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TO: The honorable members of the Duwamish Tribe

FROM: Representatives of the Church of Tukwila

As the City of Tukwila celebrates its 100th birthday this year, the Church of Tukwila (*a fellowship of Christian congregations in this community*) realizes that this is a ripe time to remember our past as well as prepare for our future. In respect to the past, we are particularly aware of the indebtedness we owe your tribe. It was the Duwamish that befriended the first non-native settlers in our community and enabled them to survive by sharing food and skills for living. Yet, we grieve that the initial friendship we enjoyed was not maintained. Thankfully, in the last few years, we have begun re-establishing our connection with the Duwamish tribe. Cecile Hanson, tribal chairwoman, has developed friendships with some of the people in the Church of Tukwila and has participated in some of our prayer events. While we are grateful for this renewal of ties, it has also brought to our awareness the injustices and failures on our part in our mutual history.

Therefore, we confess to you the following ways in which we, in our identification with the non-native settlers of this region, have wronged the Duwamish tribe:

1. We have broken our covenant with you. The Duwamish tribe was the first to sign the Point Elliot Treaty of 1855, yet you have yet to receive its provisions.
2. We have been ungrateful. You enabled us to survive in this land and yet we became indifferent to you and your needs.
3. We have failed to honor you. As the native people in this community who paved the way for settlement in our area, we dishonored you by becoming absorbed in our own pursuits, often at your expense.

History cannot be undone and it is beyond our power to restore what has been taken. However, with humility, we ask for your forgiveness.

In addition, as we look to the future, we commit ourselves to renewing our friendship with the Duwamish tribe. It is our desire to honor you and to use what influence we have to be advocates for you. We will stand with you in your desire to receive from the government what is just and appropriately affirming of your status as a tribe.

"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body - Jews or Greeks, slaves or free - and all were made to drink of one Spirit."

1 Corinthians 12:12-13

We thank you for coming to this "Healing the Land" Gathering. It is our prayer that the Creator of all the peoples of the earth, who sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to bring healing and restoration from our sin, will bless the Duwamish tribe in increasing measure as our friendship is restored and as you are honored in the special way that is your due.

With gratitude and contrition through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Pastors of the Church of Tukwila