

# COVENANT STATEMENT

Discernment Circle, Catholic TRC Healing Response  
Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon, July 15, 2022

The Discernment Circle – through its prayer, sharing, and discernment – has determined that a Covenant Statement would best articulate the spirit, intent, and commitments of the initiative to invite and propose local reconciliation and healing projects. The Covenant Statement summarizes the attitude, values and will of the Discernment Circle, fostering relationship building, and serving as a legacy for this important work. The Covenant will commit to a sustained effort in reconciliation and healing and will ensure that the initiative remains true to its commitment and inspire the trust of stakeholders. This Covenant is grounded in the context of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action and the United Nations Declaration of Rights of Indigenous Peoples. It also references the ancient biblical concept of 'right relationship' with the One God and Creator, with all peoples, with the Land and all of Creation.

**We – the people of our One Creator tasked with coming together to discern and facilitate local projects and initiatives on behalf of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon – enter into and commit to this Covenant, which finds its meaning in the ancient biblical concept of right relationship with the One God and Creator, with all people, with the Land and all of Creation; and in the *nehiyaw* principle of *miyo-wîcêhtowin*, or possessing good relations founded in relationship among people, the sacred laws, and the Creator.**

**This Covenant is also inspired by the spirit of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action, and the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.**

**Under the guidance of the Great Holy Spirit, we shall seek to respect and nurture healing and right relationship between all peoples – Indigenous and non-Indigenous – and to celebrate, honour, and share cultural histories and be faithful stewards of the spiritual and temporal gifts that the Creator has entrusted to us – as established by the founding treaty relationships among our peoples.**

**Our motivation and meaning will also feature humility and the journey from apology to reconciliation (see *Psalm 51:17; Isaiah 57: 17*). It will be celebrated in ceremony and ritual.**

**We acknowledge and commit to honour the sacredness of one another as we deal with the long discourse and journey of reconciliation. As we consider and engage in projects, we commit to the ministry of presence and accompaniment.**

**We promise and commit to nurture right relationship through sharing, respect, love for each other and the Creator. We will accept each other's visions and beliefs. We will assist the Church family to understand itself and move forward in reconciliation. We will invest in relationships with each other and engage in meaningful conversations with each other and with the Church.**

**We also seek to contribute to establishing Indigenous theological and ceremonial foundations in the Church, and to an enculturation between Catholic and Indigenous ritual and spirituality. We also seek to foster reclamation of Indigenous culture, language, and identity.**

**We stand together in hope and action as we speak and share so that others may come forward as we all continue the healing journey.**