



Community of Christ

February 26, 2025

Dear Beloved Community,

As your Mission Center President in Michigan, I am writing to address the unfolding of anti-LGBTQ+ legislation this week. Six members of the Michigan House of Representatives introduced a bill condemning the Supreme Court decision in *Obergefell v. Hodges* which allows for marriage equality in the United States.

The continued attacks on the LGBTQ+ community in the United States are shameful and serve to increase anxiety and hurt. This direct attack on LGBTQ+ families isn't just politics—it's an assault on human dignity. The sponsor of this bill claims that opposing marriage equality is rooted in Christian faith. Cruelty and chaos have no place in God's preferred future.

Community of Christ in the United States has supported marriage equality for more than a decade. In 2013, Community of Christ adopted a policy approving marriage of those in same-sex relationships and providing other marriage-like relationships in areas in the United States where marriage equality was not yet available.

The current Community of Christ policy on same-sex marriage, updated in 2022, relies on the Supreme Court decision, *Obergefell v. Hodges*. A letter dated January 2025 from the USA Team of Apostles affirms Community of Christ's commitment to ensuring that other options become available again for same-sex couples in Community of Christ, should *Obergefell* be overturned. We will continue to create communities of safety and wholeness because we know God will continue to create order and life from turmoil and death. I urge Community of Christ members and friends to oppose the overturning of *Obergefell v. Hodges* and to uplift the value of diversity, the worth of all persons, and the need to end unnecessary suffering.

Our Enduring Principles, scripture, and experience in community guide us. Our call to challenge unjust systems that diminish human worth requires us to put our faith into action. Michigan Mission Center staff and volunteers have created a document to help you effectively engage with your representatives on issues like the bill above to overturn *Obergefell* and others that challenge the worth of all persons. The Faith in Action guide is designed to help those who want to engage with the intersection of faith and action but may be doing so for the first time.

I hope you will find these new resources helpful in exploring how your spiritual life intersects with your community's wholeness.

In the spirit of community and Christ's love,



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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Stanbridge". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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Community of Christ
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