

## CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS

# INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

### What does the Bible say?

So God created humankind in God's image, in the image of God, God created them; male and female. **(Genesis 1:27)**

What are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honor. **(Psalm 8:4-5)**

But they shall sit under their own vines and under their own fig trees, and no one shall make them afraid, for the Lord of hosts has spoken. **(Micah 4:4)**

I am the vine and you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you do nothing. **(John 15:5)**



### What does the United Methodist Church say?

Globalization threatens the human rights of indigenous peoples, including their aspirations for self-determination. Exploration and colonization have led to rapid appropriation of indigenous peoples' lands and natural resources, and the destruction of their sciences, ideas, arts, and cultures. **(Resolution 2103.**

**Globalization and its Impact on Human Dignity and Human Rights, Section C: Indigenous Peoples: Toward Self-Determination)**

We condemn all attempts to deny individuals their basic rights or freedoms or to strip human beings of their inherent dignity and worth... Additionally, in the face of historic wrongs perpetrated against indigenous peoples, enslaved African peoples, and other marginalized groups, we call for forthright confession and repentance as well as concrete acts of reparations to redress past and present forms of social injustice. **(Social Principles, The Political Community, Section on Basic Rights and Freedoms)**

We support the rights of indigenous, native, and aboriginal communities and affirm that like all people they must be afforded the basic rights set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We condemn acts of genocide against indigenous peoples and call for government treaties and contracts with native and aboriginal people to be honored and enforced. **(The Political Community, Basic Rights and Freedoms, F., Indigenous, Native and Aboriginal Communities)**



**CHURCH & SOCIETY**

The United Methodist Church

Living **FAITH** Seeking **JUSTICE** Pursuing **PEACE**

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### What do the facts say?

- As of July 1, 2022, the U.S. Census Bureau estimated that 4.3 million people identified as American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) alone, and 7.1 million identified as AI/AN alone or in combination with another race. ([www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov))
- In 2023, 23.5% of AI/AN adults aged 18–64 lacked health insurance coverage at the time of the interview ([www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov))
- In 2022, only 16.8% of AI/AN individuals aged 25 or older had earned a bachelor's degree or higher, compared to the national average of 35.7% according to the Postsecondary National Policy Institute.



### What do you say?

Take **ACTION** for justice...

- **Stand** in solidarity with Indigenous-led movements advocating for land rights, treaty enforcement, cultural preservation, and self-determination.
- **Advocate** and sign on to the Action Alert promoting the “Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act in the U.S.”
- **Learn** and teach the true histories and present realities of Indigenous peoples, including the Church's role in colonialism and assimilation policies.



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