

Baptist Union of Victoria Resolution of Encouragement & Commitment



In the spirit of the apology and commitment made to Aboriginal and Torres Strait sisters and brothers at the BUV Assembly in March 1998, this October 2007 Gathering resolves to encourage every Baptist Congregation to commit to taking practical steps to grow in understanding and in relationship with Indigenous Australians.

We the Churches of the Baptist Union of Victoria undertake to consider:

1. Do we know the name of the Aboriginal groups who were the first peoples and custodians of the land on which our church meets?
2. Would we have a plaque or acknowledgement of those groups on or near our church meeting place, and acknowledge them in special services and public events we run?
3. Finding ways to learn some early history of our area and trying to make contact with any descendants to hear their stories.
4. Will we commit to including indigenous people and situations in the prayer life of our church?
5. Will we make an effort to discover the many positive contributions indigenous people are making to society from their wealth of cultural insights and gifts?
6. Will we make a financial contribution of some kind to indigenous people and causes?
7. Reading more indigenous stories for adults and children, watching films, listening to regular radio programs and watching regular television programs that educate and inform us, and reading history that takes account of Aboriginal story.
8. Will we have Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flags somewhere in our building as a reminder of our desire to understand and develop relationships with our Indigenous People?
9. Connecting with Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation (ANTaR), Reconciliation Australia, and/or observing events like Sorry Day, Aboriginal Sunday, NAIDOC week, the Long Walk, or campaigns like 'Close the Gap', or 'Make Indigenous Poverty History'.

As a member church of the Baptist Union of Victoria, _____

affirm our commitment to taking practical steps in reconciliation _____ (date)

