

BECOMING BELOVED COMMUNITY LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND BEYOND

The Commission for Intercultural Ministries in the Episcopal Diocese of Northern California received a grant from The Episcopal Church Becoming Beloved Community ministry to fund a project to guide two congregations to build meaningful relationships with their Native neighbors and to develop Land Acknowledgments for the land upon which the churches are located.

The two churches engaged with this project are Trinity Cathedral in Sacramento and Church of the Incarnation in Santa Rosa. Redbud Resource Group, a Santa Rosa-based and Native-owned consulting firm, has developed a toolkit for working with organizations to develop meaningful relationships between the organizations and local Native communities. Focusing initially on developing Land Acknowledgments, these relationships are steppingstones toward deeper relationships that address larger concerns about equity for the Native community. The participant congregations will be guided by Redbud Resource Group through a process of (1) assessing their readiness for the work of Land Acknowledgment and developing a relationship with local Native communities, (2) developing a plan for engaging with members of the local Native community and for crafting a Land Acknowledgment, and (3) developing a relationship with members of local Native communities and actually crafting the Land Acknowledgment. The Indigenous Missioner for the Diocese and members of the Commission for Intercultural Ministries will also work with the congregations and Redbud to ensure a smooth process and effective communication to the rest of the Diocese.



The project is anticipated to unfold over six months commencing in the fall of 2021. During this period, there will be four meetings involving the church-based teams and the Redbud consulting team. Members of the local Native communities will be brought into the process once the church teams have completed the self-assessment process and preparation for entering into relationship with their Native neighbors.

Our hope is that the process used for this project will be a model for other congregations in the diocese to use to establish relationships with their Native neighbors and to develop Land Acknowledgments.

For more information about the project, contact The Rev. Canon Tina Campbell, Missioner for Indigenous Ministries (Tcampbell@trinitycathedral.org), or Miriam Casey (mlcasey7@yahoo.com).