



Reverend Chebon Kernell

Ongoing Acts of Repentance

The Reverend Glen Chebon Kernell Jr. is the executive secretary of Native American and Indigenous Ministries of the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. In this role, he spends half of his time serving as the coordinator for the United Methodist Council of Bishops' effort to fulfill the General Conference resolution mandating an ongoing process to improve relations with indigenous persons through dialogue, study, and local or regional acts of repentance. The other half of his time is spent raising awareness, increasing advocacy, and supporting the empowerment of Native American and indigenous communities globally. Reverend Kernell is an ordained elder in the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference.

Session 4: Ongoing Acts of Repentance

Bear fruit worthy of repentance.

~ Matthew 3:8 (NRSV)

Check-in

Ask about everyone's week, along with prayer requests for joys and sorrows.

Open with Prayer

Introduction to the Ongoing Acts of Repentance Video

Building upon the previous video by Dr. Miguel de la Torre, the Reverend Chebon Kernell calls the church to participate more vigorously in ongoing acts of repentance, justice making and truth telling about the historical and continuing impact of racism, specifically on Native American and indigenous people.

Video

Watch *Ongoing Acts of Repentance*, <http://gcorr.org/ongoing-acts-repentance-featuring-rev-kernell> (13:28).

Discussion Questions

1. What is the United Methodist Acts of Repentance movement? How have various groups, particularly indigenous people, reacted to this movement?
2. What forms of racism have indigenous people encountered? What is the meaning of "love thy neighbor as thyself," particularly for indigenous communities and people confronted by racism?
3. What is some of the history of racism against indigenous people? What has this racism meant to indigenous languages? Does history impact us today? What is the impact of spiritual violence?
4. What has your annual conference, district, congregation, or ministry done to follow up on the 2012 Acts of Repentance? If your group is not familiar with the "Acts," what can you do to learn more and inform others in your ministry context?
5. Some non-Native persons ask, "How many times do we have to apologize? When will you be satisfied?" What should be the church's response to these questions?
6. How does working against racism and for justice connect to our Christian discipleship?

Closing Prayer in Unison

Light a candle as a reminder of the Holy Spirit's presence.

Lord Jesus, we humbly come to You repenting of our sins. Let us hear and support our indigenous sisters and brothers who are suffering because of a long history of racism that impacts all of us today. In our relationship with the indigenous community, let repentance move to meaningful action. Amen.

Next Week

Remind group members to read Peggy McIntosh's *White Privilege: Unpacking the Invisible Knapsack* in advance of next week's session: <http://nationalseedproject.org/white-privilege-unpacking-the-invisible-knapsack>.