

1 **A Class I Resolution**

2 **TITLE:**

3 **A Resolution Regarding the State of Minnesota's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the Establishing**  
4 **of Ongoing Relationships with Minnesota Native America Communities**

5 **DATE SUBMITTED:** March 3, 2008

6 **JOINTLY SUBMITTED BY:** **Justice and Witness Team of the Minnesota**  
7 **Conference UCC**

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13 **and**

14 **Emmaus Anti-Racism Transformation Team of the**  
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20 **SUMMARY OF INTENT:** A resolution to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the State of  
21 Minnesota as a year for acknowledging the history of the relationship between  
22 European-Americans and Native Americans, repenting of the injustices that are part of  
23 that history and its continuing legacy, and beginning a new relationship by European-  
24 American governments and peoples with Native American governments and peoples.

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26 WHEREAS the State of Minnesota is recognizing its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2008; and

27 WHEREAS we members of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ are  
28 also residents of the State of Minnesota; and

29 WHEREAS the history of the relationship between the Native American and European  
30 American communities is rife with injustices visited upon Native American nations and  
31 attempts to destroy or dominate Indian peoples, families, resources and cultures, along  
32 with resistance by Native Americans to this destruction and domination; and

33 WHEREAS we Christians believe, and try to live by, the words of Jesus Christ that "The truth  
34 shall make you free;" (John 8:32b) and

35 WHEREAS we Christians also believe we need to repent of our own sins; (Acts 2:38;  
36 Romans 2:1-11) and

37 WHEREAS we Christians are called by the Gospel to show evidence of our repentance;  
38 (Matthew 3:8, 10; Romans 12:9-21; Ephesians 4:22-32) and

39 WHEREAS we Christians are called to love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength,  
40 and to love our neighbors as ourselves; (Mark 12:28-32; Luke 10:25-28) and

41 WHEREAS the Gospel of Jesus Christ calls all Christians to reach out to each other and our  
42 neighbors in love and compassion, with justice and in peace; (Matthew 25:31-46; James  
43 2:14-26) and

44 WHEREAS we residents of the State of Minnesota have access to resources to learn the  
45 history of the European American and Native American relationship:

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48 BE IT RESOLVED that we, the 2008 annual meeting of the Minnesota Conference of the  
49 United Church of Christ, call on the Governor and Legislature of the State of Minnesota  
50 to use the occasion of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the State of Minnesota to begin a new  
51 relationship between European American and Native American governments and  
52 communities; and  
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54 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we, the 2008 annual meeting of the Minnesota  
55 Conference of the United Church of Christ, urge the Minnesota State Legislature to pass  
56 a resolution, and the Governor of Minnesota to sign said resolution, apologizing to the  
57 Native American nations and communities located within the State of Minnesota for the  
58 unjust treatment of Native Americans by European Americans over the years of  
59 Minnesota history, going back before the founding of the state; and  
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61 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we, the 2008 annual meeting of the Minnesota  
62 Conference of the United Church of Christ, call on all congregations and other bodies of  
63 the United Church of Christ in Minnesota to become highly knowledgeable about the  
64 history of the relationship between the Native American and European American  
65 communities, to engage in discussions within congregations and communities regarding  
66 that history, and to form antiracist, justice-seeking relationships in support of Native  
67 American governments and communities; and  
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69 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we, the 2008 annual meeting of the Minnesota  
70 Conference of the United Church of Christ, direct the Conference Minister to send letters  
71 to the Governor and all members of the Minnesota Senate and Minnesota House on  
72 behalf of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church , urging them to pass and sign  
73 a bill beginning a new dialogue on the history and relationship of Native American and  
74 European American communities in Minnesota, including an apology for past injustices;  
75 and  
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77 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we, the 2008 annual meeting of the Minnesota  
78 Conference of the United Church of Christ, direct the Conference Minister to send letters  
79 to the Governor and all members of the Minnesota Senate and Minnesota House on  
80 behalf of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of Christ, urging them to pass  
81 and sign bills or resolutions proposed by the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council regarding  
82 the Minnesota Sesquicentennial and the need for apologies and new relationship; and  
83 finally  
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85 BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that the Justice and Witness Team and Emmaus Anti-Racism  
86 Team continue working together to provide resources and opportunities for  
87 congregations and individuals of the Minnesota Conference of the United Church of  
88 Christ to learn the truth about this aspect of our state's history, and to be in antiracist,  
89 justice-seeking relationships with Native American nations and communities located  
90 within the State.

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## 92 **FUNDING IMPLICATIONS**

93 Funding will come out of the budgets of Conference Office, the Justice & Witness Team, and  
94 the Emmaus Antiracism Leadership Team