



## Presbytery of Milwaukee Land Acknowledgment

(Approved February 19, 2022)

*As part of our commitment to repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery and to confess the denomination's complicity in dispossession and settler colonialism, as well as our relationships with the city, the land, and the environment, the Presbytery of Milwaukee has written the following land acknowledgment.*

The Presbytery of Milwaukee is situated on the ancestral homelands of these nations: the Kiikaapoi, the Peoria, the Hoocąk, the Bodéwadmi, the Menominee, the Sauk and Meskwaki, the Myaamia, and the Očhéthi Šakówiŋ. Indigenous people continue to live in this area and celebrate their traditional teachings and lifeways. Today, the geographic footprint of the Presbytery of Milwaukee is still home to vital Indigenous communities. As religious leaders, it is our responsibility to acknowledge this historical context and to be good partners with and advocates for the tribal nations on whose trust lands we inhabit.

We make this land acknowledgement with repentance for the damage and devastation brought on these peoples and on the individuals. We acknowledge our complicity through our Presbyterian heritage in the erasure of native peoples and their cultures, in addition to their forcible removal and the taking of their lands. Presbyterians stewarded seventeen Native American boarding schools, where students were typically removed from their Native communities, stripped of their Native identities, and forced to assimilate to white standards. These schools (of which we know with confirmation) were:

- the Albuquerque Indian School
- the Burney Institute
- the Cameron Institute
- the Chuala Female Seminary
- the Dwight Indian School
- the Mary Gregory Memorial School
- the Nuyaka School and Orphanage
- the Oak Hill Industrial Academy



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- the Oak Ridge Manual Labor School
- the Oklahoma Presbyterian College for Girls
- the Sheldon Jackson College
- the Tucson Indian Training School
- the Wapanucka Academy
- the Wewoka Mission School
- the Wheelock Academy
- the Wolf Point Indian Training School
- the Wrangell Institute

We promise to support the interests of the Hoocąk (Ho-Chunk) and Bodéwadmi (Potawatomi) nations, on whose trust lands our churches stand, in order to engage with the important work they are leading in language, culture, and land reclamation, through relationship and financial accountability.