

Using Land Acknowledgements in the NC Synod

Land Acknowledgement for the Beginning of Worship (Spoken)

The North Carolina Synod acknowledges and honors the names of the **Keyauwee*** people upon whose ancestral homelands we gather for worship, as well as all of our indigenous siblings who have continued to care for this place—and this land—and call it their home.

Land Acknowledgement for Worship Bulletin or Event Publication (Written)

The North Carolina Synod office is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the **Keyauwee*** people and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our indigenous siblings who have called and continue to call this land their home.

Land Acknowledgement for Online Meetings & Events (Spoken)

We are gathered together in this virtual place from all parts of Turtle Island, connected by technology; faith; a common sense of purpose; the breath given us by the breath-maker, who has named and called us here; and the very piece of Mother Earth—the land—that each of us inhabits today.

We understand the importance and necessity of acknowledging the land as well as the original, indigenous peoples whose creation stories are rooted in these places and who have lived on these lands throughout Turtle Island since time immemorial.

We also understand that all land is indigenous land. I invite each of you to name in the chat feature the indigenous peoples or tribal nations who were the first to love, pray, grow, celebrate, cry, drum, and sing upon the lands and places where you are now located.

[Give attendees a moment to name tribes in the chat feature.]

We know that indigenous peoples are not historical subjects but are part of our communities, churches, schools, and leadership, and that they offer invaluable wisdom for the ways we exist, today and into the future, in relationship with Mother Earth and our human and non-human neighbors.

If you are indigenous, we invite you to name your people or tribe in the chat feature now so that we may see you more fully in this virtual space.

[Give attendees a moment to list their own tribes in the chat feature].

Thank you. We understand the importance and necessity of acknowledging the land and its original, indigenous peoples, and doing so consistently whenever and wherever we might gather. We understand that this protocol is only the first step and that, as we venture into the world, we must learn more, do more, and realize healing and justice for the indigenous peoples whose lands we now occupy.

Let us begin this work for healing and justice by entering into a place of peace and prayer together.

Land Acknowledgement for Gathering or In-Person Events (Spoken)

We are gathered together in this place from all parts of Turtle Island, connected by faith; a common sense of purpose; and the breath given us by the breath-maker, who has named and called us here. We understand the importance and necessity of acknowledging the land and the original, indigenous peoples whose creation stories are rooted in these places and who have lived on these lands throughout Turtle Island since time immemorial.

We also understand that all land is indigenous land. The North Carolina Synod sits on land that was first occupied by the **Keyauwee*** tribe. We know that indigenous peoples are not historical subjects but part of our communities, churches, schools, and leadership, and that they offer invaluable wisdom for the ways we exist, today and into the future, in relationship with Mother Earth and our human and non-human neighbors.

We understand the importance and necessity of acknowledging the land and its original, indigenous peoples, and doing so consistently whenever and wherever we might gather. We understand that this protocol is only the first step and that, as we venture into the world, we must learn more, do more, and realize healing and justice for the indigenous peoples whose lands we now occupy.

Let us begin this work for healing and justice by entering into a place of peace and prayer together.

*The synod office is located on land that first belonged to the **Keyauwee** [kə'yaü(,)wē] people. If you are leading from a different location in our synod, please update the language to reflect the tribal lands you are on. You can find that information here: <https://native-land.ca/>.