**People of Faith and Indigenous Tribal Nations**

As people of faith, our moral orientation is rooted in love. When it comes to matters of environmental justice, we frequently find ourselves called to act and speak from a love of neighbor, a love of children, and a love of creation. All three of these forms of love have informed us in addressing the current environmental issues faced by not only the Standing Rock Sioux Nation but by many indigenous tribal nations throughout this country.

***Out of a love of neighbor,*** we listen closely to our indigenous neighbors who:

• seek to protect their water, air, and land

• seek to uphold basic human rights, especially the right to self-determination through free, prior, and informed consent and not mere consultation

***Out of a love of children,*** we passionately agree with those marching who:

• highlight how destruction of our environment is a matter of justice for our young people

• highlight how damage to our climate gravely impacts future generations

***Out of love of creation,*** we resonate deeply with those marching who:

• lift up the sacredness of water and our moral obligation to protect it

• lift up the interconnectedness of life that makes human flourishing dependent upon how we treat our land, air, and water

***From these foundations of love,*** we ask members of Congress to:

• champion the right to self-determination through the free, prior, and informed consent of tribal nations. In greenlighting the Keystone XL and Dakota Access pipelines without tribal consent, the current administration has disregarded the rights of indigenous peoples.

• forcefully reject any plan to privatize public or tribal lands. Such privatization plans subordinate the rights of the general public and indigenous people to the pursuit of corporate profit and greed.

• address the impact climate change has had on indigenous communities by taking legislative action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and assist in climate adaptation. The harsh winters of the Dakotas, the melting permafrost of Alaska, and the drought faced by the Navajo Nation are all examples of climate impacts that must be addressed.