In the Presbyterian Women's Bible study series *Let Justice Roll Down,* Lesson Two, Patricia K. Tull looks at Land Justice, from ancient Israelites dispossessing the Canaanites to European Christians pushing out Indigenous Americans.

Psalm 24:1-2 tells us:

> The earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it,
> For God has founded it on the seas
> And established it on the rivers.

Thus, humans are not owners, God is, but inhabitants with temporary possession.

Most North American Indigenous tribes had a similar viewpoint. Tribes inhabited ancestral lands but did not look at individual land ownership.

With the 1830 Indian Removal Act, the "Five Civilized Nations" were forced west of the Mississippi, opening all areas east of that to white settlers.

In the area of our Presbytery, the significant earlier action was the September 24,1819 Treaty of Saginaw, signed by the United States (territorial Governor Lewis Cass) and the Chippewa (Ojibwe) Nation. In this, the Chippewa ceded 6 million acres of land from near Jackson and Kalamazoo east and north past Saginaw Bay. The US Government would pay an annual annuity of $1,000 in silver in perpetuity and pay for abandoned improvements. Native tribes retained hunting & sugaring privileges on the land, & multiple small tracts of land were reserved for tribal use. The wording of additional provisions in Article 8 is worth looking at:
"The United States engage to provide and support a blacksmith for the Indians, at Saginaw, **so long as the President of the United States may think proper**, and to furnish the Chippewa Indians with such farming utensils and cattle, and to employ such persons to aid them in their agriculture, **as the President may deem expedient**." (Boldface added) (https://treaties.okstate.edu/treaties/treaty-with-the-chippewa-1819-0185)

The annuity payments and other land accommodations were "dissolved, commuted, or consolidated" by the 1855 Treaty of Detroit & the 1864 Treaty of Saginaw in exchange for land allotments, the establishment of the Isabella Indian Reservation, and temporary lump-sum or service provisions. (Turtle Talk blog)