

Land Acknowledgment Statement

On this Native American Sunday, we at St. Paul's publish anew the Land Acknowledgement statement we've been working with over the past year—a working document drawn from a model offered by justice-seeking colleagues with the Syracuse Cultural Workers, which we use with permission. We hope this statement, and the thoughts, conversations, and prayers behind it, will lead us into repentance, reconciliation, and renewed commitment to shared well-being with our neighbors.

We respectfully acknowledge that we live on the land of the Gayogohó:nq' (Cayuga) Nation, part of the Hodihnohsó':nih (Haudenosaunee) Confederacy. They have lived harmoniously with these lands and waters for countless generations before the onslaught of colonization.

Like Indigenous Peoples across the Americas, they experienced genocide, ethnic cleansing, theft of their land and waters, forced removal, and cultural erasure, often through the complicity or ignorance of our Methodist forbears. Our ability to live, work and enjoy this area is connected to their deep loss.

We ask all in our community to respect the Gayogohó:nq' and to learn the true history of the lands on which we reside. We resolve to work with the Gayogohó:nq' people and our Hodihnohsó':nih neighbors to build a shared, sustainable future for all.