

Notice of Congregational Meeting Sunday, August 29, 2021, at 11:15 am

Letter from Pastor Faith and Moderator

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

After more than two years of intensive work authorized and encouraged by Council and performed by the Native Ministries Committee and its Overture Subcommittee and the Healing Task Force established more recently by Council, Council voted unanimously at its August 12, 2021, meeting to approve the attached Overture and to recommend approval by the congregation of a Resolution of Acknowledgment, Apology, and Reparations. Two work sessions will be held to familiarize everyone with this work and respond to questions; these will be held on

- Sunday August 22 at 11:15 am (after worship in person and on Zoom); and
- Tuesday August 24 at 5:30 pm (Zoom).

The Special Congregational Meeting will be held August 29, 2021 at 11:15 am (after worship in person and on Zoom).

The Overture is the core document in which the painful and unwarranted events that led to the closure of the Memorial Presbyterian Church are described. Some of this is not new. The events and consequences were described by our church's former Pastor Phil Campbell in a newsletter article on March 2018 and by Joaqlin Estus in the article "Segregation of Faith," published in the *First Alaskans Magazine*, Fall 2019. These writings and summaries and updates of the work that led to the overture and resolution all appear on our website under the News/Events tab where you can click on "Overture: News on Native Ministries Committee Overture Subcommittee on Closure of Memorial Presbyterian Church."

The overture will be sent by Council to Presbytery of the Northwest Coast for consideration at its next leadership summit for submission to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) for action at the next General Assembly in 2022. We hope you will read it closely. Everyone who worked on it learned things they hadn't known or truly understood about the history of our beloved church – history that weighs heavily and, that we believe, requires action by us, and by our presbytery and the General Assembly. It establishes the context for the Resolution Council recommends the Council approve.

The recommended Resolution identifies the concrete steps that we can take to advance healing of the evident and unseen pain that exists in members of our church and in the community. The Native Ministries Committee has approved of the provisions of the Resolution, but the real work was done in the Healing Task Force in which five Council members and many others took part. It includes recommendations that were discussed and approved many years ago by the congregation, but not acted on, and new ideas that reflect the new understanding learned due to the work on the Overture.

We look forward to the thoughtful and prayerful discussions ahead of us in August.

With prayers for peace and healing,

Pastor Faith McClellan and Moderator Marianne Mills