

Hocak United Church of Christ
P. O. Box 9
Black River Falls, WI. 54615

Phone: (715) 284-8737

Re: Update of Doctrine of Discovery Resolution

Greetings:

The congregation of the Hocak (Ho-Chunk) UCC would like to take this time to thank all the churches who studied and voted on the repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery. This *medieval edict was implemented in 1823 as Indian Policy and has ultimately created legal racial inequalities of people of color including the Indigenous People of this continent.*

Please consider this to be our progress report on the ongoing work the Hocak UCC is doing in regards to the resolution which was unanimously voted on. We are pleased to submit the following:

- **Ongoing commitment to the resolution – Doctrine of Discovery**
- **Input of people studying the Doctrine.**
- **Implementation of a new organization: Foundation For Justice (FFJ). (A proposed UCC affiliate)**
- **Work on the infra-structure of the Foundation for Justice.**

Ongoing commitment to the Doctrine of Discovery Resolution – 2019 WI. Annual Meeting.

The Hocak UCC, Consistory Committee and congregation are grateful to all of the churches who have studied the Doctrine of Discovery and, during the 2019 Annual Meeting held in Wi., Dells, voted to pass the resolution.

During the year of study of the Doctrine of Discovery, the question that always seemed to come up was “Where do go from here”? Taking this into consideration we, the members of the Hocak UCC congregation have planned to put into motion steps to create an organization addressing racial injustices. The Doctrine of Discovery, originally stemming from the 1400’s-era papal bulls, perpetuated many inhumane practices against people of color. The Hocak UCC is committed to the continuation of addressing ALL phases of racism and racial injustices through the legal means instituted by the Doctrine of Discovery. Since its implementation many policies, laws, statutes and ordinances have been written in our legal system allowing the government to systematically allow atrocities and offensive acts against the Indigenous Peoples of this land.

Input of people studying the Doctrine of Discovery

During the year between the June, 2018 and May, 2019 Annual meetings, it was recommended that one third of the Wisconsin UCC churches were to study the Doctrine of Discovery in accordance to the resolution process in order to pass it at our 2019 Annual Meeting. During the course of the year, 91 churches registered that they had studied the Doctrine of Discovery. During the voting process at the 2019 Annual Meeting, approximately one hundred and fifty (150) churches voted unanimously to pass the resolution.

The support of the people affirming the negative contents of this medieval edict in our government's actions, confirms the repudiation of this document.

Implementation of new organization – Foundation For Justice (FFJ) (A proposed UCC affiliate

Now comes the Foundation For Justice, a grassroots organization conceived by the congregational members of the Hocak United Church of Christ at the Indian Mission just east of Black River Falls, WI. We, the congregation of the Hocak UCC realizes the need for this organization to educate mainstream culture the continuing effects that The Doctrine of Discovery has on the colonial concept, but also the effects it has on the environment as well.

The Doctrine of Discovery forbids ceremonies in the Native American culture and heritage. This medieval document forbids us to pray for all living things that God has given us, jeopardizing our respect for Mother Earth. This Doctrine strips people of color of their heritage, culture and traditions.

Work on the infra-structure of the Foundation For Justice

A Proclamation of our commitment and direction is complete. The Statement of purpose and supporting information is in the final stages as well as a description of personnel and proposed budget.

To date, a lot of work and dedication has been put into this endeavor, addressing racism and racial injustice. We need to educate the world about the inhumane effects and devastation of cultural beliefs and traditions due to the continuation of peoples' lack of knowledge of The Doctrine of Discovery.

“We have one planet and one human family living on it – we must start acting as such”.

Ho-Chunk Elder

Respectfully submitted,



Cari Fay, Consistory President