

How should Stege honor our native constituents? The UUCB Church up the hill has a “land acknowledgment” which I do not think is appropriate for Stege, but perhaps we can use a bit of the ideas contained therein.

*As we begin, we want to acknowledge that this church occupies land in Huchiun, the unceded territory of the Chochenyo speaking Ohlone people. We understand that we continue to benefit from the seizure and occupation of this land. We acknowledge and embrace our responsibility to take restorative action. We affirm that this is deeply felt and commit our congregation to be in right relationship with indigenous communities, aligning in solidarity, supporting indigenous projects, and caring properly for the land.*

Inflammatory phrasing such as “seizure and occupation” doesn’t help a dispassionate discussion of the issues. The implication that our current government is not sovereign over the land is also a drawback. We might say something more neutral such as:

*Stege acknowledges that its boundaries cover land upon which Chochenyo speaking Ohlone people have dwelt for millenia. Stege respects the Ohlone community and intends to care properly for the land.*

Dwight Merrill 15 Mar 2023