received a message from the Miss Ricky show on SCAN (Channel 77) requesting someone from our D/S to be interviewed for Thanksgiving. No one could go to the interview. No one as of yet has called from the local media in response to Pope Benedict's latest pronouncement barring gays from ordination.

Treasurer's report: (Delia Vita)

Checking Acct.

| | |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Beginning Balance: | \$2,296.47 |
| Deposits: | |
| Collections/Donations: | 296.00 |
| Membership DignityUSA: | 45.00 |
| Total Deposits: | \$341.00 |
| Sub-total: | \$2,637.47 |

Expenses:

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| Admin: PO Box Rental: | 38.00 |
| Admin: Telephone: | 74.01 |
| Admin: End of year meeting: | 19.59 |
| Admin: Gift for J. Weston: | 50.00 |
| Liturgy: Presider's Stipend: | 30.00 |
| Membership: Renewal to DUSA: | 45.00 |
| Newsletter Printing/Mailing: | 55.18 |
| Rent: RUMC Oct.-Dec.: | 225.00 |
| Total Expenses: | \$536.78 |
| Ending Balance: | \$2,100.69 |

Savings Acct..

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Beginning Balance: | \$2,083.28 |
| Interest income | 0.08 |
| Ending Balance: | \$2,083.36 |

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

Committee Chairs' reports

Liturgy Committee: (Denise Arceneaux)

- Rev. Philip Knowles to preside on December 11.
- We will try to get Pastor Crystal to preside in January.

Old Business:

- "Thank you" note from Jim Weston read at meeting.
- SGN: SGN gave us a bigger ad size than was requested. They will change the size of the ad which was first published in the first week of November. We still haven't received any invoices from them yet.
- E-mailing of newsletter: Paula L. gave Jim Rankin a list of people willing to receive the newsletter exclusively by E-mail. She agreed to handle the e-mailing of newsletters while Jim R. will handle the rest – i.e. taking care of the database, etc.

(Minutes continued next page)

(Minutes continued from previous page)

New Business:

- Voice of the Faithful: Leo got an e-mail from National asking all Chapters to get their respective churches and members to wear a green ribbon this Sunday to support “priests of integrity.” It is the claim of the Voice of the Faithful that anyone called by God for vocation should be allowed to be ordained (including those who support the “Gay culture.”)
- Announcement: George Lucas is having his annual New Year’s Eve party at his place in Ravenna.
- GSBA: Jim R. will check to see if we’re in the GSBA this next year.
- The National office is in real need of donations this year, possibly due to Hurricane Katrina and other catastrophes. It was suggested that we donate 10% of our savings account to National.

M/M/S/C: To approve appropriation of funds to National as stated. Jim Rankin will send a note to National with the check stating that we’re sending 10% of the funds in our savings account.

**Next meeting: Tuesday, February 7th
at Delia Vita’s house at 7:00 p.m.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Denise Arceneaux, Secretary

Dignity/Vancouver BC/Dignite

Dignity/Vancouver BC 604/432-1230

Monday, Jan. 9th 7:30 p.m. Business Meeting at Lee L's. 604/408-3442

Friday, Jan. 20th 7:30 p.m. Worship/Liturgy at Dennis B's. 604/669-3677

Saturday, Jan. 28th 7:30 p.m. Pot-Luck Supper/Social at Dennis L-H's. 604/430-3466