



## Holy Covenant Metropolitan Community Church



June 4, 2018

Today, June 4, 2018, the US Supreme Court handed down a 7-2 decision in *Masterpiece Cakeshop Ltd., vs Colorado Civil Rights Commission*, in which the court found that the Civil Rights Commission had not acted neutrally in regard to religion, and therefore their finding of bias against Masterpiece was overturned. This is being “explained” as a win for the bakery. As with most legal issues, there’s a lot more nuance, and a lot more pain, than that.

Things to remember:

This does NOT change the law. The decision was not about discrimination law; it was about the process of the Colorado Civil Rights Commission. It does not set a legal precedent, for the same reason. This is why it is being referred to as “narrow;” not because it was a close vote, but because it applies to a narrow (slim) set of circumstances, i.e., this case. Some of the legal eagles feel SCOTUS shouldn’t have taken it under consideration at all.

This DOES offer cover for those who would like to discriminate. Muslims, seniors, women, Asians, LGBTQ+, someone with a disability—all are now more vulnerable to those who would use religion as a weapon to strike others. It’s not just about cake, or, indeed, retail or food service. It’s about housing, medical care, employment, adoption, social services, legal services, insurance—and on and on. Especially for those in our LGBTQ+ family who are non-binary, genderqueer, trans, gender non-conforming, and/or people of color, these may be dangerous times. Please hold our entire worldwide community in love and prayer.

This DOES NOT change God’s love for us or our love for one another.

It DOES NOT lessen the strength of our knowledge that we are equal members of US society—equally deserving of the protection of non-discrimination laws—above all, beloved children of God.

Holy Covenant and Metropolitan Community Churches will continue to work for the equal rights of all individuals and against the use of spirituality as a means of hate and hurt.

Yours in the service of peace and mercy,

Rev. Martha A. Daniels  
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