

**For Immediate Release**

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## Church Supports Non-Discrimination Ordinance

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has declared its support of non-discrimination regulations which would extend protection in matters of housing and employment in Salt Lake City to those with same-sex attraction.

The Church said the Salt Lake City Council's new non-discrimination ordinance "is fair and reasonable" and balances fair housing and employment rights with the religious rights of the community.

The remarks, representing the position of the Church's leadership, were read by Michael Otterson, managing director of Church Public Affairs, as part of a public comment period discussing the ordinance at a Salt Lake City Council meeting tonight.

Otterson told city council members, "The issue before you tonight is the right of people to have a roof over their heads and the right to work without being discriminated against. But, importantly, the ordinance also attempts to balance vital issues of religious freedom. In essence, the Church agrees with the approach which Mayor Becker is taking on this matter."

The Church said that while protections in housing and employment were fair and reasonable, the Church also remains "unequivocally committed to defending the bedrock foundation of marriage between a man and a woman." He also pointed out that this position was, "entirely consistent with the Church's prior position on these matters."

Otterson added, "I represent a church that believes in human dignity, in treating others with respect even when we disagree – in fact, especially when we disagree."

**Style guide note:** When reporting about The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, please use the complete name of the Church in the first reference. For more information on the use of the name of the Church, go to [www.newsroom.lds.org](http://www.newsroom.lds.org) under Quick Facts, Writer's Style Guide.