RESOLUTION to the 2020 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSION
Relating to recognition of Indigenous People’s Day as part of our Continuing the
Journey Toward Healing and Wholeness with Indigenous Peoples established by
the Act of Repentance.
Presented by the EPA Conference Committee on Native American Ministries
(CoNAM)

WHEREAS, In 2016 The Eastern Pennsylvania Annual Conference engaged in an Act
of Repentance and Healing Relationships with Indigenous Persons. Turning away from
our frequent refusal to listen to history from the perspective of Native Peoples, we
accept that repentance is a choice to grow in the way we see ourselves. We call the
Conference to continue living in a spirit of repentance by exploring a change in how we
tell the story of the Americas.
WHEREAS, an accurate history of the Indigenous People of the lands which would later
be known as the Americas includes the fact that they were not discovered by
Christopher Columbus in 1492;
WHEREAS, a true and accurate account of the Americas also includes the habitation of
the land by Indigenous Peoples long before Christopher Columbus sailed;
WHEREAS, Christopher Columbus failed to treat the Native People of the Americas
with respect, engaging in human trafficking and using his influence to establish a culture
of sexual exploitation of Native Americans that continues today;
WHEREAS, he established systems of forced labor which resulted in untold suffering
for millions of individuals;
WHEREAS, he established systems that repressed Native American cultural expression
and language through forced assimilation;
WHEREAS, he established a culture of exploitation of the earth that continues to
dishonor and often destroy God’s living creation;
WHEREAS, conversations concerning these facts would lead to setting the historical
record straight and to respect the culture, language and traditional life ways of
Indigenous Peoples.
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, these and other acts can correctly be named as
genocide, EPA Conference of the United Methodist Church strongly encourages our
clergy and local church leadership to initiate conversations among their membership
and the local community leaders to awaken them to the true and violent history of
colonialism that led to the annihilation of 96% of the Native population between 1492
and 1900.
THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, EPA CoNAM will provide and distribute
to local churches a “Litany for Indigenous People’s Day,” designed to honor and
express our thankfulness for the gifts and contributions of Indigenous Peoples, to be
used in worship on the Sunday closest to the first Monday in October.
THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the EPA of the United Methodist
Church will join the many other United Methodist institutions and state and local
governments with a call to replace the observation of “Columbus Day” with “Indigenous
People’s Day.” A copy of this resolution, signed by the Bishop, Director of Connectional
Ministries, and the co-chairpersons of CoNAM, will be sent to the Governor of
Pennsylvania.

Person Responsible for Presenting Resolution: Verna Colliver