

Land / Territorial Acknowledgement for MCEC April 2023

Introductory explanation:

I offer an opening prayer before all other deliberations today to acknowledge deep gratitude to Creator God for the very life we have been given on the earth. We acknowledge the land on this part of the earth is the traditional territories of Indigenous peoples who have not disappeared, but are still here calling out for reconciliation and healing of the broken, unjust relationship with Canada. This path of reconciliation and justice is a contemporary fulfillment as we carry on the work of Jesus' ministry which he proclaimed in Luke 4 to be "preaching good news to the poor, release to the captives, liberty to the oppressed ... the inauguration of the acceptable year of the Lord". In addition, according to the apostle Paul in 2 Cor 5, as Christians we have a specific call to the joyful work of reconciliation.

This acknowledgment is based on #878 from *Voices Together*.

Let us pray:

Great God, at the beginning of this gathering of followers of Jesus we pause to praise and acknowledge You as our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.

We are grateful for the earth you have created that nourishes us and you given us responsibility to tend and care for.

We acknowledge we are related to the earth and all our fellow creatures, with inseparable lines of connection.

We specifically acknowledge we are gathering today on the traditional territory of Indigenous peoples.

We affirm that settler and newcomer *peoples* have specific responsibilities in the journey of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples.

The place we gather today is on the traditional territories of the Chonnonton, the Anishnaabeg and the Haudenosaunee peoples.

This place is covered by the Nanfan Treaty of 1701, the Between the Lakes Treaty of 1782, and the Haldimand Proclamation of 1784.

We are treaty people who live here on the basis of commitments that have been made and relationships that have been established.

We give thanks to *You, God our Creator for this land*, and to those peoples who have stewarded this land for generations.

We are grateful for the opportunity to live, work and worship here, as we witness the reconciling movement of the Spirit.

We commit to engage in listening, learning and acting to live into right relations with Indigenous peoples and all of creation.

Amen.