

Northminster Presbyterian Church Land Acknowledgement Statement, Guidance and Further Actions

February 9, 2024

The following Statement has been approved by the Session of Northminster Presbyterian Church:

Land Acknowledgement Statement

"We acknowledge that we are on the traditional lands of the Coast Salish peoples, past and present, who continue to steward these lands and waters as they have since time immemorial. We particularly honor the Duwamish, Muckleshoot, and Snoqualmie Tribes, who embody this living legacy. We recognize the many tribal nations and organizations who actively create, shape, and contribute to this thriving community."

Why is Northminster adopting a land acknowledgement statement?

It is important to recognize that the Coast Salish people and their ancestors have been in the Seattle/Greater King County area for thousands of years. Settlers pressured the Duwamish and other Coast Salish tribes to sign The Treaty of Point Elliot in 1865. All Tribes represented at the signing were guaranteed self-government, hunting and fishing rights, compensation, and services, while being forced to resettle in reservations, in exchange for over 54,000 acres of tribal homeland. To this day, Treaty promises made by the U.S. government have not been honored. Coast Salish people additionally face many challenges. Traditional resources like cedar and salmon have been reduced by overharvesting and habitat destruction. Economic and educational opportunities on reservations are few, while Native people living off the reservation often face discrimination and the hardships of living away from their social networks. We lament these injustices and want to do what we can to honor and support our Indigenous brothers and sisters. One step we can take is to recognize that we are on unceded land and to acknowledge this transgression.

How will this statement be used?

We will incorporate this land acknowledgement statement on our church website, during worship, at congregational meetings, in our quarterly church newsletter and at other times as decided by Session.

What additional steps will we take?

We will prayerfully consider tangible steps that we can take to build partnerships with and promote the well-being of our Indigenous brothers and sisters. We will commit to learning more about tribal history and Seattle's development.

What else can I do as an individual?

Here are a few ideas:

- Honor Indigenous Land and Knowledge.
- Learn about Native cultures straight from the source. Research local tribes and visit tribal museums, cultural centers, and events.

- Look for information about history, current events, and issues affecting tribal communities in this area.

Reading resources, online:

Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Seattle_before_white_settlement

[https://www.seattle.gov/documents/Departments/OIR/City-of-Seattle Tribal-Nations-Summary-Report_FINAL.pdf](https://www.seattle.gov/documents/Departments/OIR/City-of-Seattle_Tribal-Nations-Summary-Report_FINAL.pdf)

<https://www.seattleurbannatives.org/our-history>

<https://prologue.blogs.archives.gov/2020/09/28/the-birth-of-an-eternal-document-the-point-elliott-treaty/>

From your neighborhood library or bookstore:

Reinartz, K.F., *Passport to Ballard, The Centennial Story*, Ballard News Tribune, 1988, Chapters 1 & 2.

Preserving Ballard, Ballard Historical Society, 2022.

Thrush, C., *Native Seattle: Histories from the Crossing-Over Place*, 2nd edition, University of Washington Press, 2017.