**Healing Task Force Report to**

**Ḵunéix̱ Hídi Northern Light United Church Congregation, 2022**

The Ḵunéix̱ Hídi Northern Light United Church Council recommissioned the Healing Task Force in February 2022. The Council directed the Healing Task Force to:

* develop plans of action, including who will do what by when, to fulfill the commitments in the Resolution;
* develop a public relations plan and timeline regarding the reparations, including the church’s name change, providing support for the Native Ministries Committee as it proceeds immediately with production of a video to support adoption of the Overture by the Presbyterian Church (USA) General Assembly, and considering as part of the plan a more general video about why the importance of reparations;
* monitor accomplishment of each of the designated reparations and report to Council with recommendations about whether the timelines for accomplishing actions in the Resolution require more time;
* carry out these and related tasks in close consultation with the Native Ministries Committee and as delegated by Council; and
* provide regular reports to the Native Ministries Committee and Council.

The Council continued the Healing Task Force membership with the pastor, moderator, at least one other Council member, two designees each from the Native Ministries Committer and Social Justice and Service Committee, and at least two at large members. Other members of the Church are also welcome. Myra Munson and Kate Burkhart served as co-chairpersons in 2022.

The Healing Task Force has relied on advice and guidance from the Native Ministries Committee, working closely together and benefiting from the shared members to ensure effective communication. The Healing Task Force developed a very detailed Reparations Tracker to monitor and report the Church’s progress toward its reparative commitments. The tracker is updated at least quarterly, if not more often, and presented to the Native Ministries Committee and the Council at each meeting in 2022.

A major step toward fulfilling our commitments to reparations was the adoption of our new church name, Ḵunéix̱ Hídi Northern Light United Church, in 2022. A press release was issued in May 2022. Special thanks to Betsy Brenneman for helping to develop the press release. Church officers completed all the necessary legal documentation.

In April 2022, the Healing Task Force Communications Sub-Committee created a communications plan to guide how the Church presents the Overture, Reparations Resolution, and church actions to the community. Major activities this year include:

* “The Native Church,” a documentary about the closure of Memorial Presbyterian Church commissioned by the Native Ministries Committee with support from the Healing Task Force. The Council approved the full cost of the documentary (final cost $32,118). “The Native Church” was shown at the Presbyterian Church (USA) General Assembly in support of the Overture, during the 2023 Dr. Soboleff Sunday Service, and is posted on the church website.
* Approval of a website redesign/refresh, which is underway.
* Creation of a temporary sign with the new church name.
* Discussion of how to commission a new church logo.

The Healing Task Force coordinated with the Native Ministries Committee on media stories and a presentation for Sealaska Heritage Institute:

* [Church commits $1 million to repair closure of Juneau’s Memorial Presbyterian Church, September 27, 2022 by Joaqlin Estus, Indian Country Today](https://www.ktoo.org/2022/09/27/church-commits-1-million-to-repair-juneau-closure/)
* [‘An egregious act of spiritual abuse:’ Behind the closure of Juneau’s Memorial Presbyterian Church, September 30, 2022 by Yvonne Krumrey, KTOO](https://www.ktoo.org/2022/09/30/an-egregious-act-of-spiritual-abuse-behind-the-closure-of-juneaus-memorial-presbyterian-church/)
* [Panel Discussion on Controversial Closure of Walter Soboleff Church, Recent Efforts to Atone, Sealaska Heritage Institute, November 14, 2022](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jvEhDZfNGfk)
* [On Walter Soboleff Day, panel reflects on church’s closure and the path forward, November 16, 2022 by Yvonne Krumrey, KTOO](https://www.ktoo.org/2022/11/16/on-walter-soboleff-day-panel-reflects-on-church-closure-and-the-path-forward/)
* [Walter Soboleff Day marked with pledge of action: Church leaders share details about planned apology for church closure by Clarise Larson, Juneau Empire, November 14, 2022](https://www.juneauempire.com/news/walter-soboleff-day-marked-with-pledge-of-action/)

Lillian Petershoare, Maxine Richert, Barbara Searls, and Myra Munson spoke at the Sealaska Heritage Institute panel. Healing Task Force members also monitored social media for feedback on press coverage of Ḵunéix̱ Hídi Northern Light United Church activities.

Ḵunéix̱ Hídi Northern Light United Church adopted a land acknowledgement in 2022, developed in close consultation with the Native Ministries Committee. The land acknowledgement is offered before worship services and church events.

The Healing Task Force developed a way to consider requests for funding from the reparations budget. In 2022, the Task Force recommended, and the Council approved funding for “The Native Church,” the Children’s Defense Fund Freedom School ($7,500), and the prison ministry project developed by the Social Justice and Service Committee ($2,000 reparations in addition to the funds donated for the ministry). The Healing Task Force recommended support for a Tlingit-language music program at Juneau Alaska Music Matters; the Council approved $5,000 from the Anderson Music Fund. A total of $41,618 was spent toward reparations in 2022.

**Presbyterian Church (USA) Progress**

In November, the Healing Task Force met with Corey Schlosser Hall and Jermain Ross Allam from the Presbyterian Church (USA) about the denomination’s progress toward their commitments under the Overture. They reported that “PC(USA) is ready to establish a team to engage in the acknowledgement and confessions . . .” Jermaine Ross-Allam, Director of the new Center for Repair of Historical Harm, and Corey Schlosser-Hall, Deputy Executive of the Presbyterian Mission Agency “are working with national church colleagues to identify the writers and delegation to engage in these acknowledgements and confessions. . .”

The Apology is planned for October 9, 2023, Indigenous Peoples Day. The Healing Task Force will have a work session on January 16, 2023, to develop an action plan to prepare for the Apology. Presbyterian Church (USA) leadership will meet regularly with the Native Ministries Committee and will come to Juneau in the summer of 2023 to prepare and learn protocol for the Apology.

The Presbyterian Church (USA) committed to “increase available resources and opportunities for Alaska Natives and other Indigenous people to pursue ministry in the PC(USA) and other positions of church leadership, including providing scholarship funds and mentorship for these individuals.” The denomination has approved $50,000, to be distributed in consultation with the Healing Task Force and Northwest Coast Presbytery. The General Assembly adopted the Racial Equity Advocacy Committee’s “A Resolution Addressing the Lack of Installed Pastoral Leadership in People of Color Congregations in the PC(USA)” in July.

The Presbyterian Church (USA), following the Overture, directed the Presbyterian Mission Agency to donate, in the name of Memorial Presbyterian Church, $100,000 to the Sealaska Heritage Institute for Indigenous language revitalization efforts. The denomination is seeking a term other than “donation” for the funds, and recommends “offer $100,000 toward restitution” instead. Similarly, the denomination has committed $200,000 to the Presbyterian Foundation Native American Church Property Fund in honor of Memorial Presbyterian Church and recommends framing it as restitution instead of a donation. The denomination will coordinate with the Healing Task Force and Northwest Coast Presbytery on the timing and context of these transfers.

The Overture encouraged the Presbyterian Church (USA) to “take active measures, to renew the collective commitments of the PC(USA), including presbyteries and congregations, to dismantle systemic racism.” The General Assembly adopted [“A Resolution Addressing the Lack of Installed Pastoral Leadership in People of Color Congregations in the PC(USA)—From the Racial Equity Advocacy Committee”](https://www.pc-biz.org/#/search/3000837) and affirmed centralizing those voices marginalized in the past and present.

The denomination reported that “the PCUSA affirmed the Presbyterian Mission Agencies 2023-24 Mission Work Plan which specifies a central pillar of ‘Dismantling Structural Racism’ along with ‘Building Congregational Vitality’ and ‘Eradicating Systemic Poverty.’ Known as the ‘Matthew 25 Vision’ for short. See <https://www.pcusa.org/matthew25>.”

The denomination also reported that they have affirmed the Presbyterian Mission Agency’s 2023-24 Mission Work Plan “which specifies centering those who are marginalized” and the General Assembly “also approved investing in Racial Equity and Women's Intercultural Ministries (RE-WIM for short) which focuses on amplifying the voices and influence of clergy and lay members of primarily people of color congregations.”

Finally, the Presbyterian Church (USA) has committed $20,000 toward “a highly visible recognition” Memorial Presbyterian Church at the former location.