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THE ECUMENICAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Independent Catholics Welcome the US Supreme Court

To End Discrimination and Protect the Civil Rights of GLBTQ+

In the Workplace

The Ecumenical Catholic Church applauds the recent United States Supreme Court decision protecting the Constitutional rights and freedoms of gay and trans people. This decision is not only inherently just and proper legally, but it is soundly Biblical and theological. From the Creation narrative which repeatedly affirms that what God creates is GOOD, a particularly Jewish and later Catholic fundamental belief, to the affirming statement of Jesus the Christ that he will draw ALL to him the fundamental principle of divine diversity is proclaimed.

The court said the language of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits sex discrimination, applies to the discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. "An employer who fires an individual merely for being gay or transgender defies the law," Justice Neil M. Gorsuch wrote for the majority in the 6-to-3 ruling. This decision hands to the GLBTQ+ movement a long-sought and unexpected victory.

As a faith community, within these Jewish and Catholic Traditions and one that understands and proclaims the value and joy of being all that God the Creator encourages and enables us to be, we celebrate the inclusion of everyone in the family of God. Those in the larger church especially those in the self-described Pentecostal and evangelical associations who condemn such wonderful, creative, and joyous persons and ways of individuality are in dire wrong.

The U.S. Conference of (Roman) Catholic Bishops statement against this Supreme Court decision is misguided and appears to support a conservative social and political agenda, as opposed to celebrating a theology that all people are created in the image of God. The Ecumenical Catholic Church – an open and inclusive church within the independent catholic movement – welcomes the decision in the hopes that workers in religious institutions as well as in secular workplaces can no longer be victims of discrimination for being GLBTQ+. To promote discrimination in hiring and employment practices is not freedom of religion. It is a hate crime and needs to be treated as such. The Supreme Court Decision is an important step in ending this form of discrimination.

Gender, gender identity, sexual orientation are all gifts we hold as true and worthy of the coming of the Spirit to those who worship in spirit and truth. Indeed these gifts of wonderment and celebration of the divine and human interconnection and interaction is authored by that same

Spirit. To legally end one form of discrimination and bigotry is a step forward in the movement against hatred and discrimination in the United States of America.

Therefore we as sisters and brothers in Christ gathered as the Ecumenical Catholic Church proudly affirms and teaches all people are of eminent value both in the embrace of God and in the Community of Faith universal.

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The Ecumenical Catholic Church
A Social Statement of the Ecumenical Catholic Church
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