



**Harvest
Church**
United Methodist

Ralph Sigler
Lead Pastor

March 7, 2015

Dear Governor:

I am writing to plead with you to protect religious freedom in the United States. In the rush of the federal courts to redefine marriage, I believe that people of faith are being exposed to discrimination and even persecution.

Christians believe that the most terrible thing in the universe is sin. It is the ultimate cause of all suffering, pain, discrimination, injustice, abuse, betrayal, deception, darkness and death in all of human history. Sin is the ultimate enemy and the reason Christ went to the cross, and true Christians can never embrace it.

Sex between two men or two women is condemned in the strongest possible terms in the Old Testament, New Testament, and the Koran. When it is called "an abomination" in Leviticus 18:22, the Hebrew word is *tow ebah* meaning, "morally abhorrent, detestable, repugnant to God". Marriage is considered sacred by every major religion and an actual sacrament in the Roman Catholic Church. To equate an abominable act to the sacred union of marriage is blasphemous to Christians, Orthodox Jews, and Muslims. To condone this or participate in this is to deny God and His Word and is unloving in every way to the next generation and to those involved in homosexuality. These are people Christ died for. In love, we call them to Christ's forgiveness through repentance. We help them leave that lifestyle and walk in sexual freedom in Christ. We cannot abandon them to sin which separates them from God and keeps them from becoming the person God created them to be. Sin separates us from a full life and from eternal life.

Because of this, Christians, along with those of other faiths, cannot take part in a gay marriage ceremony without denying our faith. This exposes all in business related to weddings, such as photographers, bakers, caterers, florists, formal wear providers, limousine companies, etc., to lawsuits and boycotts because of their faith. This is unjust and clearly un-American. Christian, Muslims, Orthodox Jews and those of other faiths must not be forced to choose between denying their faith or losing their business

I am asking all United States Governors protect the religious freedom of people of faith. Christians join with every major religion, every previous American generation, as well as every generation in all the history of civilization in understanding that marriage is a

special relationship between man and woman. Please protect the right to those beliefs. If marriage can become whatever people want it to mean, it really means nothing. I would hope that you would protect marriage itself--the foundation of culture and the greatest blessing to children--by upholding the universally recognized meaning of marriage.

This is a monumental decision that I believe will be much more divisive and have much greater ramifications than Roe v. Wade. Please act with wisdom, justice, and righteousness; and protect the freedom of people of faith and the future of children and the family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ralph Sigler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the start of the name.

Pastor Ralph Sigler
Lead Pastor

RS/lis

cc: All United States Governors