

**A Resolution on the Complicity of the Diocese of Montana
in the History and Ongoing Impact of Indigenous Boarding Schools**

WHEREAS the people of the Diocese of Montana feel solidarity with the Assiniboine, Blackfeet, Chippewa, Cree, Crow, Gros Ventre, Kootenai, Little Shell Chippewa, Northern Cheyenne, Pend d'Oreille, Salish and Sioux people, on whose lands we stand and worship; AND

WHEREAS we share our great sadness and grief over the intergenerational trauma that arises from the practice of forcibly removing indigenous children from their families, placing them in boarding schools far from home, actively working to erase their language and culture, and covering up the abuse and deaths of those children; AND

WHEREAS we acknowledge our part in this tragedy, as a Church in Montana, for our having benefited from historic relationships with, and inheritances from, those who caused these tragedies; AND

WHEREAS we recognize that acknowledgment does not repair the harm done, and know there is much work ahead of us to seek healing and reconciliation with our relatives;

NOW THEREFORE WE RESOLVE:

THAT we pray, and will continue to pray, for all those who lost loved ones over generations at residential schools; we pray for healing and hope; we pray for comfort and peace; and, we pray for action and truth telling; AND

THAT we direct the Deputies of our Diocese to actively support resolutions, and other actions, of the General Convention of The Episcopal Church designed to listen, support, acknowledge, investigate, record, and in all ways seek to heal the harms caused by this history; AND

THAT we call on all members of our Diocese to read, mark, and inwardly digest the [Statement on Indigenous boarding schools by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry and President of the House of Deputies Gay Clark Jennings](#), dated July 12, 2021; AND

THAT we call on all members of our Diocese to remain apprised of the [Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative](#) initiated on June 22, 2021, by Secretary Deb Haaland of the United States Department of the Interior; AND

THAT we call on our Bishop, Standing Committee, and Diocesan Council to take all appropriate steps - including the appointment and funding of a relevant task force - to reach out to the Assiniboine, Blackfeet, Chippewa, Cree, Crow, Gros Ventre, Kootenai, Little Shell Chippewa, Northern Cheyenne, Pend d'Oreille, Salish and Sioux people, seek their wisdom, listen to them actively, search for how we may move forward towards healing, and report back annually to the Diocesan Convention on progress made towards repairing the harms our Church has caused, both by what we have done, and what we have left undone.