

Expanded Response to the Doctrine of Discovery

Final text:

Amend the recommendation section as follows: [Text to be deleted is shown with brackets and with a strike-through; text to be added or inserted is shown with brackets and with an underline.]

Recommendations 1. through 3. remain unchanged.

~~“[4. Direct the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly to communicate with congregations and mid councils, encouraging them to explore the following:~~

~~”[a. The local history of how the land was acquired from the indigenous residents,~~

~~“[b. The local history of how the community and the church formed, and how that community or church pursued relationships with the indigenous people of the region.~~

“[4. Direct the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly to issue a call for the engagement of mid councils and their congregational members to start a flow of ideas and information back and forth between mid councils and congregational members, directed at understanding how the Doctrine of Discovery has been present in our history and our theological positions, and continues to be present today.

“[We recommend a two-step process: confession, repentance. These are concepts that have always been central to Presbyterian theology. These interactions should include:

“[a. Confession:

“[(1) An exploration of the local history of how the land was acquired from indigenous residents, and

“[(2) The local history of how the community and the church formed, and how that community or church pursued relationships with the indigenous people of the region.

“[b. Repentance:

“[(1) Development and implementation of a beginning strategy for entering into dialogue and action with relevant local communities, and

“[(2) Planned reflection over time on how on those efforts, to discern what God is revealing through these relationships, and what next steps are needed in this work.]

~~“[5. Make recommendations for how mid councils, as well as the national council and ministries of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), can support Native Americans in their ongoing efforts for sovereignty and fundamental human rights.]~~

“[5. Direct the PMA to form a coordinating council for the purpose of encouraging, monitoring, and sharing the ongoing responses by the national church, mid councils, and congregations to the call to action issued by the Stated Clerk, as listed in Recommendation 4, above. The council will also have the purpose of making recommendations to the 224th General Assembly (2020) on how the national church, mid councils, and congregations can support Native Americans in their ongoing efforts for sovereignty and fundamental human rights.

“[a. The coordinating council should be comprised of at least two members from the Native American Consulting Committee, plus at least two members from national church, two from mid councils, and at least two members from congregations.

“[b. The General Assembly should commit funds to enable this group to meet quarterly throughout the next two years. This means a total of seven or eight meetings. These meetings can be virtual if the group desires this, however, it is important that the group meet together at least twice: at the start and toward the end.

“[c. The coordinating group must be organized and have its first meeting within three months of the passage of this overture.

“[d. The coordinating group will be responsible for generating a report back to the next General Assembly, in 2020, and for making recommendations for actions that the next General Assembly may consider.]”

Recommendation 6. Text remains unchanged.