*(Faith Organization Name)*

Resolution No.: *(enter numbering/ identifying information here).*

**Statement and Support for the Truth and Healing Commission on**

**Indian Boarding School Policies Act and Associated Efforts**

**WHEREAS,** the *(insert governing body)* is the governing body of *(insert faith organization)*, located on the *(insert name of tribe whose traditional lands you are on)* in *(insert County, insert State)*, by the authority of *(insert Constitution)*, and adopted on, *(Month, Day, Year)*, by the Secretary; and

**WHEREAS,** assimilation processes against Native Americans, such as the Indian Boarding School Policies, were adopted by the United States Government to strip American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian children of their Indigenous identities, beliefs, and languages to assimilate them into non-Native culture through federally funded and controlled Christian-run schools, which had the intent and, in many cases, the effect, of termination, with dire and intentional consequences on the cultures and languages of Indigenous peoples; and

**WHEREAS,** more than 100,000 American Indian and Alaska Native children were forcibly removed from their family homes and placed in any of 460 Bureau of Indian Affairs-operated schools, including at least 367 known Indian boarding schools, often church-run, at which assimilation and “civilization” practices were inflicted on those children as part of the assimilation efforts of the Federal Government, advancing eradication of Indigenous peoples in the United States; and

**WHEREAS,** the United States Indian Boarding School policy’s deliberate intention was the separation of Native American children from their families, cultures, and Tribal communities through removal; and

If your denomination operated or in any way supported a mission to Indian Country or an Indian Boarding School

**WHEREAS,** the (insert church name or denomination) operated (insert number of boarding schools) Indian Boarding Schools in the United States, and currently has active missions in (insert number of communities and names of communities where active missions are present); and

**WHEREAS**, the boarding schools our denomination operated here in the United States and others schools were a place to experiment on and abuse indigenous children medically, physically, psychologically, and sexually; and

**WHEREAS**, we as a group are ready to take full responsibility for our role in Indian Boarding Schools; and

**WHEREAS**, we as a group will internally investigate our denominations role in Indian Boarding Schools; and

**WHEREAS**, we as a group agree to provide all documentation and archival materials our church possesses on Indian Boarding Schools; and

If your denomination had no involvement in Indian Boarding Schools

**WHEREAS,** many tribal children were sent to boarding schools, that served as a place to experiment on and abuse our children medically, physically, psychologically, and sexually; and

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**WHEREAS,** the 2018 Broken Promises Report published by the United States Commission on Civil Rights reported that American Indian and Alaska Native communities continue to experience intergenerational trauma resulting from experiences in Indian boarding schools, which divided cultural family structures, damaged Indigenous identities, and inflicted chronic psychological ramifications on American Indian and Alaska Native children and families; and

**WHEREAS,** Congress introduced legislation titled: To establish the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States, and for other purposes, the Act may be cited as the “Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act”, on September 30, 2021; and

**WHEREAS,** the purposes of this Act are to establish a Truth and Healing Commission (Commission) on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States to formally investigate and document, for the first time in history, the attempted termination of cultures and languages of Indigenous peoples, assimilation practices, and human rights violations that occurred against American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians through Indian Boarding School Policies in furtherance of the motto to “kill the Indian in him and save the man”; and to formally investigate and document the impacts and ongoing effects of historical and intergenerational trauma in Native communities, including the effects of the attempted cultural and linguistic termination of American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians, resulting from Indian Boarding School Policies, among other things; and

WHEREAS, the Commission’s main role is to develop recommendations on actions the Federal Government can take to adequately hold itself accountable for, and redress and heal, the historical and intergenerational trauma inflicted by the Indian Boarding School Policies.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by *(insert Governing Body)* that *(insert faith org name)* hereby supports all congressional efforts to pass legislation approving the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act and similar initiatives, and subsequent recommendations, to hold the federal government accountable for, and redress and heal, the historical and intergenerational trauma inflicted by the Indian Boarding School Policies.