

1 **Resolution to Repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery (adopted as amended)**

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3 **<Amended text as it would appear if adopted. Scroll below the line of asterisks (\*\*\*\*\*) to**  
4 **see the version showing all deleted and added text.>**

5  
6 *Resolved*, that the 135<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Episcopal Church in Western Oregon affirms the  
7 General Convention Resolution [2009-D035](#) in repudiating and renouncing the Doctrine of  
8 Discovery as fundamentally opposed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and our understanding of the  
9 inherent rights that individuals and peoples have received from God; and be it further

10  
11 *Resolved*, that the 135<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Episcopal Church in Western Oregon repudiates  
12 the Doctrine of Discovery as fundamentally opposed to the concept of each person bearing the  
13 image of God, the human dignity given to every person by God, and the Gospel of Jesus Christ;  
14 and be it further

15  
16 *Resolved*, that we, as members of the Episcopal Church in Western Oregon, research, name and  
17 confess our historical and present participation in and benefit from the displacement of  
18 Indigenous peoples throughout Western Oregon through the suppression and attempted  
19 erasure of indigenous culture, language, and traditions. We lament the devastating results of  
20 trauma from the colonial and settler mentality that still affects and oppresses Indigenous  
21 people today; and be further resolved,

22  
23 *Resolved*, that we continue to dedicate ourselves to the work of reparation, reconciliation, and  
24 healing through the support of Indigenous cultural revitalization, tribal sovereignty, land and  
25 habitat restoration, and antiracism and racial reconciliation training and formation in our  
26 Diocese, with each congregation and diocesan institution being responsible for submitting a  
27 yearly report of its efforts to the Diocesan Missioner for Racial Reconciliation; and be it further

28  
29 *Resolved*, that as part of our commitment to and intentional relationships with the Indigenous  
30 Peoples of Oregon, the 135<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Episcopal Church in Western Oregon urges  
31 all congregations and Diocesan institutions to research and collaborate with Indigenous peoples  
32 displaced in their area to develop [Land Acknowledgment](#) liturgies and prayers to incorporate  
33 into any public meetings or worship.

34  
35 **\*\*\*\*\*<Proposed amended resolution text showing exact changes being made:>**

36  
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38 General Convention Resolution [2009-D035](#) in repudiating and renouncing the Doctrine of  
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63 incorporate into any public meetings or worship.  
64

65 **Submitted by:**

66 Sydney Fitzpatrick, Christ Church, Lake Oswego  
67

68 **Endorsed by:**

69 **Truth and Reconciliation Working Group:**

70 Concetta Buckner, St. Luke's, Grant's Pass

71 Miki Charlton, St. John the Baptist, Portland

72 Bernadine Clay, St. Philip the Deacon, Portland

73 Bob Craft, Trinity Cathedral, Portland

74 Pamela Filbert, St. Timothy, Salem

75 The Rev. Ernestein Flemister, Missioner for Racial Reconciliation

76 Alan Murray, Trinity Cathedral, Portland

77 Meredith Pech, Trinity, Ashland  
78

79 **Explanation:**  
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81 As people who freely live and work on the lands of Western Oregon, whose original inhabitants  
82 were deprived of those all-encompassing benefits nearly 200 years ago, we, as Episcopalians,  
83 are compelled to respond. We are mindful of many different Christian denominational  
84 responses to the Doctrine of Discovery and subsequent edicts resulting from its adoption and  
85 must now look at the work we have begun to do and expand our vision.  
86

87 We are called by the wider Episcopal Church to work for the full inclusion of Indigenous people  
88 in the life, work, and leadership of the Church and we must acknowledge and work to repair the  
89 long-term damage done to our Indigenous siblings. The violence and damage through the  
90 centuries were sanctioned by the Christian Doctrine of Discovery and the institutions fostered  
91 by its adoption.<sup>1</sup>

92

93 The Doctrine of Discovery is defined as “the idea that Christians enjoy the moral and legal right  
94 based solely on their religious identity to invade and seize Indigenous lands and to dominate  
95 Indigenous peoples.”<sup>2</sup> We are most recently reacquainted with the atrocities practiced in the  
96 boarding schools (hereafter referred to as assimilation camps) against the most vulnerable and  
97 innocent populations of young children.<sup>3</sup> We therefore propose a resolution to repudiate the  
98 Doctrine of Discovery. In this resolution, we propose to educate ourselves, our churches, and  
99 our communities and provide leadership in efforts of reconciliation.<sup>4</sup> We hereby begin the  
100 process of, as a Diocese of Acknowledgment and apology for our complicity in the cultural  
101 genocide of Indigenous peoples.<sup>5</sup>

102

103 1. “Statement on the Doctrine of Discovery and Its Enduring Impact on Indigenous Peoples.”

104 <https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/documents/statement-on-the-doctrine-ofdiscovery>

105

106 2. "Cultural genocide" and Native American children. Equal Justice Initiative. (2019, November  
107 11). <https://eji.org/news/history-racial-injustice-cultural-genocide/>.

108

109 3. Ferguson, Tom. “We Are Pontius Pilate: Council of Churches, February 17,

110 2012. <https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/documents/statement-on-the-doctrine-ofdiscovery>

111

112 4. "Cultural genocide" and Native American children. Equal Justice Initiative. (2019, November  
113 11). <https://eji.org/news/history-racial-injustice-cultural-genocide/>.