

The United Methodist Church Repudiates the Ancient

DOCTRINE OF DISCOVERY

In 2007 the United Nations passed the “Declaration of Indigenous Peoples” which called into question the validity of the Christian Doctrine of Discovery, which for centuries served as “legal” rationale for stealing land and dehumanizing aboriginal peoples, as well as justification for the establishment of boarding schools throughout North America to “civilize” Indian children.

In 2009 President Obama pledged to the Native people the United State’s support of the United Nation’s “Declaration of Indigenous Peoples”.

“The Declaration of Indigenous Peoples” seeks to right the historical wrongs through the use of the Papal Bull of The Roman Catholic Church which are official decrees by the Pope sanctioning the seizing of indigenous lands worldwide.

In 1452 the Papal Bull Romanus Pontifex, declared war against all non Christians throughout the world, sanctioning and promoting the conquest, colonization and exploitation of non-Christian nations and their territories.

In 1453 Spain was given rights of conquest and dominion over one side of the globe and Portugal the other.

In 1823, the Christian Doctrine of Discovery was adopted into law by the U.S. Supreme Court (Johnson V McIntosh). Chief Justice Marshall observed that Christian European nations had assumed dominion over the lands of America - upon discovery - Indians had lost their rights to complete sovereignty as independent nations and retained a mere right of occupancy in their lands.

Therefore, All levels of the United Methodist Church is called to condemn the Doctrine of Discovery as a legal document and basis for the seizing of native lands and abuses of human rights of Indigenous Peoples.

RESOLUTION

The United Methodist Church will work toward eliminating the Doctrine of Discovery as a means to subjugate Indigenous peoples of property and land.

*To bring attention to and to educate the United Methodist Church on the damaging results and further implications of the Doctrine of Discovery and its effects on Indigenous Peoples world wide.

*For the United Methodist Church to repent for past sins it needs to be aware of this ancient doctrine.