

Butternuts Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends, at its regular meeting for worship with a concern for business held on June 6, 2010, approved the following minute. The meeting requested that this be forwarded to the clerk of Indian Affairs Committee of New York Yearly Meeting and to the Butternuts Quarterly meeting (which meets in September 2010.)

Butternuts Monthly Meeting joins Syracuse Friends Meeting in approving the following minute to support the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and to repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery.

"We seek to live in a just peace with our fellow human beings, both as individuals and as peoples. We call on the U.S. Senate to ratify the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples so that it becomes the law of the land in the United States of America .

We repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery. We cannot accept that the Doctrine of Discovery was ever a true authority for forced takings of persons and land. It is false for the United States to assert the Doctrine of Discovery to compel a jurisdiction over indigenous peoples or their land.

We honor the inalienable rights that sustain the existence of indigenous peoples. An indigenous people has rights to their homeland, water, spiritual practices, language, cultural practices and self-government. An indigenous people has the right to make decisions and conduct international relations on their own behalf."

The Meeting asks the Peace and Social Action Committee to inform Sybil Perry, Clerk of the Indian Affairs Committee, NYYM, of this action.

Daphne Mason, clerk