2019 RESOLUTION

TITLE: Acknowledging and Praying for the People of the Land

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Church Name: St. Michael & All Angels

Church City: Tucson

Endorsed by: Council for Native American Ministry, and Rector/Vicar

BE IT RESOLVED: that the 59th Convention of the Diocese of Arizona recommit this Diocese to the acknowledgement of the People of the Land (Native people and their land) in relationship to our geographical location, as expressed in Resolution 2016-3, passed at the 56th Diocesan Convention, and

BE IT RESOLVED: that each congregation acknowledge the People of the Land (Native people and their land) during its Annual Meeting so that it is noted in the minutes, as well as at meetings and other gatherings as a routine practice in the life of the community, and in worship bulletins or inserts, in publications, and on websites, and

BE IT RESOLVED: that this Convention renew and strengthen its encouragement that each congregation acknowledge the People of the Land (Native people and their land) during worship in the Prayers of the People as a routine practice, and

BE IT RESOLVED: that this Convention commend to Rectors and Vicars the appendix to this resolution, which provides suitable language for such acknowledgements in meetings, bulletins, publications, and websites, as well as petitions which may be added to the Prayers of the People, corresponding to the six forms provided in Rite Two of the Holy Eucharist in the Book of Common Prayer, and

BE IT RESOLVED: that this Convention encourage congregations which do not use the Prayer Book forms to use the appended petitions as a starting point for adding prayer for the People of the Land into their local forms of the Prayers of the People.
Explanation: The 56th Convention of the Diocese of Arizona passed a resolution (2016-3) which required congregations to acknowledge the People of the Land, including at their Annual Meeting, as well as in publications and worship bulletins, and in the Prayers of the People, as a regular practice.

This resolution renews these commitments, and provides, in an appendix, language for such acknowledgements and liturgical language for Prayers of the People.
Appendix to Resolution “Acknowledging and Praying for the People of the Land”

Goal

To promote reconciliation and maintain awareness of and respect for the dignity of the original inhabitants of the land and Native peoples in our contemporary setting.

Acknowledging the People of the Land in meetings

Protocol

The Acknowledgement of traditional custodians is spoken by a non-Native person before the commencement of any meeting or gathering. It is the first words to be spoken and is followed by a short pause. If a Native person is present, their welcome to the land takes priority.

Suggested words of acknowledgement of traditional peoples

Choose one of the following six ‘acknowledgements of traditional custodians’ for your gathering.

1. I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land, the ______ people, and call on the Spirit Ancestors to walk with us today as we share and learn together. (Pause)

2. We acknowledge the traditional peoples of the land on which we stand. We pay our respects to them for their care of the land. (Pause)

3. I would like to begin by acknowledging the ______ people, the traditional custodians on whose land this church was built. (Pause)

4. I acknowledge the living culture of the ______ people, the traditional custodians of the land we stand on, and pay tribute to the unique role they play in the life of this region. (Pause)

5. I wish to begin by acknowledging that our church is located on the land of the ______ people. I pay respect to their tribal elders, I celebrate their continuing culture, and I acknowledge the memory of their ancestors. (Pause)

6. I would like to acknowledge the ______ people, the traditional custodians of the land on which we are meeting today. I acknowledge that they have occupied and cared for this land over countless generations and I celebrate their continuing contribution to the life of this region. (Pause)

This acknowledgement could be said together:

We acknowledge and pay respect to the ______ as the original people of the land and their role as custodians of this land given to them by our one and only Creator God. We commit ourselves to actively work alongside indigenous people for reconciliation and justice as we live into our Baptismal Covenant and respect the dignity of every person. (Pause)
Acknowledging the People of the Land in bulletins, publications, and on websites

Suggested words of acknowledgement of traditional peoples

Acknowledging the people of the land, the ______ , and other indigenous people as original stewards of this land, we give thanks for our ancestors, our elders, and for all indigenous peoples who worship with us today.

Praying for the People of the Land at the Holy Eucharist

These petitions are designed to be inserted in Forms I through VI of the Prayers of the People, as provided beginning on pp. 383 of the Book of Common Prayer. Congregations which use forms other than those provided in the Book of Common Prayer are encouraged to use these petitions as a starting point for including prayer for the People of the Land in their local forms of the Prayers of the People.

These petitions were drafted by the Rev. Canon Debbie Royals and the Rev. David Benedict Hedges, BSG. Care has been taken to include language and images from Native sources within the Anglican tradition, as well as to ensure that each petition fits the style, length, and format of the various forms of the Prayers of the People.

Form I

For healing, justice, and reconciliation between Native American people and the people of this Diocese, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

Placement: after “For this city...”

Form II

I ask your prayers for the original stewards of this land, and I ask your thanksgivings for our ancestors and our elders.
Pray for all Native American people who worship with us today.

Placement: after “I ask your prayers for peace...”

Form III

We honor and pray for our Indigenous neighbors.
That we may dwell together in respectful harmony.

Placement: after “We pray for all bishops...”

Form IV

Help us to honor the knowledge of our Indigenous neighbors, to listen through them to your call to renew the life of the earth, and to live together as your people.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.
Placement: after “Guide the people of this land...”

**Form V**

For a spirit of reconciliation and right relationship with our Native American relatives, that we may be a healing presence in this place, we pray to you, O Lord.

Placement: after “For the peace of the world...”

**Form IV**

For reconciliation with Native American peoples;
*For healing and justice with all who share this land.*

Placement: after “For all who are in danger...”