

An ELCIC Resolution on Encouraging Right Relationships with Indigenous Peoples

Adopted by the 2011 National Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

That this convention commits this church to promoting right and renewed relationships between nonindigenous and Indigenous Peoples within Canada.

That the ELCIC affirms that we are all treaty people, and we will find ways to mature in our living together. This is assisted by remembering the rights, responsibilities and dignity that are bestowed by God and lived out with one another. We affirm that recognizing and implementing indigenous rights is essential to being the kind of society Canada strives to be.

That the ELCIC endorses the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples adopted by the UN General Assembly on 13 September 2007; and adopts the declaration as a standard for our own practice. We commit to implementing the values and principles of the declaration within the work and structures of this church.

That this convention asks the National Bishop to write to the Prime Minister, encouraging the Government of Canada to work collaboratively with Indigenous Peoples on the full and effective implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and to provide the Parliament of Canada with regular reports on how the Government will reform laws and policies in order to meet the UN Declaration's standards.

That this church actively supports the work and goals of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Walking by faith and with the Spirit, we will listen to diverse voices, in order to deepen our understanding of history and of today's challenges, injustices and opportunities. We will be part of dreaming, praying and working together for a reconciled and hopeful future. We recognize that immediate action and long-term commitment are required for healing to occur.

To further encourage right relations with Indigenous peoples,

That congregations, in their annual reports be encouraged to include a summary of participation in relationship-building activities with Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples, and

That the ELCIC, at its 2013 National Convention with the ACC in Ottawa, seek to ensure that the rights of Indigenous peoples, and our ongoing reconciliation focus, are priorities.

This convention calls on the synods, congregations, members and all expressions of this church to seek out opportunities to deepen understanding of indigenous rights, to participate in Canada's Truth and Reconciliation process, and to renew relationships between indigenous and non-indigenous peoples in our varied contexts. We commend to members of this church the KAIROS resource *In Peace and Friendship: A New Relationship with Aboriginal Peoples* as one tool for living out our calling as a covenant people who are *In Mission for Others*.