



The Matoaka Covenant

***Launching a **Century** of Remembrance, Recognition, Reconciliation and Respect
IN A NUTSHELL***

Building on the Foundation of the Episcopal Church's *New Jamestown Covenant*

On November 1, 1997, almost 400 years after King James I asked the Church of England to propagate Christianity in the "New World", Native Americans and descendants of English colonists gathered and signed a new covenant of faith and reconciliation to heal four centuries of misunderstanding and mistrust. At the ***New Jamestown Covenant*** ceremony on Jamestown Island in Virginia, Episcopal Church officials and representatives from many of the surviving American Indian tribes agreed to a "new covenant of faith" between the Episcopal Church and the indigenous people in the United States. The following link offers a 30 minute documentary video of the 1997 ***New Jamestown Covenant*** ceremony >

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3bF0U292HIQ>

Building on the solid spiritual and intellectual foundation created by The Episcopal Church with the ***New Jamestown Covenant***, the ***Matoaka Covenant*** was introduced in 2020 to inspire and guide a growing global collaboration of faith organizations, indigenous communities, and the constituencies they serve. The Covenant believes this is ***Kairos*** – the cosmos and all of humanity is aligned in a moment in time when significant transformational social change can happen quickly, but it will only last with consistent strategic action. The Covenant is seizing this right **and** opportune Kairos moment, intending to change the future course of world history.

The ***Matoaka Covenant*** is named after the woman born Matoaka, died Rebecca and most famously known as Pocahontas, as she is the spiritual iconic symbol of ***Hope*** and ***Purpose***, was one of the very first indigenous members of the Anglican Communion, and certainly is the most influential indigenous Christian of all time.

The Matoaka Covenant – 4 Core Faith Commitments

The ***Matoaka Covenant*** asks Partners to make the following four core faith commitments:

1) As we strive for equality and justice in reconciling our history of colonialism and the suffering it has engendered for generations between us:

We will continue to be as constant in our search for the truth as we are responsive to its discoveries.

II) As we work together to find new solutions to the racial inequality and social justice challenges that have been long before us:

We will continue to be as dedicated to the principles of self-determination as we are committed to equality and justice for all humanity.

III) As we expand the theological and spiritual dialogue between our many different traditions and unique communities:

We will continue to be as respectful of the integrity of Indigenous traditions as we are loving in sharing our faith and our collective spirituality.

IV) As we stand together to honor, protect, and nurture our home, the earth:

We will continue to be as active in stewardship of God's creation as we are diligent and purposeful in our advocacy for its care.

The Matoaka Covenant – An Action Alliance

Adopting the faith commitments of the ***Matoaka Covenant*** provides admission to a growing global grassroots **interfaith and multicultural** collaboration of organizations, communities and individuals working together with common purpose. The founding focus of this Covenant collaboration is to enhance the quality of life for indigenous, native and First Nations communities around the world while benefiting from their ancient wisdom. As it is all connected, the Covenant collaboration is also focused on promoting and facilitating racial equality and social justice for all, in the name of remembrance, recognition, reconciliation and respect. And since all these efforts are fully dependent on a sustainable future, the Covenant collaboration is supremely focused on promoting and facilitating environmental stewardship in an effort to sustain a positive quality of life on earth.

The ***Matoaka Covenant*** begins with the understanding it will take at least 100 years – **a Century** – practicing a philosophy of continuous improvement to truly affect the better future and the sustainable positive change we all envision. The Covenant embraces the knowledge that true and lasting societal change can only occur when the inspirational and spiritual benefits of **Hope** are intertwined with intention and consistent **Purpose** in the form of coordinated and collaborative strategic action.

Managed by ***The Pocahontas Project*** (TPP), a public-private nonprofit headquartered in Gloucester, Virginia (USA), the ***Matoaka Covenant*** is an **ACTION** alliance working to inspire, facilitate and sustain purposeful action from its growing collaboration of **Partner** organizations, communities and individuals. The Covenant is founded on the belief that societal change and a sustainable future are everyone's responsibility and TPP is building a global alliance to enable people of all ages to participate in shaping that positive future. The Covenant embraces the ***Seventh Generation Principle*** which is based on an ancient Haudenosaunee (Iroquois) philosophy that the decisions we make today should result in a sustainable world seven generations into the future. Guiding and coordinating the growing number of individuals, organizations and communities that support the objectives of the Covenant is a global strategic planning effort called the ***Matoaka Sustainability Action Plan***, which embraces the **Fierce**

Urgency of Now and is subdivided into 10 strategic pillars of action = **Community / Creativity / Culture / Economy / Education / Environment / Equality & Justice / Government / Health / Population**

The primary objective of the **Matoaka Sustainability Action Plan** is to support and promote the **17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals** and their collective objectives to be achieved by the year 2030. TPP is actively curating a growing number of currently operational projects and programs from around the world that align with these 17 SDGs and can be supported by Matoaka Covenant Participants / Partners everywhere. While action in the name of the Covenant will take a variety of forms, it is expected the majority of Covenant facilitated projects and programs will be designed to:

- Gain benefit from and offer benefit to Native, Indigenous and First Nations communities around the world
- Promote and facilitate racial equity and unity
- Promote and facilitate social justice
- Promote and facilitate environmental stewardship

The Matoaka Covenant – From Seed to Sprout

The **Matoaka Covenant**, as the seed of a concept and a global movement, was formally planted and spiritually recognized for the first time on **All Saints Day** – Sunday November 1, 2020. Over the next twelve (12) months – the germination period – the **Matoaka Covenant** will grow roots and develop as it is nurtured by the collective attention and support of organizations, communities and individuals around the world. On **All Saints Day** in 2021 (Monday November 1st) the world will celebrate the sprouting of the **Matoaka Covenant** with a global commitment ceremony, with Partners formally adopting the Covenant and beginning a **Century of Remembrance, Recognition, Reconciliation and Respect**.

The Matoaka Covenant – Adopt the Covenant and become a Partner

The **Matoaka Covenant** invites organizations of faith around the world to adopt the Covenant and become a **Partner** in our global collaboration. The **Matoaka Covenant** invites native, indigenous and First Nations communities to adopt the Covenant and become a **Partner** in our global collaboration. Most importantly, the **Matoaka Covenant** invites individuals around the world to adopt the Covenant and become a **Partner** in our global collaboration, working through Organization and Community Covenant Partners, or on their own.

The **Matoaka Covenant** calls for a century of action, so prospective individual Partners are asked to consider their adoption of the Covenant as a lifetime commitment; prospective organization / community Partners are asked to make a multi-generational investment by adopting the Covenant. In order to inform a decision of such magnitude, all prospective Covenant Partners – called **Participants** – are asked to first resolve to investigate and experience the Covenant before making their formal adoption commitment on November 1, 2021. TPP requests the following from Matoaka Covenant Participants:

- Organization / Community Covenant **Participants** are asked to complete a simple on-line Participant application and pay \$100 administration dues, good through 2021 = \$100 to kick off 100 years of purposeful action
 - Covenant Participants are then asked to create or join a **Matoaka Covenant Action Committee** with a defined contact person to intersect with TPP. Once assembled, the Committee will be asked to complete a survey to help TPP define and facilitate potential connections with the curated **Matoaka Sustainability Action Plan** projects and programs.
- Individual Covenant **Participants** are asked to complete a simple on-line Participant application and pay \$25 administration dues, good through 2021
 - It is expected many Individual Covenant Participants will have a direct connection to an Organization or Community Covenant Participant; TPP is always ready to help create connections between individuals and organizations

In October 2021 all current Covenant Participants – individuals, organizations and communities – will be asked to review their Covenant investigation and experience and decide if they are ready to formally adopt the Covenant and become a **Matoaka Covenant Partner** on **All Saints Day** – November 1, 2021. A major global Matoaka Covenant Commitment and Adoption event is planned for that day.

The Pocahontas Project – Supporting & Enabling Covenant Participants

The hub of the wheel called the **Matoaka Covenant** is **The Pocahontas Project** which will support, enable and facilitate the objectives and efforts of the growing collection of Participants (and then Partner) spokes. Through its website, blogs, social media and personalized attention to each prospective organization, community and individual, TPP will offer the following benefits to Covenant Participants through October 31, 2021 and then to the Partners of the Covenant forever:

- **Matoaka Covenant Action Portal** – Connecting Participants and Partners with **Matoaka Sustainability Action Plan** projects and programs that match their goals and objectives
- Assistance in creating / joining a **Matoaka Covenant Action Committee**, and developing an individualized long term action plan as well as benchmarks to manage the plan
- Connections to other Covenant Participants and Partners – locally, regionally, nationally and globally
- Inspiration from the life and legacy of Matoaka / Pocahontas and through participation in the Covenant and its connection to the global Covenant movement
- Scrapbooking options to help Participants collect memories of their substantial events and happenings related to the Covenant, in an effort to help them make their adoption decision, and then to provide a foundation for their efforts as a Covenant Partner

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Presented by Rick Tatnall and **The Pocahontas Project**

1/1/2021

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