PC(USA) apology to Native Alaskans

I saw him, the last eagle. Someone pointed, and for a moment We were all still. A breeze suddenly touched us, And in that moment my heart sank, For someone I knew. I think, despite hope, we all knew So we stood there, silently. At last, together.

I was there in the crowd When the dancers stopped dancing And the singers forgot the words. A group of children played tag. While an old man sat outside the circle In his blue, foldout chair Trying hard to hide his tears. I didn't realize until then How much they had taken... How much we had let them take.

By Noahvose

- In the Confession of 1967 it states: "Congregations, individuals, or groups of Christians who exclude, dominate, or patronize their fellowmen, however subtly, resist the Spirit of God and bring contempt on the faith which they profess."
- It would have been good if that Confession had been written in 1867 instead of 1967. It would have been good if the Presbyterian Church had understood that the church was in contempt of its own proclaimed faith when our missionaries came to North Slope to bring the Gospel. The church judged when it should have listened. The church declared traditions to be sinful without trying to understand them. The church named ignorance without ever learning the Native Alaskan wisdom.

- The action of the General Assembly says: "In our zeal to tell you of the Good News of Jesus Christ, our hearts and minds were closed to the value of your epistemologies and lifeways... We should have affirmed the commonality between your spirituality and our understanding that God's sovereignty extends the length from East to West, with breath from North to South, with depth throughout the Earth, and with height throughout the Sky and Heavens."
- As a church we declare that the family is a sacred bond and we pledge at infant baptisms to raise children as a community, yet we tore your children away from you and raised them as white Europeans.
- As a church we Presbyterians say we like things done decently and in order, yet we took away all the guideposts of your life and left you without compass points in your own land.
- As a church we condemned you getting your living from the sea yet did not the disciples fish?
- As a church that had never survived an Alaskan winter, we thought we knew how to tell you to live.
- As the Stated Clerk of the 222nd General Assembly that met in Portland, Oregon I have come to offer an apology on behalf of the whole Presbyterian Church (USA). It has taken us too long to get to this apology. Many of your people who deserve the apology the most, are gone. But late though it may be it is a sincere and humble apology that I give to you today.
- May God have mercy on us, may Christ have mercy on us, may God have mercy on us.

And now may a new chapter begin.

Presbyterian Church-gum uqaluni qanutun killukuanatilaaqtin lõupianiñõun Alaska-m

Tautukkiga, aqulliq tiŋmiaqpak. Iñuk tikkuaġman, tavra sivikitchuamik Aulaŋaiqsugut. Tavraŋatchiaq anuqsraam aksikkaatigut, Aasii tainnaġman uummatiga kataktuatun piuq, Pisigivlugu iñuk iļisimaraġa. Atautchimugataqtut.

lļauruaŋaa katinŋaruani iñugni Aŋayuruat aŋayuŋaiġmata Atuqtit piiguġmatigik atuutim uqaluŋich. Miqliqtut aŋuġauraqtut. Aŋayuqaksraq aquppiuqtuaqtillugu katinŋaruat avataanni Aquppivļuni suŋauraaqtuami imuraġaallaruami aquppiutami Qulviñi tautuktitchaiļivļugich. Qaŋiqsivaalluktuŋa, iļitchuġivaalluktuŋa tavra Qanutun manimmiļgutilaaŋat... Qanutun manimmipkaŋatilaaŋich.

Noahvose-gum aglaanji

Aŋaayyuvipta Confession of 1967-ŋanni inna uqaluqaqtuq: "Aŋaayyuviich, iñugruiññat, naagga atautchimuklutiŋ ukpiqtuat, ilautquŋitpatigik, anmuksruqpatigik, naagga pisuiliġaqlugich iñuuniaqatitiŋ, sukun mikigaluaqtuakun, tainna pikamiŋ akuqtuŋitkaat llitqusiġiksuaŋa Kaatim aasii supasaġiŋaiqsillugu ukpiġutiktiŋ pautaġiuraġniallaan."

Nakuunianagaluaqtuaq taamna Confession savaaginakparrun 1867-mi, 1967-minilaaq. Nakuunianagaluaqtuaq anaayyuvikput Presbyterian Church, kaniqsinagumin qanutun anaayyuvium maliguanaisilaanich ukpigutinmin sivunini, tamauna anaayyuliqsit qaikamin North Slopemun uqalugiksuat qaggisikamisigik. Anaayyuvikput isivgiun sivulliģiņagaat, naalaģniruksrakkaluaq. Aņaayyuvium piļuusiqiriģuņagai lñupiat iñuuniaģniņich kaņiqsiñiuraģaluaģnaģich. Aņaayyuvium saanņagaa kaņiqsisaiññiq iļiññiuraģaluaģnagich lñupiat iļisimmataat.

Savaaģikkaŋaat General Assembly-kut inna uqaluqaqtuq: "Uqausiģisukpaiļļugich Uqalugiksuat Jesus Christ-kun, uummativut isummativut agmanjitkivut qanutun piqpagnaqtilaanich iļisimmatiksi kimun savaaģinatilaaqsi suli iļisimmatiksi iñuuniaģnikun qiiyanaqtuami nunami. Nalunaiģayaģnikkaqpuut qanutun atitilaanak ukpiqqutivsi iļitqusinatigun iñuuniaģvivsiļu suli kaniqsisikput Kaatim suannataagun pituutaitchuaq taktilaana qavannamin uanmun siļiktilaana unannamin taununanmun, ititilaana tavliklugu nunakput, aasii qutchiksilaana siļaptignin qiļagmunaglaan".

Aŋaayyuviuvluta uqausiģigikput qanutun aŋayuqaaģiich atautchimiitchuksrautilaaŋich aasiiptauq uniqsuqliiŋammiugut paptaiqaptigik miqliqtut iñukkuksaisuklugich nunaaqqiuluta, aglaan tavra miqliqtusi aullaqtitaŋagivut ilivsiññiñ Tanŋuġniaqlugich,

- Aŋaayyuvikput Presbyterian-guvluni uqaġuurugut savaaqaqamiŋ piḷluatapiaġlugich savaaġitqusuugaich, aglaan tavra pautaŋich iñuuniaġvivsi piiyaŋagivut, sugnamugniaqtilaaqsi iñuunivsiññi nalupqinaqsivḷugu.
- Aŋaayyuviuvluta aŋuniaġniqsi taġiumi piļugiqpaŋagikput aglaan iļitchitqurat iqaluniaŋaitpat?
- Anaayyuviuvluta Alaskam ukiugruanani inuunianaitkaluannapta, ilisimanasugivluta isumminarugut, 'inna inuuniaqsaqtusi'.
- Stated Clerk-guvluŋa 222nd General Assembly-kunnun kasimammata Portland, Oregon-mi, uvva qairuŋa uqausiġisukługu qanutun killukuaŋatilaaqput aŋaayyuviuvluta Presbyterian Church (USA).

Uqaluich qanutun killukuaŋatilaaqput qaisaksrautikkaluavut qaŋasaaq qaitpaallukkivut. Imma iļauraavsi quviasuutiginiaġaluaqtaŋat tainnasiq uqaluk, iļauraasi piiŋarut. Kiŋuġautchiŋagaluaqtillugich tavra tamatkua uqaluich qaitkitka anaqapak.

Kaatiptatuq nagligilisigut, Atanipta Kurais nagligilisigut, Kaatipta nagligilisigut.

Aasii tavrannaaglaan isagutitqiksa.