



## Minute Supporting the Establishment of a Federal Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the US

Quakers were among the strongest supporters of the Indian boarding school policies and operated approximately 30 Indian (mission) schools from 1869 to the 1960's. During this era of assimilation, Indigenous children were taught to adopt Western European-American culture by rejecting their cultural and personal identity - unique Native languages, manner of dress, lifeways, knowledge, wisdom, ceremonies, and spiritual practices. Quakers also gave money to (Federal) Indian Boarding Schools.

The history of these Indian schools is complex. In collaboration with St. John (Fordville) United Methodist Church (UMC) Committee on Native American Ministry (CoNAM), South Jersey Friends (Quakers) are researching our churches' historic roles in the Indian Boarding schools and listening to authentic truths, both formative toward reparation considerations.

The purpose of establishing a federal *Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the US* is to research the histories experienced by Native American children who were removed from their homes and placed in Indian Boarding schools and the ongoing intergenerational impacts on Tribal Nations' Indigenous Peoples and their cultures.

The Salem Quarter Indian Affairs Committee supports the *Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the US* and urges others to take timely relative action, including advocating via [Friends Committee on National Legislation](#) (FCNL).

Crafted and approved by **Salem Quarter Indian Affairs Committee (PYM)**, December 2021

Approved by **First Contact Reconciliation Collaborative (PYM)**, January 2022

Approved by **Salem Quarterly Meeting (PYM)**, hosted by Woodstown Friends Meeting, March 13, 2022

Philadelphia Yearly Meeting Epistle, Approved July 31, 2022



**Philadelphia  
Yearly Meeting**  
*of the Religious Society of Friends*

*...We carefully considered and united with a minute of concern recommending a truth and healing commission at a federal level addressing the genocidal practice of boarding schools for indigenous youth in the 19th and 20th Centuries. Friends were actively involved with these schools, so we wish the full story to be known and documented and that appropriate apologies and reconciliation actions take place....*