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Dieffenbacher-Krall to lead Maine Episcopal Committee on Indian Relations

[STATEWIDE] — The Rt. Rev. Stephen T. Lane recently named John Dieffenbacher-Krall of Old Town, Maine, to a two year term as the chairman of the Episcopal Diocese of Maine's Committee on Indian Relations. The Committee, with members representing a dozen of the 60 Episcopal congregations across the state, seeks to respond to the call by the Creator to deepen our relationship with the Wabanaki of Maine, to stand with the tribes in the pursuit of justice, to affirm their inherent sovereignty and to support the preservation of Native language and cultures. During its 25 year history, the Committee has sought to educate, advocate, and advance the cause of justice for the Original Peoples and Nations of Maine and throughout the world.

Dieffenbacher-Krall, a member of St. James' Episcopal Church in Old Town, has been active with the Committee on Indian Relations since 2005. He initiated an effort to have the Episcopal Church repudiate the Christian Doctrine of Discovery beginning with a sermon that he preached at St. James' Episcopal Church on October 15, 2006.

In 2007, he worked with the Committee on Indian Relations to submit a resolution to the annual diocesan convention that called upon the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Queen of England to revoke the 1496 Royal Charter issued to John Cabot and his sons. Its passage lay the foundation for the adoption of a similar resolution passed by the General Convention of the Episcopal Church in 2009 and, in the years since, a worldwide movement that has led to the repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery by the Anglican Church of Canada, several Society of Friends meetings, the United Methodist Church, Unitarian Universalist Association, United Church of Christ, and World Council of Churches, among others.

In 2012, Dieffenbacher-Krall was the official representative of the Diocese of Maine at the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues.

Bishop Lane expressed his appreciation of Dieffenbacher-Krall's willingness to chair the Committee on Indian Relations, "As a long-standing member of the Committee, as a leader in the movement to repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery, and as someone with vast knowledge of the relationship between Maine Tribes and the State of Maine government, John will do an excellent job in leading the work and ministry of one of our diocese's longest-standing committees."