

WHEREAS, concerns have been raised by Indigenous Peoples about the continued celebration of the traditional American Thanksgiving Day rooted in Pilgrim and Americana Mythology; and

WHEREAS, Unitarian Universalists are called to respect the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part, as well as work for justice, equity and compassion in human relations; and

WHEREAS, the Unitarian Universalist Association and other activists have asked Unitarian Universalists across the country to enter a time of education, careful reflection, and healing in addition to committing to dialogue with our local Indigenous Peoples in honor of the 400th anniversary of colonization of New England; and

WHEREAS, Prairie Unitarian Universalist Church has committed to challenge the intersectional conditions that create and sustain oppression, inequality, and injustice at both the institutional and individual levels; and

NOTING that in the late 1800s the Ute people indigenous to Colorado were a peaceful people that upheld treaties that were forced upon them and gave up much of their land; and

NOTING that Unitarians, particularly in Colorado, worked as Indian agents and led the United States government policy towards Indigenous Peoples, in particular the Utes of Colorado, a program that forced the Indians to choose between annihilation and assimilation; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Prairie Unitarian Universalist Church uphold the dignity of Indigenous Peoples by telling the truth of the brutality and conquest of peoples and lands that have been the foundation of the United States' history; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Prairie Unitarian Universalist Church will work to build continuing long-term relationships of accountability and support to local Indigenous Leaders; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Prairie Unitarian Universalist Church will recommit ourselves to racial justice and integrate ways to do the work of reparations and reconciliation throughout the year in our community, congregation and individually. We know that this can only be achieved with concerted effort and accountability; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that Prairie Unitarian Universalist Church will no longer celebrate a Traditional American Thanksgiving. This would include things like having a large turkey luncheon. It might also include misinformation about Pilgrims and Indigenous Peoples, what their interactions were like, as well as the impact of these interactions. Instead, we will create more appropriate traditions of giving thanks and addressing hunger and other economic needs of our local Indigenous Peoples.

*We resolve to begin with a quarterly "Thanks Communion" that may include the sharing of soup and bread to more closely resemble a meal that may have been shared in thanksgiving among Indigenous Peoples. We may also continue our previous tradition of supporting the Parker Task Force. We will also meaningfully include a Land Acknowledgement at the beginning of meetings and services.*