

## **“Litany of Reconciliation”**

**Bishop:** Almighty God, You are the Creator of all: Grant your blessing upon us who are gathered here, and upon the multitudes of every name, who are joined with us in one household of faith throughout the world.

**Delegates:** We offer you, O God, our thanksgiving, and come to offer our worship to the Father of us all.

**Bishop:** Hear our prayer as we seek greater respect for the Native American legacy and tradition that shapes our Annual conference. We confess our lack of knowledge regarding the history and contributions of our Native American sisters and brothers.

**Delegates:** Hear us, O Lord, we pray.

**Bishop:** The Gospel calls us to celebrate and protect the worth and dignity of all peoples. We acknowledge that we, as individuals and as a church, have not sufficiently confessed our lack of understanding, apathy, and sin. Confession of our guilt is a first step toward wholeness.

**Delegates:** Save us, O God, from the pride that is synonymous with death.

**Bishop:** In our desire to seek reconciliation with all people, we do not minimize our sin and complicity. We simply seek your Holy Spirit to fill us with a deep desire to support, assist, and reconcile with those who have not known or understood the native people within and outside the church. Foster a deep sense of community with all Native Americans.

**Delegates:** Lord, make our entire life a response to your invitation of Love; may each moment draw us closer to you and to each other.

**Bishop:** If it is possible, Gracious God, bring together native Christians in order to build bridges of understanding, respect, and healing that will promote attitudes of proper respect and support. Let there be no misunderstanding or lack of harmony between us. Ensure a path toward unity for generations of people who have lived to long with feelings of mistrust and fear.

**Delegates: Help us Lord to live free of doubt, deeply believing in the possibility of perfection and sanctification of all people.**

**Bishop:** We are called to “proclaim release to the captives ... to set at liberty those who are oppressed” (Luke 4:18, RXV). Allow us to be the instruments of your peace. Create in us a continuous need for Native American understanding, sensitivity, input, and participation among and within the church. Forgive our vague communications, our minimal efforts, our unwillingness to love, and our failure to make efforts to become more informed.

**Delegates: Loving God, when we become aware of our guilt, shame, insecurity, or doubt, let your divine compassion be the assurance and consolation we need.**

**Bishop:** We need your guidance, Jesus, our Lord, to understand how people can be forcibly removed from their homelands and forced to live on restricted reservations. We need your grace to help us understand how that relates personally to us. Make us sensitive to the impact of these sinful actions on many generations, and of the sinful outcomes upon people who have been treated as remote, lost in time, and invisible. Simply because we do not see these things does not lessen the hurt and devastation that makes it difficult to recover and fully participate in “the abundant life” you have promised.

**Delegates: Lord, fill us with holy awareness, and make forgiveness and reconciliation the controlling desire of our lives.**

**Bishop:** This is a time of new beginnings; to pray and to work for that new day in relationship with all peoples. The church is called through your mercy, O God, to become a channel of the reconciling Spirit of Jesus Christ and an instrument of love in the development of new relations. We affirm for the church and ourselves that many elements of our traditions and cultures are consistent with the gospel of Jesus Christ. We affirm that the Holy Spirit is faithful in guiding us in holy living. We invite the entire Church to receive the gifts of Native people as people of God.

**Delegates: Lord, Jesus, freedom and truth prepares us for Eternal Life with you. Help us to cling only to the truth that brings about unfailing friendship with you. O God, you have given us the grace to be the instruments of love, and have commissioned us to proclaim forgiveness and condemnation; deliverance to the captive and captivity to the proud: Give us the patience of those who understand, and the impatience of those who love, that the might of your gentleness may work through us, and the mercy of your wrath may speak through us; in the name of Jesus Christ and for his sake. Amen.**

SOURCE: Oklahoma United Methodist Conference

