

Land Acknowledgement

Let us acknowledge that we are on the ancestral homelands of indigenous peoples of the Council of Three Fires including the Ho-Chunk, Menomonee, Dakota, and the Ojibwe which includes the Bands of Red Cliff, Bad River, Fond du Lac, Lac Courte Oreilles, Lac du Flambeau, Mille Lacs, and St. Croix. Each of these Nations and Bands is unique and sovereign.

We are grateful to their ancestors for their deep commitment to caring for the land. They serve as a witness to the sacredness of all that the Creator provided. We are grateful for the words and actions of Native peoples living today as they honor their ancestors and continue to protect and preserve the natural world. Their vision for future generations is clear as they share their sacred teachings and traditions. The treaty of 1854 ceded these lands for non-Indigenous settlers. Those who dwell here are treaty people with rights and responsibilities to each other and to the land.

We reside on these ancestral homelands and have benefited from the rich natural resources and diverse flora and fauna of the area. The means by which we came to live in this place include violence, forced removal, and genocide. These acts of atrocity were committed by our ancestors against the ancestors of Native Americans in the name of God through the Doctrine of Discovery and Manifest Destiny.

As faith community leaders, we reject the Doctrine of Discovery and actively seek to dismantle the systems of oppression that have normalized the dehumanization of Native American people. Jesus' life and ministry demonstrate how to resist such forces and stand beside those who are suffering. This is not easy; however, such is the way our faith guides us.

In this moment, as we gather across these ancestral lands, we are mindful of the historical and continued sacredness of the land in the hearts of our Native American relatives. And we recognize and honor the wisdom and resilience of our Native American relatives with whom we share this land.