



Niantic Community Church

# Land Acknowledgment Statement

As we gather this day, we acknowledge that we are on land where Nehantic and other Indigenous people first gathered, lived, and cared for the land. We give thanks for the strength and resilience of the early Indigenous peoples. We are grateful for their stewardship of the land and lament with humility the tragedies and inequities that befell them at the hands of early colonial settlers. Our history at Niantic Community Church includes the preaching by our first pastor, the Reverend George Griswold, to the Nehantic people at Black Point and our membership roll in 1743 which included 13 Nehantic people. We recognize our responsibility to a shared future and pledge to care for this land and the land within our broader community with the same gratitude and reverence expressed by our earliest ancestors. As we move forward, we pledge to be in relationship with our Indigenous community and with all people who have experienced injustice as we continue to learn to love, respect, and care for all as our neighbors.

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*The Congregation voted Sunday, July 17, 2022, to approve a Land Acknowledgment Statement for use by Boards, Teams and Committees.*

**The Niantic Community Church Land Acknowledgment statement is a means to educate and share commitments of being in a just relationship with the original people of our land and to pay respect to their history and ways of being.**