

SKYLINE COMMUNITY CHURCH
ENDOWMENT FUND for
REPARATIONS FOR LOW INCOME AFRICAN AMERICAN
AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLE WITHIN OUR LOCAL
COMMUNITIES

Introduction

Skyline Community Church, United Church of Christ (UCC), Oakland, California voted in January 2023 to respond to the call for Reparations for injustices done to Indigenous people and to African American people in our local community. We heed the call of the Biblical prophets:

Isaiah 58:12 - And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to dwell in.

Luke 19:8 - But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord! Here and now, I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.

Galatians 5:13 – For you were called to freedom brothers and sisters, only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become enslaved to one another.

We acknowledge that the Justice and Witness Team of the Northern California Nevada Conference of the United Church of Christ, in 2020, called for conference congregations to take steps toward healing from the legacies of colonialism and genocide of Indigenous peoples. https://ncnucucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/NCNC-Amends-Resolution_FINAL.pdf

We recognize that the Congress of the United States voted to establish the Commission to Study and Develop Reparations Proposals for African Americans (<https://www.congress.gov/117/bills/hr40/BILLS-117hr40ih.pdf>

We recognize the call of the United Church of Christ to study Reparatory Justice and that UCC congregations in the Bay Area are taking up that call;

<https://www.ucc.org/race-ethnicity-and-reparations/>

And that the UCC will vote on a resolution at its 2023 General Synod in Indianapolis to proclaim support for federal legislation mentioned above (H.R. 40).

<https://www.ucc.org/two-conferences-urge-synod-to-study-develop-reparations-for-african-americans/>

We recognize that the State of California has called for Reparations for descendants of slaves. <https://www.npr.org/2023/05/07/1174627337/a-california-panel-has-called-for-billions-in-reparations-for-black-residents>

We recognize that the County of Alameda has taken steps towards Reparations for low-income Black residents. <https://www.mercurynews.com/2023/03/04/what-could-reparations-mean-for-black-residents-of-alameda-county/>

Recognizing Ta-Nehisi Coates article “The Case for Reparations”, The Atlantic, June 2014.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2014/06/the-case-for-reparations/361631/>

In June 2024, Skyline Community Church Members, after careful review, voted to disburse fund payments to the following two beneficiaries:

Sogorea te Land Trust

<https://sogoreate-landtrust.org/>

Black Wealth Builders Fund

<https://www.arlingtoncommunitychurchucc.org/bwb>