

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Our Fellowship Church and its members are one part of the body of Christ. We are one part of the Christ's Church across this country and around the globe. In light of the truths that we have heard and seen from our Indigenous neighbours, we feel the need to confess the Church's sins, the sins of the whole Church body, of which we are one part.

1. We know that God created all peoples and nations to be equal. Forgive us our prejudice and our racism. Forgive us for the sin of thinking that we are superior and above other peoples. Forgive us for thinking that our culture is the best. Forgive us when we feel justified in forcing others to conform to our ways of living, our values and our ideas.

**Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy on us.**

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2. Lord in your wisdom you created families. Families are at the center of your plan for the happiness and wellbeing of your people. Forgive our arrogance in thinking that we know better than you. Forgive us for removing Indigenous children from their families, their homes and their communities and forcing them to attend Residential Schools.

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3. Lord, you delighted in creating uniqueness and diversity in the peoples of the earth. Forgive us for systematically removing all personal identities and forcing conformity. We stripped away each child's names and gave them a number instead. We stripped away all of their clothes and hair differences and made them all look alike. We stripped away the use of their own native languages and forced them to only speak English.

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4. Lord, every child is precious in your sight. Yet we did not ensure the safety of Indigenous children in residential schools. They experienced physical abuse, emotional abuse, spiritual abuse and sexual abuse at the hands of Church leaders who were tasked with their care. Forgive our ignorance and inaction. These abuses of power have brought great dishonour to your name oh Lord.

The name of your Church and your kingdom has been defaced. These abuses have caused many people to stumble and many to turn away from you Lord.

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5. These injustices by the Church were not done to one generation alone. They have been committed against one generation and the next. And so the legacy continues on Lord, even to this very day.

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6. Lord, over the past year, many unmarked graves have been discovered on the properties of residential schools across this country. That means that many of our Indigenous children never returned home to their families. Their bodies were withheld and they were never respectfully laid to rest.

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We lay these confessions at the foot of the cross.

Oh Lord, we ask that you restore your name. Restore your name through all the earth. Help us to continue learning and seeking the truth. May we do this both on an individual level and as members of a larger church community. Let the truths we find, galvanize us to work for healing and right relations with our Indigenous neighbours. Help us to work for justice and pray for peace.

All of this we ask only in the name of Jesus, Amen.