

The Presbytery of Nevada is comprised of land that was faithfully stewarded by indigenous people for countless generations. Today we specifically acknowledge and thank the Washoe people, “the people from here” who lived and cared for the land where our post office box is and where I live in Carson City

*From the tribe’s website/washoetribe.us :*

“The center of the Wašiw world is Da.aw (Lake Tahoe) both geographically and spiritually.” Like most native peoples our lifestyles revolved around the environment; the people were part of the environment, and everything was provided by the environment.

The California gold rush followed by the subsequent silver rush in Nevada a few years later, thousands of miners and immigrants flooded Wašiw lands in a relatively short time period and they stayed here, disrupting the balance; the Wašiw world changed forever in a few short years. The demand on the natural resources by the immigrant population depleted much of it. The logging industry denuded the forests and scarred the Pine Nut Mountains to support the mining industry and towns that sprang up everywhere. The fisheries of Lake Tahoe once bountiful with the native cutthroat trout had been reduced to nothing and livestock replaced the native herbivores.”

We honor the Indigenous people’s ongoing work for recognition and their fight to recover their relationship with the land. Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery and encouragement to start our meetings with a land acknowledgement was recommended by the PCUSA General Assembly in 2018 to all mid councils, that is presbyteries and synods. It is a way to demonstrate that we are God’s people who stand for justice for all.

Wherever you are, I encourage you to learn about the indigenous people of the land that you are on.