



To our friends and supporters,

Since Donald J. Trump's re-election in the United States in November 2024, Harmony has received many valid concerns from members of the Queer/2SLGBTQIA+ (Queer) Community. As an advocacy organization, Harmony immediately connected with our liaisons in the Council of Twelve.

**Members of Community of Christ's Queer Community asked:**

- Will Obergefell v. Hodges be overturned as Justice Thomas alluded to following the overturning of Roe v. Wade? [[Read article.](#)]
- Because the church in the USA relies on the legal framework provided by Obergefell, how will the church respond if same-sex marriage is referred back to state governments? [[Read current USA Policy on Same-Sex Relationships.](#)]

It's no secret that the USA is experiencing a monumental tone shift with widespread attacks on DEI and the Queer Community. Such attacks are coming directly from the highest levels of leadership, and many have been misled and emboldened by unfair and inaccurate comparisons, misinformation, and disinformation. It's clear that members of the American Queer Community feel unsafe, uneasy, and uncertain about what the future holds.

In response to the concerns we passed along to our liaisons, Community of Christ's USA Team of Apostles shared the following letter of solidarity with Harmony and encouraged us to distribute it to all those interested.

Since our initial concerns were passed along, more concerns have been raised following direct attacks on trans rights and women's reproductive health among other things. **A reminder that:**

- The letter below is specifically addressing the two concerns provided earlier and do not take into account current attacks on trans persons or women's reproductive health;
- The initial concerns shared with Harmony liaisons are specifically related to how church policy may be impacted by changes in the American legal landscape; and
- The worldwide church has not and does not hold policies in favor of- or against- trans inclusion. Members of the [USA Team of Apostles released a separate letter in 2023](#) noting the increased efforts to infringe on the rights and worth of transgender persons through legislation in state legislatures across the country. Information on advocating for justice of 2SLGBTQIA+ persons is included in the letter.



**For your information, the USA Team of Apostles includes:**

*Janné Grover*

*Robin Linkhart*

*Lach Mackay*

*Shandra Newcom*

*Dave Nii*

*Mareva Arnaud Tchong (Hawaii)*

*Angela Ramirez (Southern Texas)*

Harmony will continue to work with church leaders to gain clarification on how Community of Christ is prepared to respond to issues that have a direct impact on our community.

Read the letter from the USA Team of Apostles drafted January 27, 2025, below.

**You are loved, you are seen, and you are exactly as God created you.**

In service,

***Your Harmony Board of Directors***

*Molly Wilkins, President*

*Sean Langdon, Vice President*

*Shelby Williams, Treasurer*

*Julia Brookshaw, Secretary*

*Andy Markle, Congregation Support Coordinator*

*Gayle Humphrey, Chaplain*

# Community of Christ

APOSTLES SERVING FIELDS IN THE USA

January 27, 2025

## **Affirmation of Support for the LGBTQIA+ Community**

We affirm our commitment to stand alongside the LGBTQIA+ community with courage and conviction as questions regarding their rights continue to surface in our country. We uphold the inclusive principles of scripture and World Conference Resolutions:

As revealed in Christ, God, the Creator of all, ultimately is concerned about behaviors and relationships that uphold the worth and giftedness of all people and that protect the most vulnerable. Such relationships are to be rooted in the principles of Christ-like love, mutual respect, responsibility, justice, covenant, and faithfulness, against which there is no law.

—Doctrine and Covenants 164.6a

From the earliest days you have been given a sacred principle that declares the inestimable worth of all persons. Do not forget. The One who created all humankind grieves at the shameful divisions within the human family. A prophetic people must work tirelessly to tear down walls of separation and to build bridges of understanding. You hold precious lives in your hands. Be gentle and gracious with one another. A community is no stronger than the weakest within it. Even as the One you follow reached out to those who were rejected and marginalized, so must the community that bears his name.

—Doctrine and Covenants 162:6

The gospel of Jesus Christ reveals the unqualified love of God and the inestimable worth of all people. An awareness of God's love and of the love of others is essential to human fulfillment. For these reasons, we celebrate the rich diversity of human life...We therefore acknowledge and affirm human diversity by creating a spirit of openness and peace within our congregations where all people may find acceptance and the opportunity to share their giftedness. We commit ourselves to work with people of goodwill to promote mutual respect, appreciation, and peace in all relationships.

—World Conference Resolution 1226

In response to questions and concerns we affirm:

### **1. Marriage Recognition**

Community of Christ recognizes the sacred commitments of all marriages established under law. We affirm the sanctity and enduring nature of these covenants.

**2. Support for Covenant Commitments**

If legal marriage becomes inaccessible to LGBTQIA+ couples, we will explore avenues to honor and celebrate sacred commitments. We will engage with Harmony and other partners to ensure our responses are both supportive and inclusive.

**3. Compassionate Policies on Cohabitation**

We are reviewing and clarifying church policies regarding cohabitation. Our approach will remain rooted in understanding and compassion.

**4. Affirmation of Identity in Sacraments**

We will honor the chosen names of all individuals in sacraments. We celebrate each person's identity as sacred and divinely affirmed.

**5. Commitment to Inclusion**

We are resolute in upholding and advocating for the inclusion of LGBTQIA+ individuals in all aspects of church life. We will remain steadfast in affirming the equal worth and dignity of all to foster inclusive, compassionate, and welcoming communities that reflect God's boundless love for all people.