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A leader in the Church of Latter-Day Saints confirmed Friday that its members are free to voice support for same-sex marriage without fear of punishment or excommunication.

Elder D Todd Christofferson said that as long as members do not engage in organised activity that attacks the Church, they can express their opinion on social media.

"Our approach in all of this, as (Mormon founder) Joseph Smith said, is persuasion," Christofferson told KUTV-Salt Lake City. "You can't use the priesthood and the authority of the church to dictate. You can't compel, you can't coerce. It has to be persuasion, gentleness and love unfeigned, as the words in the scripture." ...

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