

Disciples Justice Action Network (DJAN) fully endorses the following statement and call to action prepared by David B Bell, Minister for Indigenous Peoples Concerns, Yakama Christian Mission, and William Blue Eagle McCutchen, Co-moderator of Landscape Mending and Minister for Blue Eagle Wellbriety Ministries:

Disciples Standing in Solidarity with the Standing Rock Sioux

For months, the Standing Rock Sioux have prayerfully challenged Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) construction across Sioux sacred sites and the Missouri River. During these months, the Standing Rock has learned DAPL is willing to bring a militarized response to their nonviolent challenge.

Disciples of Christ have long understood the gospel call as a nonviolent movement for action in favor of alleviating Creation's suffering. The protectors and defenders of Standing Rock Sioux recognize they have a sacred obligation to the landscape of their people. They have spoken to the sacredness of the earth and of her water. There is fear the water of the Missouri River will experience mortal and spiritual damage should the DAPL be constructed. The Standing Rock's call to hear the voice of Creation is a plea to Disciple gospel action.

The escalating response from the contractors of DAPL and Morton County Sheriff's Department is reminiscent of historical unbalanced Doctrine of Discovery responses between American Indians and US business and government. Disciples formal work on the Doctrine of Discovery since the 2013 General Assembly places them in a unique position to speak and act for balance and harmony.

Disciples can act for justice for earth, water, and indigenous peoples in several ways:

One, pray for the faith leaders who have traveled to Standing Rock to stand in solidarity on November 2-3. More at http://www.clergyclimateaction.org/clergy_standing_with_standing_rock

Two, sign the petition to stop the Dakota Access Pipeline at <https://actionsprout.io/AA7D52/thanks>

Three, contact your congressional representatives in the Senate and House and ask them to join you in urging President Obama to take federal action to stop the hostile response of DAPL and the local government. To call your Member of Congress: US Capitol Switchboard **(202) 224-3121**. To locate your Member on-line: U.S. House of Representatives: www.house.gov. U.S. Senate: www.senate.gov. The phone number for the White House is **(202) 456-1414**. Ask for the comment line.

Four, if the landscape and her people have not known justice by the first of the year, join Disciples at Standing Rock on January 4-6, 2017, to stand alongside fellow protectors of Creation (Contact dave@yakamamission.org for more information).

Five, join Disciples for Winter Talk 2017 at Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth, Texas, to discuss the historical acts of the Doctrine of Discovery and how those acts have led to this current confrontation on the banks of the Missouri River. You can find links to the latter two options at www.yakamamission.org and www.landscapemending.org.

Six, make a financial contribution to these Disciple ministries that are working for indigenous justice: Yakama Christian Mission, Landscape Mending, and Disciples Justice Action Network (www.djan.net).