

Newman Congregational Church, United Church of Christ
100 Newman Avenue, Rumford, RI 02916

Land Acknowledgment Statement

Approved at the Annual Meeting on February 12, 2023

Newman Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, acknowledges that the Pokanoket Tribe has inhabited the Sowams lands, where our current meeting house stands, for over 10,000 years. In 1643 Rev. Samuel Newman gathered our congregation and built the first permanent settlement here within the Rehoboth land purchased from Massasoit Ousamequin, Great Leader of the Pokanokets. As an institution standing on Christian principles, this church respects the Pokanoket people who continue to serve as stewards of these lands and waterways. We seek to undo the legacy of dehumanization and dispossession that makes the work of decolonization necessary. Let this acknowledgement serve as a reminder of our ongoing efforts to recognize, honor, reconcile and partner with indigenous peoples.