



Moving Beyond Land Acknowledgements

With Dr. Kelly Sherman-Conroy

Workshop Goals

What is a Land Acknowledgement?

Why is a Land Acknowledgment important?

Writing your Land Acknowledgement

After the Land Acknowledgement



WHY ARE YOU HERE?







LOCAL ARTISTS

Address for Video: <https://youtu.be/ETOhNzBsiKA>



How does story change your perspective on Land Acknowledgements?



Why is Indigenous Land Acknowledgement Important?

It is important to understand the longstanding history that has brought you to reside on the land and to seek to understand your place within that history. Land acknowledgments do not exist in past tense or historical context: colonialism is a current ongoing process and building your mindfulness of our present participation.



Tips for writing

Key Components:

- **Self Reflection**

Before starting work on your land acknowledgment statement, reflect on the process:

Why am I doing this land acknowledgment? (If you're hoping to inspire others to take action to support Indigenous communities, you're on the right track. If you're delivering a land acknowledgment out of guilt or because everyone else is doing it, more self-reflection is in order.)

What is my end goal? (What do you hope listeners will do after hearing the acknowledgment?)

When will I have the largest impact? (Think about your timing and audience, specifically.)

Tips for writing

- **Do your homework**
 - The Indigenous people to whom the land belongs.
 - The history of the land and any related treaties.
 - Names of living Indigenous people from these communities. If you're presenting on behalf of your work in a certain field, highlight Indigenous people who currently work in that field.
Indigenous place names and language.
 - Correct pronunciation for the names of the Tribes, places, and individuals that you're including.
 - Know and understand current issues.





Tips for writing

- **Use appropriate language**

Don't sugarcoat the past. Use terms like genocide, ethnic cleansing, stolen land, and forced removal to reflect actions taken by colonizers.

- **Use past, present, and future tenses.**

Indigenous people are still here, and they're thriving. Don't treat Indigenous People as a relic of the past.

Land acknowledgments shouldn't be grim. They should function as living celebrations of Indigenous communities. Ask yourself, "How am I leaving Indigenous people in a stronger, more empowered place because of this land acknowledgment?" Focus on the positivity of who Indigenous people are today.

Examples of Land Acknowledgements



Budweiser GARDENS

“

IN THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION, WE WOULD LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT BUDWEISER GARDENS OPERATES WITHIN THE TRADITIONAL HOMELAND TERRITORY OF THE ANISHINAABEK, HAUDENOSAUNEE, LŪNAAPÉEWAK, AND ATTAWANDARON PEOPLES, ON LANDS CONNECTED WITH THE LONDON TOWNSHIP AND SOMBRA TREATIES OF 1796 AND THE DISH WITH ONE SPOON COVENANT WAMPUM. THIS LAND CONTINUES TO BE HOME TO DIVERSE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (FIRST NATIONS, MÉTIS, AND INUIT) WHOM WE RECOGNIZE AS CONTEMPORARY STEWARDS OF THE LAND AND VITAL CONTRIBUTORS OF OUR SOCIETY. ADDITIONALLY, THERE IS A GROWING URBAN INDIGENOUS POPULATION WHO MAKE THE CITY OF LONDON HOME. WE VALUE THE SIGNIFICANT HISTORICAL AND CONTEMPORARY CONTRIBUTIONS OF LOCAL AND REGIONAL FIRST NATIONS OF TURTLE ISLAND (NORTH AMERICA).

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Land **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Richfield United Methodist Church gathers on the ancestral lands of the Dakota People.

Richfield United Methodist Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota acknowledges that we gather on the traditional, ancestral, and contemporary lands of the Dakota People.

These lands hold historical, spiritual, and personal significance to the Dakota People. We are grateful for Indigenous Nations and their continued stewardship of these lands and we appreciate their perseverance and strength. The Dakota People were harmed by the United States government through broken promises and unjust treaties, including the Cession 289 Treaty of 1851 which names the Wahpeton and Sisseton Bands. These atrocities effectively stole this geographical area and further harm and trauma have come through displacement, ethnic cleansing, and genocide. This church formed in 1854 as one of the first institutions established by white settlers in this geographical area and benefited directly from this harm inflicted upon the Dakota People.

In repentance, this church seeks active partnership with Native American communities and organizations in the State of Minnesota and beyond. We affirm tribal sovereignty. We reject attitudes of invisibility and erasure of Indigenous Peoples. We oppose policies and actions that threaten or demean Indigenous culture and tribal sovereignty by any means. We call upon our fellow houses of worship in the interfaith community to acknowledge the realities of the lands on which they gather and take educational and restorative justice action. With God's help, we commit to doing better.

This land acknowledgment was unanimously affirmed by the Richfield UMC Ad Board on March 23, 2021. It was first presented as part of worship on April 18, 2021, which was Native American Ministries Sunday, one of the Special Sundays of The United Methodist Church.

Richfieldumc.org



Resource Assessment

What resources can you personally provide to support Indigenous people and nations? Don't be afraid to get creative here.

Can you set aside money each month for a recurring donation to an Indigenous organization?

Do you have land that you want to return to Indigenous people, either now or in the future?

Do you have time to show up to an Indigenous-led protest or help create a voluntary land tax program in your area?

If you have access to more funds...how can you create a scholarship, or other needed entry fee help to give away to Indigenous People?

Beyond Land Acknowledgement Cohort

A 6-month intentional cohort of congregations that are working towards intentional reparations and building relationships with the Indigenous community in the ELCA and local communities. Monthly cohort meetings, and individual consultations for each congregation to create an intentional plan of action and additional resources needed to move forward.

**Self Reflection Process
[Organizational
Assessment]**

Church Homework

Indigenous Homework

**Crafting of Land
Acknowledgement**

Action Plan Assessment

Start Your Action Plan

Conclusion

And lastly...but this doesn't mean an end... Go public. Don't keep your work to yourself. Share your steps with your friends, family, and neighbors. Put them on Instagram. Tell your community that you are committed to supporting Indigenous people, and challenge people, other schools and institutions, churches in your life to create their own acknowledgement.