

**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
AND BISHOP**

March 12, 2026

Dear Honourable Member of Parliament,

I'm writing to add my voice to those protesting the direction of Bill C-9 known as the Combatting Hate Act.

While much in the bill is valuable and encouraging to religious people and their freedom to practice their faith, some aspects of the bill seem to endanger that freedom. I'm directly referring to the religious exemption which was removed from the bill. My understanding is that this exception allows religious people to cite religious texts without fear of being prosecuted under this act. This protection for religious people is now gone.

Adding to my concern are comments by The Honourable MP Marc Miller regarding texts of Holy Scripture in Leviticus, Deuteronomy, and Romans which he has publicly stated "clearly contain hate." My denomination of Christianity (The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod) views the entire Bible, including the entirety of Leviticus, Deuteronomy, and Romans, to be the inspired, inerrant, Word of God. We will not shy away from quoting such texts or any text of our Holy Scripture.

The Bible teaches us to love every human because God loves every human being and seeks to spend eternity with them. However, the Bible also teaches that not all behaviors are good and holy in God's eyes. Holy Scripture contains many teachings surrounding human sexuality that might be interpreted as offensive or hateful by some in our society. These teachings are not hateful toward people; however, they may condemn behaviors as evil. We do not enforce our beliefs upon anyone; however, we treasure them and seek to practice them in our own lives. We also teach our congregational members to do the same. Canada has traditionally been a country where we are free to publicly proclaim our teachings that others might come to know and believe in them. Bill C-9, without the religious exemption, will erode that freedom.

We will never forsake the Word of God. We will never stop publicly preaching and teaching that which has given us life, faith, hope and truth, righteousness and love. You may label our Scriptures as hateful, but we will stand by them, as will thousands of faithful Christians in this land. Label us, persecute us, fine us, imprison us. We will not stop preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We will accept persecution from your government with joy and thanksgiving knowing that our Lord Jesus Christ promised that our rewards are great in heaven and that we stand with the prophets who were persecuted in ages past.

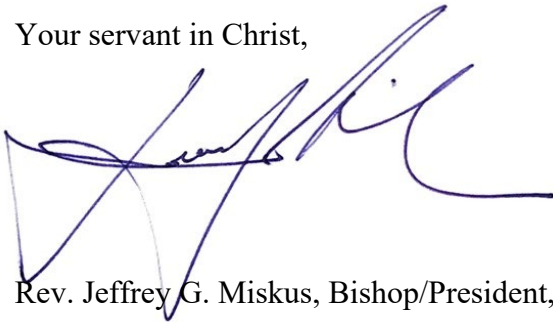
We pray for you and your government weekly in our parishes, holding the names of our Prime Minister, Premier, and Mayors before God's throne asking for wisdom and guidance. While our Scriptures tell us to respect, pray for, and obey our governments, they also tell us that there are times when we must obey God

rather than men. When government laws directly threaten the proclamation of God's Holy Word, we are bound by God to obey Him. Here we stand, we can do no other. Lord, have mercy on us!

This law will inevitably be used to persecute those it was designed to protect, be they Christian, Jew, or Muslim. You would do well to bring back the religious exemption now, before damage is done to law abiding, religious people who treasure their Holy Scriptures as God's Word and Truth.

Isaiah 40:8 "The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever."

Your servant in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey G. Miskus". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Rev. Jeffrey G. Miskus, Bishop/President, English District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod