

## Anti-Racism Task Force supports spiritual pilgrimage to Mankato

The Anti-Racism Task Force of the Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area is supporting a trip to Mankato Dec. 26 to honor the annual horse and rider pilgrimage from Crow Creek, South Dakota, to Mankato, Minnesota.

Those taking part in the task force's Mankato trip will pay a silent tribute of apology and peacemaking in recognition of the largest mass execution in U.S. history. On Dec. 26, 1862, 38 Dakota leaders, prisoners of war from the U.S.-Dakota War, were hanged in Mankato.

Today, horses and riders commemorate that execution with a 330-mile trek from Crow Creek to Mankato that culminates Dec. 26 at 10 a.m., the same hour as the hanging. The Rev. Dean Seal, pastor of Shepherd of the Hill Presbyterian Church in Chaska, said the presbytery group will gather near the site of the program that day to "silently take a knee."

The presbytery task force recommends watching the film, "Dakota 38," which addresses the hanging, and the horse and rider pilgrimage. "If you watch that, we believe you will have a profound sense of connecting with these people and to their experience," Seal wrote. The film is available on YouTube at [Dakota 38.](#)

"We recommend people watch the film together, in small groups or in bigger groups at churches. It changed my life, and I'll bet it changes yours. The land we took from the Native Americans is worth about \$20 trillion today," Seal wrote.

The task force also suggests making a tangible contribution, and Alberta and Jim Miller recommend the Indian Child and Family Resource Center (ICFRC), a nonprofit organization based in Helena, Montana. The organization strengthens tribal efforts to rebuild families.

“Each congregation can send a representative, and I hope that each congregation will take up a collection for ICFRC as a gesture of remorse, and for healing the sorrow we have caused,” Seal wrote.

The task force also recommends, as a means of preparation for the Dec. 26 journey, the “Sacred Sites” tours with Jim Bear Jacobs. Upcoming tours are Aug. 18 and Sept. 29 and run from 1 to 5 p.m. Information about the tours is available from Jacobs, director for racial justice with the Minnesota Council of Churches, by writing [jimbear.jacobs@mnchurches.org](mailto:jimbear.jacobs@mnchurches.org).

Information about the Dec. 26 recognition of honor and repentance can be obtained by contacting Seal 952.448.3882 or [seal13dean@gmail.com](mailto:seal13dean@gmail.com).