



NEW ENGLAND YEARLY MEETING OF FRIENDS QUAKERS

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Apology to Native Americans

To the Algonquian peoples of the Northeast whose homeland we live within and benefit from: the Abenaki, Aquinnah Wampanoag, Eastern Pequot, Golden Hill Paugussett, Herring Pond/Manomet Wampanoag, Mahican, Maliseet, Mashantucket Pequot, Mashpee Wampanoag, Massachusetts, Mi'kmaq, Mohegan, Narragansett, Nehantic, Nipmuc, Norwottuck/Nonotuck, Passamaquoddy, Pennacook, Penobscot, Pocumtuck, Pokanoket, Quinnipiac, Schaghticoke, Tunxis, Wangunks, Wappinger, Wolastoqiyik/Maliseet, Woronoco — and others whose names we do not know but wish to acknowledge.

As participants in European colonization and as continuing beneficiaries of that colonization, Quakers have participated in a great and continuing injustice. For too long and in too many ways, we as a faith community have failed to honor that of God in you, the original peoples of these lands. We are deeply sorry for the suffering we caused in the past and continue to cause in the present. Today we acknowledge that injustice and apologize.

We acknowledge that Quakers participated in and benefited greatly from colonization. We stole your land, we displaced your ancestors. We caused genocide and participated in cultural erasure. We know that the injustice of displacement and disrespect continues. We also see the ways that we continue to benefit from broken treaties and genocidal policies. We have much work to do to attain right relationship.

We are sorry for our advocacy of the Indian Industrial Boarding Schools which we now recognize was done with spiritual and cultural arrogance. Quakers were among the strongest promoters of this policy and managed over 30 schools for Indian children, mostly boarding schools, during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. We are deeply sorry for our part in the vast suffering caused by this system and the continuing effects.

On behalf of Quakers, in this wide landscape that was claimed as “New England” by the ancestors of many of us, we offer this apology. We commit to continuing our efforts to learn, to see more clearly the implications of settler colonialism in our own lives, and to work toward right relationship with you and all of Creation. We hold ourselves open to suggestions and to dialogue, holding no expectations of you. We commit to following your lead, standing alongside you in your

struggles for sovereignty, in protection of the land and waters, and in seeking justice and reparations for your people. We will continue to pray for guidance and to seek divine assistance in the transformation we know is needed within each of us, and in the world.

On Behalf of Friends in New England,
Bruce Neumann
Presiding Clerk