

Proposed Resolution: May 5 Day of Prayer for MMIW – Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women

To be recognized by the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference

Whereas, the resolution presented to the Tennessee Annual Conference in 2021 pertaining to recognizing May 5 as a Day of Prayer for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls (MMIWG) was adopted in 2021

Whereas, the Social Principles of the United Methodist Church still uphold ¶161 recognizes: A} Culture and Identity, B} The Family, G} Human Sexuality, H} Family Violence, I} Sexual Abuse-which includes human trafficking, J} Sexual Harassment, and P} Sexual Assault are still in place

Whereas, the resolution passed by the U.S. Senate declaring the National Day of Awareness because May 5 was the birthday of Hanna Harris, a 21 year old member of the Northern Cheyenne tribe who went missing on July 4, 2013 became a grassroots movement

Whereas, each year since 2017, May 5th is recognized as the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

Whereas, murdered and missing women and girls in particular have been on the increase across the United States and has become an epidemic

Whereas, the resolution presented to the Tennessee Annual Conference lifted up information suggesting wearing red on May 5

Whereas, understanding and encouraging the recognition of the symbol of a red handprint across the face is the symbol of MMIW

Whereas, the concept of MMIW has also expanded to MMIP – indigenous persons and MMIR – indigenous relatives and should be recognized by our community of faith

Whereas, the prior resolution did not pertain to the former Memphis Annual Conference

Therefore, be it resolved by the 2024 Tennessee-Western Kentucky Annual Conference:

1} we as United Methodist and people of God recognize May 5 annually as a National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, girls and young men and hold in our hearts and spirits those who have been lost, never found or recovered

2} we as people of God pray for and lift up those wounded by these horrendous actions against those made in the image of God that they may be healed

3} the Committee on Native American Ministries (CONAM) of the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Annual Conference will be recognized as a grassroots advocacy resource for the local church; providing resources to congregations and entities with a goal of furthering cultural sensitivity and understanding. This will include ongoing updates on joint actions at the local, tribal, state and national levels

4} we as people of faith will continue to pray to end injustices perpetuated on and against our sisters and brothers in Christ

Submitted by: Mary T Newman Chair of Native American Ministries of the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Annual Conference