

TEMA/TÍTULO: Repudiar la Doctrina del Descubrimiento

PROPONENTE: Dr. John Chaffee

PÁGINA CYC:

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- 1 *Se resuelve*, con la aprobación de la Cámara de _____ que la 76ª Convención General declare
2 que la Doctrina Cristiana del Descubrimiento –el dogma que dice que los soberanos cristianos y
3 sus exploradores representantes pueden ejercer dominio y título sobre las tierras no cristianas con
4 plena bendición y sanción de la Iglesia– es malvada y que se opone a nuestro entendimiento de
5 los derechos inherentes de todos los humanos y el júbilo humano derivado de Dios y que esta
6 declaración sea informada a todas las naciones que se encuentran dentro de las demarcaciones de
7 la Iglesia Episcopal junto con las Naciones Unidas; y asimismo
8 *Se resuelve* que este organismo instruya a los representantes apropiados de la Cámara de Obispos
9 y de la Cámara de Diputados que le escriban a la Reina Isabel II, al Gobernador Supremo de la
10 Iglesia de Inglaterra, solicitando que su Majestad rechace y repudie públicamente la supuesta
11 validez de la Doctrina Cristiana del Descubrimiento; esta doctrina se encuentra en la Magna
12 Carta que el predecesor de la Reina Isabel II, el Rey Enrique VII, emitió a John Cabot y sus hijos
13 en 1496 y subsiguientemente fue reafirmada por las cartas de Henry Gilbert en 1583 y Walter
14 Raleigh en 1584 y las cartas de Virginia Company de 1606 y 1609. Estas dieron lugar a la
15 despojo colonizador de las tierras de los pueblos indígenas en América del Norte y a la
16 deshumanización y subyugación de los pueblos no cristianos (a los cuales la monarquía
17 denominó “paganos” e “infieles”); y asimismo,
18 *Se resuelve* que se pida a cada diócesis de la Iglesia Episcopal que reflexione sobre las injusticias
19 cometidas por las diócesis, la Iglesia Episcopal y la Comunión Anglicana contra los pueblos
20 indígenas y que pida a todos los episcopales dentro de la Iglesia Episcopal que traten de entender
21 mejor a los pueblos indígenas que se encuentran dentro de las fronteras geopolíticas reclamadas
22 por los Estados Unidos y otros estados nación situados dentro de las demarcaciones de la Iglesia
23 Episcopal y apoyar a esos pueblos en sus lucha continua por recuperar su soberanía inherente y
24 que se respeten sus derechos humanos.
25

EXPLANATION:

European Christian religious leaders, such as Pope Nicholas V, Martin V, Pope Alexander VI, and Pope Leo X, used the concept of discovery in a manner that was dehumanizing to indigenous peoples. These and other religious leaders used the discovery doctrine as a way of justifying European monarchs sending royal representatives and explorers forth in a conquering manner in order to take over Indigenous lands and possessions, and to enslave, kill, or subject the Indigenous peoples they encountered. Following that tradition, King Henry VII granted a charter to John Cabot and his sons on March 5, 1496. It authorized the Cabots, by whatever means were necessary, to take possession and assume a conquering dominion over the lands of the Indigenous Peoples of North America. The charter specifically authorized John Cabot and his sons "to find, discover and investigate whatsoever islands,

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*Sponsor(s):*Dr. Charles N. Stewart

countries, regions or provinces of heathens and infidels, in whatsoever part of the world placed, which before this time were unknown to all Christians." The Charter also reads in part, "John and his sons or their heirs and deputies may conquer, occupy and possess whatsoever such towns, castles, cities and islands by them thus discovered that they may be able to conquer, occupy and possess, as our vassals and governors lieutenants and deputies therein, acquiring for us the dominion, title and jurisdiction of the same towns, castles, cities, islands and mainlands so discovered." In the past, Indigenous Peoples' representatives have called upon Queen Elizabeth II to repudiate the Cabot Charter and other similar Royal Charters. The English subsequently put into effect their conquest of North America with two charters granted by Queen Elizabeth I, the head of the English Church, in which the Christian Doctrine of Discovery was a driving justification. The first was in 1583 to Henry Gilbert, and the second in 1584 to Walter Raleigh. The letters patent to Walter Raleigh gave him and his heirs the power to discover "such remote heathen and barbarous landes Contries and territories not actually possessed of any Christian Prynce and inhabited by Christian People" and to exploit the resources and people of those lands to the full extent of their power, including "all the soyle of all such landes Countryes and territories so to be discovered or possessed as aforesaid and of all the Cityes Castles townes villages and places in the same" and the full power to dispose of all this as they wish. This resolution would put the Episcopal Church on record condemning the Christian Doctrine of Discovery and supporting Indigenous Peoples in their call for the repudiation of the 1496 Royal Charter issued to John Cabot and his sons and other similar Royal Charters which sanctioned European invasion of the Western Hemisphere. The resolution also calls upon each diocese to reflect upon its relationship with the Indigenous Peoples within its area to understand the history of its relationship with them, to build a relationship with all such Peoples, and to support them in their political and legal struggles for their inherent sovereignty and fundamental human rights as peoples to be respected.

BALLOT RESULTS:

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