



Resolution Of Support for the Work of Truth and Reconciliation by the Whole Episcopal Church and its History of Boarding Schools for Alaska Native, Native American, and Indigenous People.

Resolved, that the Diocese of Alaska grieves with all Alaska Natives, Native Americans, Indigenous and First People who carry the heavy burden of intergenerational and historic trauma from the experience of Boarding Schools and Residential Schools; and be it further

Resolved, that the Diocese of Alaska condemns the abuse of all children; and be it further

Resolved, that the Diocese of Alaska affirms the Baptismal vow to strive for justice and peace among all people, and to respect the dignity of every human being; and be it further

Resolved, that the Diocese of Alaska acknowledges with gratitude the pledge by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and President of the House of Deputies The Rev Gay Clark Jennings to “make right relationships with our Indigenous siblings an important focus of Executive Council [of the Episcopal Church] and the 80th General Convention [meeting in Baltimore, MD 2022];” and be it further

Resolved, that the Episcopal Diocese of Alaska recognizes the important work of truth and reconciliation in establishing right relationships, and the important need to “spend time with our Indigenous siblings, listening to their stories and history, and seeking their wisdom about how we can together come to terms with [...our history];” and be it further

Resolved, that the Episcopal Diocese of Alaska supports Bishop Mark Lattime’s pledge to hold our church accountable to this work and, along with our elected Deputies to General Convention and Standing Committee, to ensure that Alaska Native voices, wisdom, and experience will be included in the Episcopal Church’s pursuit of truth and reconciliation with respect to the history of Indigenous schools operated by the Episcopal Church; and be it further

Resolved, that the Episcopal Diocese of Alaska Deputies to the 80th General Convention, along with the bishop, will report on this work to the 47th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Alaska (2022).

Submitted by,

Bishop Mark Lattime

Statement on Indigenous boarding schools by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and President of the House of Deputies Gay Clark Jennings

[July 12, 2021] In Genesis, God conferred dignity on all people by creating them in God’s own image—a belief that is shared by all Abrahamic faiths. We are grieved by recent discoveries of mass graves of Indigenous children on the grounds of former boarding schools, where Indigenous children experienced forced removal from their homes, assimilation, and abuse. These acts of cultural genocide sought to erase these children’s identities as God’s beloved children.



46th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Alaska
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We condemn these practices, and we mourn the intergenerational trauma that cascades from them. We have heard with sorrow stories of how this history has harmed the families of many Indigenous Episcopalians.

While complete records are unavailable, we know that The Episcopal Church was associated with Indigenous schools during the 19th and 20th centuries. We must come to a full understanding of the legacies of these schools.

As chair and vice-chair of Executive Council, and in consultation with our church's Indigenous leaders, we pledge to make right relationships with our Indigenous siblings an important focus of the work of Executive Council and the 80th General Convention.

To that end, we commit to the work of truth and reconciliation with Indigenous communities in our church. We pledge to spend time with our Indigenous siblings, listening to their stories and history, and seeking their wisdom about how we can together come to terms with this part of our history. We call upon Executive Council to deliver a comprehensive proposal for addressing the legacy of Indigenous schools at the 80th [General Convention](#), including earmarking resources for independent research in the archives of The Episcopal Church, options for developing culturally appropriate liturgical materials and plans for educating Episcopalians across the church about this history, among other initiatives.

We also commend Department of the Interior Secretary Deb Haaland on her [establishment](#) of the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative and the effort to “shed light on the traumas of the past.” The Episcopal Church is also working to support legislation that will establish a truth and healing commission on Indian boarding school policy, which would complement the Department of the Interior's [new initiative](#).

As followers of Jesus, we must pursue truth and reconciliation in every corner of our lives, embracing God's call to recognition of wrongdoing, genuine lamentation, authentic apology, true repentance, amendment of life and the nurture of right relationships. This is the Gospel path to becoming beloved community.

Statement on Boarding Schools and the Episcopal Church's Pursuit of Truth and Reconciliation by Bishop Mark Lattime

Truth and Reconciliation are bound together.

In the past few weeks, the unmarked graves of over a thousand Indigenous children have been discovered on the grounds of former boarding schools in Canada—schools operated by the Church. The discovery of these graves has torn open the wounds of historical trauma in the lives of Indigenous and Native people across this land and confronts the Church with its legacy in this trauma.

In this we are reminded, with hearts torn open, that even the Church is called to seek the truth, speak the truth, and renounce its sin so that reconciliation and forgiveness may be possible.

The Episcopal Church has a history of operating boarding schools in Alaska. While the records of Episcopal Mission Schools in Alaska portray a commitment to loving care and nurture of children, as well as an abiding respect for native language and culture, the Episcopal Church is not immune from the need



46th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Alaska Resolution #2021-01- passed unanimously

to pursue and speak the truth, to renounce the evils of the past, to lament our part in the sorrow and trauma of others, and to seek forgiveness and reconciliation.

The Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, and the President of the House of Deputies, Gay Clark Jennings, have issued a statement on Indigenous boarding schools. In that statement, which is copied below, they call the whole Episcopal Church to the work of truth and reconciliation. They pledge that the Episcopal Church will “spend time with our Indigenous siblings, listening to their stories and history, and seeking their wisdom about how we can together come to terms with this part of our history.”

As Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Alaska, I pledge to hold our church accountable to this work and, along with our elected Deputies to General Convention and Standing Committee, to ensure that Alaska Native voices, wisdom, and experience will be included in this pursuit of truth and reconciliation.