

RESOLUTION B-183

**RELATIONSHIP WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLE**

Submitted by the Emery Washington Convocation

**WHEREAS** the 80<sup>th</sup> General Convention Resolution C072 urges each diocese of the Episcopal Church “to begin an audit of all Indigenous peoples whose ancestral and territorial homelands its churches and buildings now occupy before the 81st General Convention;” and

**WHEREAS** the 80th General Convention Resolution C072 asks each diocese of the Episcopal Church “to begin dialogue with representatives from those Indigenous peoples whose ancestral and territorial homelands its churches and buildings now occupy to collaborate in the development of appropriate land acknowledgement liturgies and prayers;” and

**WHEREAS** the 80<sup>th</sup> General Convention Resolution A127 strongly encourages dioceses in the United States to “begin an audit of the relationship, financial or otherwise, between the federal government, the diocese and/or its subsidiary entities, its churches, and any Episcopal or non-Episcopal missionary societies with respect to any Indigenous residential boarding school operated within the territorial jurisdiction of that diocese;” and

**WHEREAS** the Standing Committee of the Episcopal Diocese of Missouri has approved and commended for use language of a Land Acknowledgement for the Diocese drafted by the Diocesan Missioner for Indigenous Ministry Engagement;

**BE IT RESOLVED** that this diocese will dialogue with the tribes that once lived in this place and hear their stories and collaborate to repair any damage done by the church; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** the congregations in the Diocese of Missouri will research the history of their churches and their connections with unjust treatment of Indigenous Peoples; and

**BET IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the bodies and congregations in the Diocese of Missouri will prayerfully consider the use of the following Land Acknowledgement during public gatherings:

*HISTORICAL LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT  
FOR THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MISSOURI*

*In humility, we recognize and acknowledge that we in the Diocese of Missouri worship and live on the traditional ancestral lands of the Osage Nation, the Illiniwek/Peoria Tribe, the O-Gah-Pah (Quapaw) Tribe, the Otoe-Missouria Tribe, and other First Peoples. We recognize our mutual dependence upon and benefit from this land; we proclaim our solidarity with and our debt to the Peoples who first claimed and improved this land as their home. We acknowledge our complicity in the process of colonization that dispossessed the First Peoples from their ancestral lands. We affirm our commitment to stand with indigenous communities today and henceforth as they seek justice and resist continued threats to their sovereignty and humanity.*

*We are also cognizant that the history of The Episcopal Church is intertwined with the history of colonialism and slavery in the United States. More than four centuries ago, the first Africans were brought to the Americas and enslaved. Two centuries ago, enslaved and indigenous persons contributed to the exploration of this state by Lewis and Clark. Our state's history is entangled with both the Missouri Compromise making this state officially a slave state, and the cases of Scott v. Emerson that petitioned for Dred and Harriet Scott's emancipation. We acknowledge the tragic legacy of slavery in our diocese, and the blood, sweat, and tears of enslaved people that soak the earth beneath our feet in Missouri. This legacy persists today as we continue to work towards racial justice, equity, liberation, and community, here in Missouri and across The Episcopal Church.*