

Adoption by Tennessee Conference United Methodist Church of May 5 National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls (MMIWG)

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

Whereas, the U.S. Senate passed a resolution 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
Whereas, Each year since 2017, May 5 is recognized as the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls
Whereas, the disheartening statistics announced from the U.S. Justice Department shows the murder rate of Native females is more than ten times the national average on some reservations. Many times these disappearances or murders are connected to crimes of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, and sex trafficking.

Whereas, the United States recognizes that Native American women and children are put to great harm and that Native American women and girls murdered, missing or consumed by human trafficking continues to rise
Whereas, a symbol of remembrance of MMWIG is wearing red.

Therefore, be it resolved by the 2021 Tennessee Annual Conference that:

1) we as United Methodists of the Tennessee Conference and people of God recognize May 5th annually as a National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls and hold in our hearts and spirits those who have been lost, never found or recovered

2) we as United Methodists and 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 known as CONAM of the Tennessee Annual Conference will be recognized as a grassroots advocacy resource for the local church; providing resources available to congregations and entities of the annual conference 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) **Therefore, be it further resolved** that we symbolically lift up remembrance by wearing red on May 5

5) we as peoples of the Tennessee Annual Conference will continue to pray to end injustices perpetuated on our sisters in Christ

Submitted by: Mary T Newman for Tennessee Conference Native American Ministries
05/21/2021