

Petition 20767

1864 Sand Creek Massacre (20767-IC-Non-Dis)

The 2012 General Conference of the United Methodist Church hereby fully recognizes the Northern Cheyenne Tribe of Montana, and the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma, and the Northern Arapaho of Wyoming as the Federally recognized Tribes as stated in the 1865 Treaty of Little Arkansas with U.S. Government, as the official representatives concerning the Sand Creek Massacre.

The 2012 General Conference of the United Methodist Church through the Council of Bishops and the appropriate boards and agencies shall consult on and support efforts pertaining to preservation, repatriations, healing, awareness, research, education and reparations with the Northern Cheyenne Tribe of Montana, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma, and the Northern Arapaho Tribe of Wyoming and their official Tribal Representatives for the November 29, 1864 Sand Creek Massacre.

The 2012 General Conference of The United Methodist Church through the Council of Bishops and The General Commission on Archives and History shall authorize research by a joint team including an independent body and provide full disclosure of the involvement influence in the Sand Creek Massacre of John M. Chivington, Territorial Governor John Evans, the Methodist Church as an institution, and other prominent social, political and religious leaders of the time, and shall report back to the 2016 General Conference.

The United Methodist Church shall support and participate in the return to the “Tribes” any Native artifacts or remains related to the Sand Creek Massacre.

RATIONALE

Previous resolutions adopted by the General Conference of the United Methodist Church concerning the Sand Creek Massacre have contained inaccurate or incomplete information and were developed without consultation with official tribal representatives from the four tribes that have been recognized by the US government in the 1865 Treaty of Little...