

Native American Heritage Month

November 2023

National Native American Heritage Month is celebrated each year in November. It is a time to celebrate the traditions, languages, and stories of Native American, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and Island communities and ensure their rich histories and contributions continue to thrive with each passing generation.

This year's theme is Celebrating Tribal Sovereignty and Identity. Tribal sovereignty ensures that any decisions about Tribes with regard to their property and citizens are made with their participation and consent.

This theme is also embraced by the national church, which has designated 2020 - 2030 as *The Decade of Confession and Repentance* for the historical harm inflicted by our embrace of The Doctrine of Discovery.

Confession and Repentance in our context includes an encouragement for congregations to *research the land's acquisition from Indigenous nations and consider how PC(USA) properties can be returned to Indigenous tribes.*

A first step toward confession and repentance for SPC is to include a land acknowledgment in our worship each week. The work of research and repair continues! To participate in this work, please contact the church office