

Land Acknowledgement Guidelines for Worship Services at Glebe-St. James

April 3, 2024

The ReconciliAction Working Group has prepared some simple guidelines for writing land acknowledgements to include in worship services at Glebe-St. James with the objective of encouraging more individuals to participate.

We aim to offer an acknowledgement that is spoken from the heart. The acknowledgement isn't intended to be lengthy - two to eight sentences as a general guideline.

- We should always mention we are on the unceded (or unsurrendered or stolen – whatever language you are comfortable with) territory of the Algonquin Anishinaabe people.
- You may wish to state that today, Ottawa and the National Capital Region is a gathering place for First Nations, Inuit and Métis from across Canada and they contribute to our society and well-being.
- It can be helpful to acknowledge that churches including the United Church, and/or society have caused harm to Indigenous people.
- Please include something that reflects upon our (or your) current and ongoing relationship with Indigenous people, to avoid only focusing on historical situations.
 - This could be your own personal commitment to act. You could, for example, talk about a personal connection, something seasonal, a news event, or a recent book or play.
 - You could relate your message to one of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action or a commitment to right relations.

Provide written version to Teresa and Jennifer

The land acknowledgement is usually printed in the larger Sunday Service bulletin prepared for some people. Teresa and Jennifer appreciate it if you can provide a written version to them by Tuesday of the week you are delivering the land acknowledgement.

Delivery

Please sit with the minister behind the pulpit so you are ready to offer the land acknowledgement at the beginning of the service.