

Resolution: Justice For Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW)

WHEREAS, NC Women of the ELCA was made aware of the continued injustice of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women in North Carolina with the 2022 Spring Gathering Program on “Voices for Justice”; and

WHEREAS, we have been made aware that there is little to no data regarding Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women due to the lack of reporting systems within Indigenous Communities; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge that the collection and analysis of data is a necessary component to conduct investigations and work towards Justice for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women; and

WHEREAS, violence against women speaks to our need for Justice as defined by Scripture; and

WHEREAS, violence against any single woman is an affront to God, and all peoples should work tirelessly to stop violence in all of its forms, and a lack of action, once made aware, is a disappoint to God; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge that during the Pandemic, a number of states with large Indigenous Populations have created Task Forces to grapple with the issue of Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women which could serve as a blueprint for a Task Force here in North Carolina;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the NC Women of the ELCA make a commitment to work tirelessly towards Justice for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women in North Carolina; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we are called to be Bold Women of Faith and we have been assured by God that we are doing His work when working towards Justice; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the NC Women of the ELCA advocate for the creation of a North Carolina Task Force with the purpose of Justice for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women in North Carolina; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we, as an organization, actively participate in a campaign for Justice using all means at hand, such as a sustained letter writing campaign to encourage North Carolina legislators to create a Task Force for MMIW; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we will establish a partnership with NC Synod and Churchwide in order to take advantage of their greater resources with their work for Justice for Indigenous Peoples; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we can be confident that when we are working for Justice, our efforts *will* be enough to enact change.

Submitted by Lorri Monterose