



April 14, 2025

Dear siblings throughout Mennonite Church USA,

I'm writing to update you on *Mennonite Church USA et al. v. Department of Homeland Security et al.* and share some pastoral reflections about the challenges and opportunities we face together.

On Friday, we learned that the D.C. District Court denied our coalition's motion for preliminary injunction. This motion sought to limit Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) / Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) enforcement actions in and around houses of worship while the case is being adjudicated.

This ruling is not the end of the process. Kelsi Corkran, the lead counsel for MC USA and our Jewish and Christian partners, said that she and the legal team "are currently reviewing the decision and are assessing our options. We remain gravely concerned about the impacts of this policy and are committed to protecting foundational rights enshrined in the First Amendment and the Religious Freedom Restoration Act."

If your congregation or ministry observes ICE or CBP activity in or around your place of worship, please contact Iris de León-Hartshorn (irisdh@mennoniteusa.org) immediately and copy your Conference Minister so that we can document any encroachment into sacred spaces with the court.

As the legal process continues, it's important to remind ourselves that although the decisions of our government directly affect people's lives and safety, our ultimate hope is not in any human government but in the reign of God, which does not originate in this world (as Jesus explained to Pontius Pilate).

Anabaptist Christians have always looked for ways to experience and embody the reign of God in daily life, even when following Jesus draws suspicion or opposition from earthly rulers. My prayer for us is that the Holy Spirit would strengthen us in our inner being, giving us the courage to live faithfully by loving God, loving our neighbors, welcoming strangers, and praying for those who persecute us.

Grace + Peace

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