

**From:** [Michelle Cochran](#)  
**To:** [BOC Info](#)  
**Subject:** Eloheh Indigenous Center's appeal for religious accommodation  
**Date:** Friday, February 6, 2026 4:11:32 PM

---

CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Yamhill County Board of Commissioners,

I am writing you today to express my support for Eloheh Indigenous Center's appeal for religious accommodation.

Religious freedom is a foundation of our country and should protect all faiths, including those whose practices look different from mainstream churches.

Indigenous spirituality requires extended, land-based gathering—it cannot be practiced in a building for an hour on Sunday. I attend a traditional Christian church to practice my faith and spirituality. If I were unable to practice my faith in a way that is culturally meaningful to me, I would be greatly hindered in connection to others and God. The inability of the Woodleys to practice their faith on their land would result in a denial of this freedom and the innate human need to come together to worship in a way that is safe, meaningful, and culturally respectful.

I respectfully ask you to reconsider and find a way to accommodate the Woodley's religious practice rather than restrict it.

Sincerely,

Michelle Cochran

--

**From:** [Wheeler, Rachel](#)  
**To:** [BOC Info](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Eloheh Indigenous Center  
**Date:** Thursday, February 5, 2026 3:40:28 PM

---

CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Yamhill County Commissioners:

I support Eloheh Indigenous Center's appeal for religious accommodation which comes under your examination next week at a hearing on Feb 12. The Center allows for Randy and Edith Woodley and many others in the community to practice their Indigenous spirituality with extended, land-based gathering—a practice not confined to a building for an hour on Sunday. I know Randy and Edith Woodley to be respected educators and authors. They have served Indigenous communities here and elsewhere for over 30 years. I, personally, have had the privilege of bringing students from the University of Portland to learn from the generous wisdom of Randy and Edith and to share in the abundance of what their land provides. My faith community of Saint Andrew Catholic Church here in Portland, Oregon has benefitted as well from volunteering at Eloheh. It is concerning that we are easily able to practice our religious faith while people like the Woodleys are suffering impediments to that expression. Please, find a way to accommodate their religious practice rather than restrict it.

Thank you.

Rachel Wheeler, Ph.D. [she/her/hers]  
Associate Professor and Chair  
Theology and Religious Studies Department  
University of Portland

*...can our actions in the present moment reverberate backward, altering the motion of the threads of the past—not to erase them but to transform their resonance in our shared story? Could the future be doing the same to us, shaping the present through its gravitational pull, inviting us toward pathways of repair, possibility, or collapse? (Vanessa Machado de Oliveira, Outgrowing Modernity)*

**From:** [Eddie B](#)  
**To:** [BOC Info](#)  
**Subject:** Letter in Support of Eloheh Indigenous Center  
**Date:** Thursday, February 5, 2026 6:49:31 PM

---

CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Yamhill County Board of Commissioners,

I am writing to urge you to approve the Eloheh Indigenous Center's appeal for religious accommodation. For many, faith is something practiced in a building for an hour on Sundays, but for the Woodleys and the community they serve, the land itself is the sanctuary. Their spirituality requires a deep, ongoing connection to the earth that simply cannot be boxed into a traditional schedule or structure. The Woodleys have spent over 30 years as respected authors and educators serving Indigenous people, and they provide an essential ministry at Eloheh. Having spent time at Eloheh myself—working the soil, praying, and sharing meals—I've experienced how meaningful this path is specifically because it steps outside the typical American church experience. Religious freedom is only real if it protects everyone, including those whose traditions look different from the mainstream. Please find a way to support their practice rather than letting rigid regulations get in the way of a long-standing ministry.

Sincerely,

Eddie Barnhart  
SE Portland

**From:** [Rachel Grant](#)  
**To:** [BOC Info](#)  
**Subject:** Accommodations for Eloheh Indigenous Center  
**Date:** Friday, February 6, 2026 9:50:23 AM

---

**CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

Hello,

I wanted to express my support of the Eloheh Indigenous Center's appeal for religious accommodation.

I work with an organization that mentors Indigenous college students and I have overlapped with the Woodley's in that setting. I respect their leadership, faith, and teaching so much.

It's been important for me to learn that Indigenous spirituality requires land-based gathering—it cannot be practiced in a building for an hour on Sunday.

Religious freedom should protect all faiths, including those whose practices look different from mainstream Christianity.

Please find a way to accommodate their religious practice.

Grace and peace,

Rachel Grant

**From:** [Gurusurya Kaur Khalsa](#)  
**To:** [BOC Info](#)  
**Subject:** Eloheh Indigenous Center  
**Date:** Friday, February 6, 2026 2:49:02 AM

---

**CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

Dear Kit, Mary and Bubba,

It is with great honor and respect that I write to you today. With great power, such as the Board of Commissioners holds, comes great responsibility. You have before you a tremendous opportunity.

An opportunity to support the ways of being that historically have been wiped out by governments.

An opportunity to keep the relationship alive between the land and the people who tend it.

An opportunity to attract visitors to Yamhill County.

Personally, I have been deeply touched by Randy and Edith's work. I fully support Eloheh Indigenous Center's appeal for religious accommodation.

I ask you to look in your heart... and recognize that indigenous spirituality requires extended, land-based gathering, eating foods grown on site and recycling nutrients back into the land - a relationship that is a completely whole cycle.

You have an opportunity to protect religious freedom.

Please find a way (and there is always a way) to accommodate religious practice rather than restrict it. You have that power.

Thank you for listening to these words.

May God bless each of you.

In truth,  
Guru Surya Kaur Khalsa

541-510-1754

**From:** [A. Gratreak](#)  
**To:** [BOC Info](#)  
**Subject:** Petition for Eloheh Farm  
**Date:** Friday, February 6, 2026 11:14:36 AM

---

CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Commissioners-

I am writing today in support of a community organization that has profoundly strengthened and enhanced the Yamhill community. Eloheh Indigenous Center has invested years of mindful teaching, land care, and community engagement through a lens of Indigenous wisdom and spirituality. Now, more than ever, communities need access to spiritual practices and peace building spaces. As a rural, small-acreage land-owner myself, there have been countless times that I have leaned on the teachings of Eloheh for permaculture and plant management knowledge. I support Eloheh Indigenous Center's appeal for accommodations for religious practice, especially in light of the need for land-based, embodied experiences to express elements of Indigenous faith practice. Please consider the immense value of both Eloheh's impact on local community, and the ripple effect of increasing access for diverse faith practices. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

-AG

Yamhill County Board of Commissioners  
535 NE Fifth Street  
McMinnville, OR 97128

Friends of Yamhill County  
PO Box 1083  
McMinnville, OR 97128

Dear Board of Commissioners and Friends of Yamhill County,

Randy and Edith Woodley want to live on their land in peace, sharing seeds and knowledge with others and offering a place of beauty, learning and respite, like their ancestors did.

You, Yamhill County Board of Commissioners, and Friends of Yamhill County, are trying to crush them. Why? There are hundrede of family farms in Yamhill County that invite visitors, share seeds and teach farming methods. They eat meals together with their guests, sit around the firepit telling stories and just being together. Yet you do nothing to them. Why not?

I can speculate about what your answers might be, but you must admit that this strongly infers racism, singling out a couple who represent as mixed indigenous.

In Randy's own words:

***My wife, Edith, and I operate a 10-acre teaching farm in rural Oregon called Eloheh Indigenous Center for Earth Justice. We're farmers. Seed keepers. We host small groups who come to learn traditional Indigenous approaches to land, food and community.***

***Friends contact us and ask to bring people. We teach them. We feed them food we grow. We sit around fires at night and share stories. Sometimes they stay overnight because what we do doesn't fit a nine-to-five schedule.***

***That's it. That's what we do.***

Members of the Board and Friends of Yamhill County, please stop. Stop the paperwork. Stop the bureaucratic nightmare with regulations that were written for industrial operations but are now being applied to this family farm. Approve permits which make total sense. The Woodleys are simply trying to live their lives according to their values on land which they've cultivated for years. Do the right thing in this world where so many are doing the wrong thing.

Sincerely,



Lori Wheeler  
2395 NW Crimson Ct.  
McMinnville, OR 97128

**Sally Schindler**

522 SW 140th Ave  
Beaverton, OR 97006  
503-680-7589

**February 6, 2026**

**Commissioner Starrett**

Yamhill County Board of Commissioners  
434 NE Evans St.  
McMinneville, OR 97128

**Re: Support for Eloheh Indigenous Earth Center**

Dear Commissioner Starrett,

My name is Sally Schindler. You may remember me—my husband, Eric, and I served alongside you on the Board of Christian Family Adoptions (now Choice Adoptions). We don't live in Yamhill County but we do have a vested interest in Eloheh Indigenous Earth Center (6033 NW Lilac Hill, Yamhill) which is my reason for reaching out. But first, some background.

While serving with CFA, Eric and I adopted our son Kenny. His birth mother is a Native American woman, and we are deeply grateful to her. As adoptive parents, we were taught the importance of helping our children remain grounded in their cultural roots. As non-indigenous Christian parents, we wrestled with how our faith could meaningfully intersect with Kenny's indigeneity. We prayed for a bridge.

That bridge came through Eloheh. Founded by Dr. Randy and Edith Woodley—followers of Christ—Eloheh teaches Indigenous land stewardship and ways of life that are deeply spiritual, communal, and rooted in faith. Randy, Edith and Eloheh have been a gift to our family, helping us honor our son's heritage in a way that is both culturally authentic and Christ-honoring. Eric and I are financial donors, and as a family, we have volunteered on the property.

We had also looked forward to participating in weekend-long retreats and courses at Eloheh. Doing so would allow our family to more fully engage in their teaching and would help us continue grounding our son in his cultural heritage in a way that honors Christ. Current restrictions, however, seem to be making this impossible.

Eloheh faces zoning and regulatory limitations that prevent them from fully operating as an Indigenous learning and faith-based center. Restrictions on hosting overnight groups and on preparing and sharing traditional foods significantly hinder their ability to practice and teach their way of life. These activities are central to their religious and cultural expression, and the limitations place a real burden on their religious freedom.

Beyond our family, Eloheh is a benefit to Yamhill County. Their work promotes responsible land stewardship, cultural education, and community engagement—strengthening the county and serving the broader community.

I respectfully ask that you would give your support to Eloheh during the February 12th meeting and help identify a path forward—through zoning flexibility or regulatory accommodation—that allows Eloheh to operate in a manner consistent with its mission. Doing so would help ensure that families like mine have meaningful, faith-centered opportunities to honor and preserve Indigenous culture and heritage.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and for your service to the community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sally Schindler".

Sally Schindler

Regarding an appeal on Feb 12, 2026

Dear Commissioners

Please support Elohch's current status of teaching, growing, farming, and spending time with people on their land. We as a community desperately need their wisdom in farming, in working with nature and not over nature, in valuing what nature brings without chemical interference and in gathering as humans sharing space together. They are a healing resource in our area.

Thank you, Vibeke Klocke

To: Yamhill County Board of Commissioners

February 2, 2026

535 NE Fifth Street

McMinnville, OR 97128

Dear Friends at the Board of Commissioners,

I am writing to support Elohe Indigenous Center's appeal for religious accommodation. I have had the privilege of sitting under the teaching and the experiences of their ministry. On several occasions I have traveled from Northern California to take advantage of what the Woodleys teach and offer in their unique setting and programs. I can affirm their respect for the earth and for all peoples and their desire to foster responsible and wise care for the earth and all her inhabitants, particularly as learned from First Nation Peoples.

The greatest benefit to me was being present on the land, in the gardens and learning from them in the context of nature. These kind of experiences are not best learned in a traditional "church" gathering of an hour (which I also respect and participate in for different reasons).

Please do not restrict their practices but find a way to allow for extended time and presence at their center for programs and spiritual gatherings.

The Woodleys are respected and wise educators and teachers with a 30-year long history of serving the Indigenous Community and other groups who wish to learn from them.

I thank you for your attention to this important request and respect for the religious freedom and educational opportunities it represents.

Sincerely,



Susie Veon, Serving the Pacific Region of  
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship

Susie Veon

5708 Sutter Ave.

Carmichael CA 95608

*For the hearing on  
2/12/2026 at 10 AM*

Yamhill County Board of Commissioners

535 NE Fifth Street

McMinnville, OR 97128

Dear Commissioners,

Today I write to you in support of Eloheh's right to practice Indigenous spirituality on our own land. I deeply appreciate and respect the work this Board does to retain the values that make Yamhill County the best it can be.

My name is Nancy Phelps, and have lived in Oregon for the past 55 years with my husband and our three children. My father lived in McMinnville the last years of his life, in the 1990's. I have spent much time in Yamhill County with him, and now at Eloheh, the Indigenous Center for Earth Justice.

At Eloheh, I have been welcomed as a guest on the land, volunteering in the gardens over the past several years. Volunteers bring our lunches and work a day at whatever tasks there are to do. We learn as we work and share with one another on the land.

The impact on me, a 75 year old grandmother and retired oncology and hospice nurse, is a groundedness and a deep spiritual connection to Creation. While I have both Lutheran and Buddhist practices, I find that the broad harmonious ways of Indigenous spirituality are calling me into ways of being that could heal this hurting world.

One of the strong values of our Country is our freedom of religion. I have attended several places of worship in McMinnville. I am certain that the Board upholds the belief that in Yamhill County, religious freedom protects all faith-practices, including ones that may appear different from Christian ones.

I ask that collectively, with all your wisdom and experience, you together discover and implement a way to offer a way to accommodate Eloheh's religious practices rather than restricting them.

Nancy Phelps

4115 NE 68th Avenue, Portland, OR 97218

The Rev. Lynne Smouse López  
905 N. Harbour Dr. Unit 17  
Portland, OR 97217  
503-358-5627

Yamhill County Board of Commissioners  
535 NE Fifth Street  
McMinnville, OR 97128  
Email: [bocinfo@co.yamhill.or.us](mailto:bocinfo@co.yamhill.or.us)

February 7, 2026

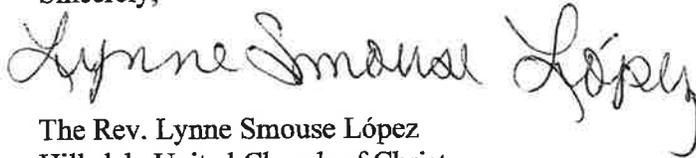
Dear Commissioners of Yamhill County:

I am writing out of deep concern for the rights of religious organizations to practice and teach faith practices on their property. We are concerned that permits have been denied to Eloheh Indigenous Center for Earth Justice and urge you to permit Eloheh to operate as they are set up to do.

As a clergy person of the United Church of Christ, we have a camp in Oregon that does activities that are similar to Eloheh Indigenous Center for Earth Justice. They want people to participate in religious activities together, spend time on the farm learning about earth justice and indigenous spirituality and be able to stay overnight and share meals. This community-building experience needs to be supported, not deleted. Refusal to allow Eloheh to function is a danger to all other faith communities and our rights to practice healthy, safe faith practices that deepen spirituality and community.

Please reconsider and do the right thing. The Woodleys are helping people, not hurting. Eloheh is their to teach us all how to care for our earth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lynne Smouse López". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

The Rev. Lynne Smouse López  
Hillsdale United Church of Christ

**From:** [Eddie](#)  
**To:** [BOC Info](#)  
**Subject:** In Support of Eloheh Indigenous Center  
**Date:** Monday, February 9, 2026 11:20:49 AM

---

**CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

To Yamhill County Board of Commissioners,

Hi, my name is Rev. Eddie Han in Los Angeles. I am a Christian pastor and a friend of Randy and Edith Woodley of Eloheh Indigenous Center. We became good friends when I went through some time of crisis and reflection. My family of 6 visited and stayed at the Eloheh center for two weeks which was a great time of learning and blessing as we participated in their daily farming and processing. Many of my friends also benefited from their work. What they are doing is truly valuable and impactful. We hope Eloheh center will stay open to be accessible to visitors who seek Indigenous values, wisdoms, and practices that could enrich many. Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Rev. Eddie Han

**From:** [Jessie Jones](#)  
**To:** [BOC Info](#)  
**Subject:** In Support for Docket E-15-25 & Eloheh  
**Date:** Monday, February 9, 2026 11:00:55 AM

---

**CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

Dear Board of Commissioners of Yamhill County,

My name is Jessica Jones and I am a supporter of Eloheh Indigenous Center for Earth Justice (6033 NW Lilac Hill Rd., Yamhill). I am writing to express my support for Docket E-15-25 to allow ceremonial gatherings and Indigenous agricultural practices to continue at Eloheh. Eloheh is a center for religious and spiritual connection to the land per the Native American customs of its founders, Dr. Randy and Edith Woodley. Their gatherings are protected under federal religious freedoms. We ask that you, the Board of Commissioners, allow their gatherings to continue for educational and religious purposes in peace.

Thank you,

Jessica Jones

**From:** [Seth Wilmor](#)  
**To:** [BOC Info](#)  
**Subject:** Docket E-15-25  
**Date:** Monday, February 9, 2026 10:34:23 AM

---

**CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

Dear Board of Commissioners of Yamhill County,

My name is Seth Wilmor and I am a supporter of Eloheh Indigenous Center for Earth Justice (6033 NW Lilac Hill Rd., Yamhill). I am writing to express my support for Docket E-15-25 to allow ceremonial gatherings and Indigenous agricultural practices to continue at Eloheh. Eloheh is a center for religious and spiritual connection to the land per the Native American customs of its founders, Dr. Randy and Edith Woodley. Their gatherings are protected under federal religious freedoms. We ask that you, the Board of Commissioners, allow their gatherings to continue for educational and religious purposes in peace.

Thank you,

Seth Wilmor

**From:** [Priscilla Lowery](#)  
**To:** [BOC Info](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Eloheh Indigenous Center  
**Date:** Monday, February 9, 2026 10:09:09 AM

---

CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

To Whom it May Concern,

My husband and I both support Eloheh Indigenous Center's appeal for religious accommodations. Indigenous spirituality requires extended, land-based gathering and cannot be practiced in a building for an hour on Sunday. This ministry provided by Randy Woodley is providing deep connection for people to heal and this healing reconnects people with the community at large. As a descendant of Oregon Native Americans, who suffered greatly at the hands of colonialism and reservation life, I can attest personally to the deep healing that is needed. Intergeneration trauma is passed on and ministry provided by Eloheh is a place where people can feel supported on their journeys. Randy Woodley is a respected leader and author. We implore you to allow Randy and Edith to continue their ministry.

Sincerely,

Priscilla Lowery, M.A.T. (teacher here in Yamhill County for 29 years)

John Lowery, OD (resident of Yamhill County for 29 years)

**From:** [Ali Kirkpatrick](#)  
**To:** [BOC Info](#)  
**Subject:** Eloheh/ Docket E-15-25  
**Date:** Monday, February 9, 2026 10:02:34 AM

---

**CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

Dear Board of Commissioners of Yamhill County,

My name is Alison Kirkpatrick and I am a supporter of Eloheh Indigenous Center for Earth Justice (6033 NW Lilac Hill Rd., Yamhill). I am writing to express my support for Docket E-15-25 to allow ceremonial gatherings and Indigenous agricultural practices to continue at Eloheh. Eloheh is a center for religious and spiritual connection to the land per the Native American customs of its founders, Dr. Randy and Edith Woodley. Their gatherings are protected under federal religious freedoms.

I am asking that you, the Board of Commissioners, allow their gatherings to continue for educational and religious purposes in peace.

Thank you,

Alison Kirkpatrick



**Ali Kirkpatrick** *she/her/hers*  
Daily Meditations Editor

**From:** [Elizabeth Welliver Hengen](#)  
**To:** [BOC Info](#)  
**Subject:** Eloheh Indigenous Center for Earth Justice  
**Date:** Monday, February 9, 2026 9:50:24 AM

---

CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Board of Commissioners of Yamhill County,

My name is Elizabeth Hengen and I am a supporter of Eloheh Indigenous Center for Earth Justice (6033 NW Lilac Hill Rd., Yamhill). I am writing to express my support for Docket E-15-25 to allow ceremonial gatherings and Indigenous agricultural practices to continue at Eloheh. Eloheh is a center for religious and spiritual connection to the land per the Native American customs of its founders, Dr. Randy and Edith Woodley. Their gatherings are protected under federal religious freedoms. We ask that you, the Board of Commissioners, allow their gatherings to continue for educational and religious purposes.

Thank you,  
Elizabeth Welliver Hengen  
[elizabethwelliver@gmail.com](mailto:elizabethwelliver@gmail.com)

**From:** [Lisa McMinn](#)  
**To:** [BOC Info](#)  
**Subject:** Woodley's appeal for Religious Accommodation  
**Date:** Monday, February 9, 2026 9:20:23 AM

---

**CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

Dear Yamhill County Board of Commissioners,

Thank you for the work you do overseeing what transpires in our county, and how it serves or doesn't serve the people and the land. I imagine it is full of challenging decisions.

Currently Randy and Edith Woodley are seeking an appeal to restrictions of their overnight gatherings, which are religious in nature and serve both indigenous and non-indigenous people seeking to come together to worship, learn, reconcile, and heal relationships with ourselves, each other, the land, and God.

I've known Randy and Edith for fifteen plus years. We've hosted them at our home, purchased heirloom seeds from Eloheh Farm (part of their ministry), and followed their ministry. Randy and I interacted as colleagues when I taught at George Fox, and also later, while I attended Portland Seminary. The work they are doing of course feel foreign to those observing from the outside, and is deeply meaningful to white people (and of course indigenous ones) who seek to worship and do the work of reconciliation incorporating Indigenous wisdom and traditional practices.

To protect the religious freedom of minority faiths, I encourage you to find a way to accommodate the Woodley's Indigenous religious practices.

Respectfully,

Lisa

Lisa McMinn, Ph.D.

Minister of Pastoral Care & Spiritual Formation  
[lisa@northvalleyfriends.org](mailto:lisa@northvalleyfriends.org)

**From:** [Alison Wiley](#)  
**To:** [BOC Info](#)  
**Subject:** A non-complaining note to the commissioners of Yamhill County  
**Date:** Monday, February 9, 2026 8:13:51 AM

---

**CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

Dear Yamhill County Commissioners,

First, thank you for your public service. It's not easy to serve the public, which has a tendency to complain to its elected officials, I'm aware. I promise I will not complain in this email.

I am Alison Wiley, 65 years old, a lifelong churchgoer and a granddaughter of a preacher. Religion (Christianity) is in my bones. Gardening and love of nature is also in my bones. Summer church camps, the sleepover, four-nights-away-from-home kind, have been an especially happy part of my life. Cooking meals together has also been central to how I've practiced church community (nobody I know can afford catering, that is for rich people).

I do not expect everyone to be Christian like I am (that would hurt their First Amendment right to freedom of religion). I don't expect everyone to love gardening or nature the way I do (though the food we all eat depends on a lot of people knowing how to grow food, just saying). I think it's fair to expect, though, that Yamhill County (or any county) would let religious people (or non-religious people) to have sleepovers and cook meals together on a beautiful plot of land in God's country. (Maybe it's politically incorrect for me to call it God's country, but that's how I think of it.) These kinds of things make for a happy, cohesive community, or at least that's been my experience in these 65 years.

Thank you again for your public service, Commissioners.

Alison Wiley  
[alison.wiley541@gmail.com](mailto:alison.wiley541@gmail.com)  
(541) 295-0255

**From:** [Emily Kerrigan](#)  
**To:** [BOC Info](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Eloheh Indigenous Center for Earth Justice  
**Date:** Sunday, February 8, 2026 6:07:06 PM

---

**CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

To The County Board of Supervisors:,

I am writing for you to waive the restrictive regulations that are being imposed on the Eloheh Indigenous Center for Earth Justice. Eloheh isn't a luxury resort wanting to profit off their land by hosting wealthy clients. Randy and Edith Woodley simply want to teach others (that include Indigenous people and all non Indigenous people) the traditional Indigenous way to farm, harvest and preserve native seeds which is vital to the health of the land, humans and Planet Earth.

An essential part of their teaching others includes holding Native American ceremonial practices. These ceremonies often require overnight stays. According to The Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act, (a federal law), Native Americans are permitted to practice their spiritual beliefs. By not allowing these overnight practices, Yamhill County could be breaking the law which will lead to many negative consequences including lawsuits and fines. But the worst consequence is denying Randy and Edith Woodley their freedom of Religion and others who want to practice Indigenous religious practices on their property.

In closing, please waive the restrictions/regulations that deny the Woodleys their inalienable right to practice their Religion with others.

Sincerely,

Emily Kerrigan  
2461 Howard Dr.  
McMinnville, OR 97128

**From:** [Charlene Davenport](#)  
**To:** [BOC Info](#)  
**Subject:** Eloheh Indigenous Center  
**Date:** Sunday, February 8, 2026 4:09:30 PM

---

**CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

My name is Charlene Davenport. I am 76 years old, raised an American Baptist, an advocate for my local school district, an ally for the local Indian tribe on whose land from time immemorial I currently reside upon, a grandmother, and great-grandma.

I have read 2 books by Dr. Woodley that have influenced my research into Indigenous history and my new daily "Bible" reading, *Becoming Rooted*. I stand with Puritan minister Roger Williams' concept of "liberty of conscience" leading to freedom of religion.

I walk 1/8 of a mile to an empty lakeside lot I call Church of the Lake 3-5 times a week. I stand there looking at the lake, the family of eagles that are sometimes flying, the Canada geese dropping in on their treks south and then north, the other mallards swimming together, the mighty cedar and fir trees surrounding me, the squirrels running up and down the trees, the wind gently blowing in my face and I recite my creed, "Eagle Poem" by Joy Harjo, and thank God for all of my brothers and sisters of life surrounding me on this sacred earth.

With humbleness and respect I ask that you find some way to accommodate the practice of all religious observances, whether in a building or on the land of Eloheh, from a mountain top or like my Church of the Lake.

Thank you for your kindness in taking the time to read my comments,

Charlene Davenport  
Clinton, WA

**From:** [Amy Vernon](#)  
**To:** [BOC Info](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Eloheh Indigenous Center  
**Date:** Sunday, February 8, 2026 1:58:22 PM

---

**CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

To the Yamhill County Board of Commissioners:

I am writing to express my support for Eloheh Indigenous Center's appeal for religious accommodation, concerning which there is a hearing scheduled for February 12, 2026.

As someone who worked for Eloheh for a couple of years I have seen the ways Randy and Edith Woodley serve the indigenous and non-indigenous community and the way their kindness, hospitality, and spirituality have blessed many people. The values, stories, and spirituality they share with the community are not practices that can fit the same boxes as a church service or mainstream religion. I would request that we find ways to accommodate their spirituality, as well as their hospitality, and promote and protect religious freedom of expression in our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Amy Vernon  
722 SE Morgan Ln,  
McMinnville, OR 97128

**From:** o Elliott  
**To:** OC.In o  
**Subject:** In Support o and and Edith oodle  
**Date:** Saturda , e ruar , : :

**T : ter a Se er e cauto e o e atiac me t c c orre o**

ear Leaders,

**ma b a o o e e ou e ter T e e o c ec a oto bo e t e  
commu t**

r. Randy Woodley was kind enough to spend some time with me several years ago when I needed wise counsel. I've benefited from his wisdom, public conviction and desire to do good in the world.

**ere o e t e e o o muc :**

**T e ma e ace or eo e to e eo eo re a crea  
co ecte or t matter**

**T e re ectt e a u ta ab t a ar or T e e are merca a ue**

**T e a e te r t a ea b e am e o e to be more e t ema ro  
o**

**reco e o er com cate tte ametme reco et at o t e  
r tt ta e coura e e to ou a ou ea**

**eace be t ou**

**ob ott**

**From:** [M Catherine Smythe Zajc](#)  
**To:** [BOC Info](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Docket E-15-25, February 12, 2026: Eloheh/Eagle Wing/Randy Woodley  
**Date:** Saturday, February 7, 2026 11:19:05 AM

---

**CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

Dear Yamhill County Commissioners Johnston, Starrett and King:

I write to you today to respectfully ask you to approve the appeal for religious accommodation made by Randy Woodley and his wife, Edith Woodley, co-sustainers of Eloheh Indigenous Center for Earth Justice and Eloheh Farm & Seeds.

As a person of faith, active in the Episcopal Church, and daughter of a Presbyterian pastor, I also revere and participate in other faith & wisdom traditions, including indigenous spirituality and reciprocity. What is true about all of the interfaith/spirituality practices I actively explore, is the aim to live in a relational, sustainable, harmonious way with the whole community of creation. And those values and practices often transcend edifices, boundaries and schedules.

In the last few years I've gotten to know the Woodleys (at a distance) through Randy's books, lectures, advocacy/outreach and — most importantly — through their example. Their intentional practice of modeling and expanding a generative, sacred exchange grounded in reciprocity and right relationship is affirming. And their work and practices also — *and figuratively*—plants seeds that can strengthen community well-being by deepening connection, fostering cultural understanding, and advancing ecological stewardship, sustainability, and creation care that honor the land and all who depend upon it — now and in the following generations.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my thoughts.

M. Catherine Smythe Zajc | Cleveland Heights, OH

*Spirit, help me move through this day as thread, not thrust— held, guided, and woven into what matters.*

---

Catherine Smythe Zajc, MLIS (she/her) | Peace & Social Justice Advocacy  
3701 Mayfield Road, #207 Cleveland Heights, OH 44121

**From:** [Katie Brooks](#)  
**To:** [BOC Info](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Eloheh Indigenous Center's Appeal for Religious Accommodation  
**Date:** Saturday, February 7, 2026 5:07:37 PM

---

**CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

To the Yamhill County Board of Commissioners:

I support Eloheh Indigenous Center's appeal for religious accommodation.

Indigenous spirituality requires extended, land-based gathering—it cannot be practiced in a building for an hour on Sunday. Religious freedom should protect all faiths, including those whose practices look different from mainstream Christianity.

The Woodleys are respected educators and authors who have served Indigenous communities for over 30 years. I first heard Randy Woodley speak when he was invited to preach at the church I was attending while I was in medical school. I have followed and supported his and Edith's work since then because their message has been so impactful and helpful. I subscribe to their newsletters, read their books and share them with other friends and family members, have bought seeds from them, and would love to someday be able to go learn at Eloheh Indigenous Center in-person. Their message has helped grow and solidify my faith and is helping me learn how to better care for the Earth.

Please find a way to accommodate their religious practice rather than restrict it.

Sincerely,

Dr. Katharine Brooks  
2606 E 20<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Anchorage, AK 99508  
[Kaelis24@gmail.com](mailto:Kaelis24@gmail.com)

**From:** [Mathis, Stephanie](#)  
**To:** [BOC Info](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Eloheh Indigenous Center for Earth Justice  
**Date:** Friday, February 6, 2026 7:30:56 PM

---

CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Yamhill Commissioners,

I'm a Co-Senior Pastor at West Hills Covenant Church. Our church has been supporting Eloheh Indigenous Center for Earth Justice for a number of years and our church community has been richly impacted by the preaching, teaching, and presence of Dr Randy and Edith Woodley to live in a more harmonious way loving one another - as God intended us to.

We are also a part of the Evangelical Covenant Church denomination that sends pastors from across the nation to learn from Dr. Randy and Edith Woodley. I know many of my colleagues who have been deeply informed and transformed by the ministry to Eloheh. Another friend of mine from Fuller Seminary also brings a group of doctoral students to study with the Woodleys as well. Their ministry brings in positive, national awareness to the beauty of Oregon.

It is part of our Christian faith to care for the land God has given us to steward with generous hand and with the best intentions for all humans, creatures, and creation to be in harmony and shalom (wholeness, or eloheh).

Although it is not a traditional, Westernized way of church, having people stay on their land for education, discipleship, and community is their Indigenous way of practicing their faith. In a sense, it is an image of the incarnational and hospitable ministry of Christ - coming to live among us.

The Woodleys are decades-long, respected educators and authors in the Christian community - so much that they have been given awards from organizations like EMO, Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon for their ministry.

Being able to have "Indigenous Church" looks like them being able to practice hospitality and disciple others on their land - for them, and us, it is their religious freedom to love God, love people, and love creation.

Will you please consider a way to accommodate their religious practice on their land? It will have a lasting impact on Oregon and nationally.

With respect and sincerity,  
Pastor Stephanie Ahn Mathis

## Tiffanie Willis

---

**From:** BOC Info  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 4:40 PM  
**To:** Tiffanie Willis  
**Subject:** FW: Supporting the Eloheh Indigenous Center for Earth Justice & the Woodleys

Cale George  
Executive Office Specialist  
Yamhill County Board of Commissioner's Office  
434 NE Evans Street  
McMinnville, OR 97128  
[georgec@yamhillcounty.gov](mailto:georgec@yamhillcounty.gov)  
Ph: 503-434-7501  
Fax: 503-434-7553

---

**From:** Scott Rice <[scottr@highrock.org](mailto:scottr@highrock.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 1:56 PM  
**To:** BOC Info < [bocinfo@yamhillcounty.gov](mailto:bocinfo@yamhillcounty.gov)>  
**Subject:** Supporting the Eloheh Indigenous Center for Earth Justice & the Woodleys

**CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

Greetings. My name is Scott Rice. I am writing to share my support of the Woodley family. I have benefited from Dr. R. Woodley's work on indigenous spirituality and Christian theology, and would simply like to put in a good word about his work as they are working through some current matters in the use of land and their religious freedoms. Scott Rice, Arlington, MA

## Tiffanie Willis

---

**From:** BOC Info  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 4:40 PM  
**To:** Tiffanie Willis  
**Subject:** FW: Eloheh Indigenous Center Appeal

Cale George  
Executive Office Specialist  
Yamhill County Board of Commissioner's Office  
434 NE Evans Street  
McMinnville, OR 97128  
[georgec@yamhillcounty.gov](mailto:georgec@yamhillcounty.gov)  
Ph: 503-434-7501  
Fax: 503-434-7553

---

**From:** Sarah Landrey <[slsamuelson1@gmail.com](mailto:slsamuelson1@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 1:55 PM  
**To:** BOC Info <[bocinfo@yamhillcounty.gov](mailto:bocinfo@yamhillcounty.gov)>  
**Subject:** Eloheh Indigenous Center Appeal

**CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

Dear Board of Commissioners,

I am writing this short note to express my support for Eloheh Indigenous Center's appeal for religious accommodation. I personally know the Woodleys and the work they are doing on their land. They have served indigenous communities for over thirty years and are respected teachers and published authors. The wealth of knowledge they provide regarding indigenous ways and spiritual practices is invaluable and important to us all in helping to mitigate the damage we have inflicted on our Earth. I know I have learned a lot from their teachings.

It's vitally important for them to be able to use the land they've acquired as a means to practice their indigenous spirituality and to share it with others who are interested in caring for our Earth. As you probably already know, land-based gathering is integral to indigenous spiritual practices. Religious freedom is a cornerstone of our democracy and should protect all faiths, even when that doesn't look like gathering together in a building for an hour on Sunday.

I respectfully request that you not restrict the Woodley's desire to practice their religion on their land and rather, find a way to accommodate it.

Warm regards,

Dr. Sarah Landrey - Retired Psychologist

--

*There is always hope.*

**Tiffanie Willis**

---

**From:** BOC Info  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 4:40 PM  
**To:** Tiffanie Willis  
**Subject:** FW: Eloheh Farm

Cale George  
Executive Office Specialist  
Yamhill County Board of Commissioner's Office  
434 NE Evans Street  
McMinnville, OR 97128  
[georgec@yamhillcounty.gov](mailto:georgec@yamhillcounty.gov)  
Ph: 503-434-7501  
Fax: 503-434-7553

---

**From:** Robin Lunn <[robin@uccsalem.org](mailto:robin@uccsalem.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 1:54 PM  
**To:** BOC Info <[rocinfo@yamhillcounty.gov](mailto:bocinfo@yamhillcounty.gov)>  
**Subject:** Eloheh Farm

**CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**  
**February 10, 2026**

Dear Yamhill County Commissioners,

I have recently become aware of the restrictions Yamhill County is placing on the land use permit of Eloheh Indigenous Center for Earth Justice, a religious 501(c)(3) nonprofit running a 10-acre teaching farm in Yamhill County. These restrictions prevent the Eloheh farm from truly embodying the spiritual practices of Indigenous peoples and honoring their sacred relationship with the Earth.

(fill in any connection to Eloheh, the Woodleys, or Indigenous spirituality with respect to the Earth)

Please relax the restrictions being placed on the Eloheh farm so that it can continue to share the rich spiritual traditions of Indigenous peoples with me.

Sincerely,  
**Rev. Robin Lunn (she/hers)**

Designated Term Pastor

**First Congregational Church, UCC**

700 Marion Street  
Salem, OR 97302

office: 503-363-3660

cell: (971) 666-3442

[pastor@uccsalem.org](mailto:pastor@uccsalem.org)

[www.uccsalem.org](http://www.uccsalem.org)

Schedule an appointment [here](#).

*No matter who you are, or where you are on your life's journey, you are welcome here.  
Practicing Heaven Now*

**ATTENTION!** Protect yourself from identity stealing scammers and always verify.

I will never email or text you and ask you to send money or buy gift cards for an emergency need.

Always email me directly at the above email address.

## Tiffanie Willis

---

**From:** BOC Info  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 4:39 PM  
**To:** Tiffanie Willis  
**Subject:** FW: Note in support of Eloheh Indigenous Center's appeal for religious accommodation

Cale George  
Executive Office Specialist  
Yamhill County Board of Commissioner's Office  
434 NE Evans Street  
McMinnville, OR 97128  
[georgec@yamhillcounty.gov](mailto:georgec@yamhillcounty.gov)  
Ph: 503-434-7501  
Fax: 503-434-7553

---

**From:** Sandra Boedecker <[boedecker.sandra@gmail.com](mailto:boedecker.sandra@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 1:37 PM  
**To:** BOC Info <[bocinfo@yamhillcounty.gov](mailto:bocinfo@yamhillcounty.gov)>  
**Subject:** Note in support of Eloheh Indigenous Center's appeal for religious accommodation

**CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

Dear Yamhill County Board of Commissioners,

I am writing ahead of the Thursday, February 12 hearing to urge you to revise the permit restrictions preventing the Eloheh Indigenous Center from practicing their constitutionally protected right to uphold their spiritual traditions.

This includes hosting overnight seasonal gatherings and ceremonies and feeding visitors from the harvests of their demonstration and teaching farm.

I have read many of Randy's insightful writings and have deep respect for him and his wife, Edith. They are doing transformative work to unite people for the common welfare, encourage justice for the vulnerable, and care for our natural resources by sharing Indigenous approaches to land, ecology, and spirituality. These widely respected educators should be freed to continue their long service to indigenous communities—as well as all who seek a healthier, more restorative way of living—in the ways their spiritual tradition prescribes.

Your favorable decision will be deeply appreciated and have far-reaching impact for good.

All best regards,  
Sandra Boedecker

## Tiffanie Willis

---

**From:** BOC Info  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 4:39 PM  
**To:** Tiffanie Willis  
**Subject:** FW: In support of accommodation for Eloheh Indigenous Center for Earth Justice

Cale George  
Executive Office Specialist  
Yamhill County Board of Commissioner's Office  
434 NE Evans Street  
McMinnville, OR 97128  
[georgec@yamhillcounty.gov](mailto:georgec@yamhillcounty.gov)  
Ph: 503-434-7501  
Fax: 503-434-7553

**From:** Peter Sommer <pete.sommer94061@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 1:28 PM  
**To:** BOC Info <bocinfo@yamhillcounty.gov>  
**Subject:** In support of accommodation for Eloheh Indigenous Center for Earth Justice

**CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

Dear Commissioners,

We want to express our support for the Eloheh Indigenous Center's appeal for religious accommodation. We've known of their work for some time. Our children and grandchildren have learned so much about life by doing workdays and worship at Eloheh.

For native Americans, spiritual life involves what's called "land-based gathering," meaning access to specific areas where a group celebrates its natural habitat. It also involves learning an approach to farming that requires different methods than our normal commercial farms. Folks learn how to grow food more sustainably.

That's why Eloheh requires its ten-acre farm – to demo and teach those ways, and the forms of worship that go with it. Think of the farm as one big church, where God is honored.

Speaking of worship, the Woodleys also devoted Christian believers. Randy has an earned doctorate and has taught at Portland Seminary, Whitworth University (Spokane), and conducted many seminars for churches.

Please find a way to accommodate their form of religious practice rather than restrict it. We sincerely hope you'll allow that for this wonderful project. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Peter and Maria Sommer

## Tiffanie Willis

---

**From:** BOC Info  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 4:39 PM  
**To:** Tiffanie Willis  
**Subject:** FW: Religious Freedom for Eloheh

Cale George  
Executive Office Specialist  
Yamhill County Board of Commissioner's Office  
434 NE Evans Street  
McMinnville, OR 97128  
[georgec@yamhillcounty.gov](mailto:georgec@yamhillcounty.gov)  
Ph: 503-434-7501  
Fax: 503-434-7553

---

**From:** christopher.vanni@gmail.com <christopher.vanni@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 1:18 PM  
**To:** BOC Info <bocinfo@yamhillcounty.gov>  
**Subject:** Religious Freedom for Eloheh

**CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

Dear County Board of Commissioners,

Eloheh is a land-based Indigenous spiritual community in Yamhill County. Local land-use restrictions are currently limiting core religious practices, including overnight ceremonial gatherings, sharing food grown through sacred relationship with the land, and traditional forms of teaching that require extended time together on the land.

I hope you will do everything in your power to protect Eloheh under federal religious freedom law, so they may continue practicing and teaching Indigenous spirituality in peace.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Christopher Vanni  
Wakefield, MA

## Tiffanie Willis

---

**From:** BOC Info  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 4:39 PM  
**To:** Tiffanie Willis  
**Subject:** FW: Eloheh Center for Earth Justice Land Use Permit Appeal

Cale George  
Executive Office Specialist  
Yamhill County Board of Commissioner's Office  
434 NE Evans Street  
McMinnville, OR 97128  
[georgec@yamhillcounty.gov](mailto:georgec@yamhillcounty.gov)  
Ph: 503-434-7501  
Fax: 503-434-7553

---

**From:** Margaret Marcuson <Margaret@margaretmarcuson.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 12:38 PM  
**To:** BOC Info <bocinfo@yamhillcounty.gov>  
**Subject:** Eloheh Center for Earth Justice Land Use Permit Appeal

**CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

Yamhill County Board of Commissioners  
535 NE Fifth Street  
McMinnville, OR 97128

Re: Eloheh Center for Earth Justice Land Use Permit Appeal

My name is Rev. Margaret Marcuson. I am an American Baptist minister in Portland, Oregon. I serve clergy across denominations in Oregon and around the U.S. and Canada as a leadership coach. I have been chair of the board of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon (EMO). EMO includes churches in Yamhill County.

I am part of the Common Table interfaith coalition sponsored by EMO. Randy and Edith Woodley have been partners in that coalition. They have hosted Common Table members at Eloheh.

Hospitality is considered a religious duty in my tradition. The Bible says, "Don't neglect to open up your homes to guests, because by doing this some have been hosts to angels without knowing it." (Heb 13:2, CEB) The Woodleys exercise hospitality as a religious exercise of their own indigenous spirituality at Eloheh.

My own commitment is to engage in interfaith relations and to learn about other traditions. This includes the indigenous traditions which the Woodleys share at Eloheh and in all they do.

As I understand it, the current Yamhill County zoning ordinance as applied will place a substantial burden on their free exercise of their beliefs. These include sharing with others through offering meals on site and overnight hospitality.

My experience of the Woodleys has expanded my vision of what faith leaders and faith communities can be and do. My request is simple: please allow them to continue their ministry of hospitality.

Sincerely,

Rev. Margaret Marcuson

**Tiffanie Willis**

---

**From:** BOC Info  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 4:39 PM  
**To:** Tiffanie Willis  
**Subject:** FW: Testimony in Support of Eloheh  
**Attachments:** Eloheh Letter of Support 2026-02.pdf

Cale George  
Executive Office Specialist  
Yamhill County Board of Commissioner's Office  
434 NE Evans Street  
McMinnville, OR 97128  
[georgec@yamhillcounty.gov](mailto:georgec@yamhillcounty.gov)  
Ph: 503-434-7501  
Fax: 503-434-7553

---

**From:** Tyler Connoley <[tyler@cpcucc.org](mailto:tyler@cpcucc.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 12:22 PM  
**To:** BOC Info <[bocinfo@yamhillcounty.gov](mailto:bocinfo@yamhillcounty.gov)>  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of Eloheh

**CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**  
Commissioners-

I'm attaching a letter in support of the Eloheh Indigenous Center for Earth Justice. I hope you will find a way to ensure this important ministry can continue its work in Yamhill County.

Blessings,  
Tyler

---

**Rev. Tyler Connoley, Conference Minister**  
**Central Pacific Conference of the United Church of Christ**  
--They/Them--  
25 NW 23rd Pl Ste 6 #126  
Portland, OR 97210  
503-910-4082 (Cell)  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5790725484>

You can schedule a Zoom or phone meeting with me here:  
[usemotion.com](https://usemotion.com)

You can find my public calendar [here](#).

Note: I take Monday as my regular sabbath, and do not respond to calls or emails on that day.

## Tiffanie Willis

---

**From:** BOC Info  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 4:38 PM  
**To:** Tiffanie Willis  
**Subject:** FW: Yamhill County Board of Commissioners: Re: Eloheh Indigenous Center

Cale George  
Executive Office Specialist  
Yamhill County Board of Commissioner's Office  
434 NE Evans Street  
McMinnville, OR 97128  
[georgec@yamhillcounty.gov](mailto:georgec@yamhillcounty.gov)  
Ph: 503-434-7501  
Fax: 503-434-7553

---

**From:** Julia Nielsen <julialouisenielsen@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 11:53 AM  
**To:** BOC Info <bocinfo@yamhillcounty.gov>  
**Subject:** Yamhill County Board of Commissioners: Re: Eloheh Indigenous Center

**CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

Dear Commissioners,

I support the Eloheh Indigenous Center's appeal for religious accommodation.

One thing all Oregonians share is a love of our land. As a Lutheran minister, I have spent time on the Center's land and know that it is a sacred space.

The Woodleys are respected educators and authors who have served Indigenous communities for over 30 years. They have also donated many hours of their time and space at Eloheh so that faithful people of many traditions can understand the value of Creation, including mine.

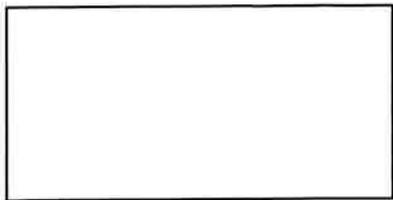
But specifically, Indigenous spirituality requires extended, land-based gathering—it cannot be practiced in a building for an hour on Sunday. Religious freedom should protect all faiths, including those whose practices look different from my own mainstream Christianity.

I hope you'll find a way to accommodate their religious practice rather than restrict it. I know this will help all Oregonians connect more deeply with our religious practices and this beautiful land we call home.

Sincerely,

**Rev. Julia Nielsen** *she | her*

Pastor of Sacred Organizing



[Leaven Community Land & Housing Coalition](#) [Salt & Light Lutheran Church](#)

[Subscribe to our Action News](#) [Donate to our Organizing](#) call/text (216) 333-5751

## Tiffanie Willis

---

**From:** BOC Info  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 4:38 PM  
**To:** Tiffanie Willis  
**Subject:** FW: Religious land use Eloheh

Cale George  
Executive Office Specialist  
Yamhill County Board of Commissioner's Office  
434 NE Evans Street  
McMinnville, OR 97128  
[georgec@yamhillcounty.gov](mailto:georgec@yamhillcounty.gov)  
Ph: 503-434-7501  
Fax: 503-434-7553

**From:** Emily Herbert <ewh1960@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 11:07 AM  
**To:** BOC Info <bocinfo@yamhillcounty.gov>  
**Subject:** Religious land use Eloheh

**CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my strong support for the approval of the Eloheh project. I have been familiar with their work for a number of years and have been consistently impressed by their mission.

I was especially moved when Duke University awarded the project \$10,000 as a catalytic initiative. This recognition highlights the importance of their work in living out an ancient faith within our current challenging circumstances, specifically in balancing simpler living with the preservation of our life support system.

As I approach the end of my long life, I have grown more appreciative of Native American ways of being in balance with nature. I am very aware that those of us from Christian Northern European origins have much to learn from these perspectives.

I strongly urge your approval of this project on the basis of the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA). Doing so will confer deserved recognition and honor on Yamhill County.

Thank you for your time and for your consideration of this important matter.

Best regards,

Emily Herbert

*"We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny."* Martin Luther King Jr. 1963

## Tiffanie Willis

---

**From:** BOC Info  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 4:38 PM  
**To:** Tiffanie Willis  
**Subject:** FW: Eloheh appeal

Cale George  
Executive Office Specialist  
Yamhill County Board of Commissioner's Office  
434 NE Evans Street  
McMinnville, OR 97128  
[georgec@yamhillcounty.gov](mailto:georgec@yamhillcounty.gov)  
Ph: 503-434-7501  
Fax: 503-434-7553

**From:** CJ Lacy Hanks <caitjulia@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 9:37 AM  
**To:** BOC Info <bocinfo@yamhillcounty.gov>  
**Subject:** Eloheh appeal

**CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

Yamhill County Board of Commissioners,

I worked at Eloheh from March of 2022 until November of 2025. I have seen people changed after interacting with Randy and Edith Woodley and their teachings around indigenous spirituality. The land, some of it farmed and some of it being restored to oak savannah, is used as a main teaching medium, reconnecting people to the earth. For the Woodleys this is not just about protecting the earth as an object, but centered on a sacred relationship that is tens of thousands of years old, passed down through generations of indigenous peoples.

I understand the need for regulation, especially when it's about protecting the little guy or parts of nature that shouldn't be destroyed. This feels like neither of those things.

Thank you,  
Caitlin J L Hanks  
722 SE Morgan Lane  
McMinnville, OR 97128

## Tiffanie Willis

---

**From:** BOC Info  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 4:38 PM  
**To:** Tiffanie Willis  
**Subject:** FW: Woodleys

Cale George  
Executive Office Specialist  
Yamhill County Board of Commissioner's Office  
434 NE Evans Street  
McMinnville, OR 97128  
[georgec@yamhillcounty.gov](mailto:georgec@yamhillcounty.gov)  
Ph: 503-434-7501  
Fax: 503-434-7553

**From:** Nancy Funk <nrfunk@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 9:24 AM  
**To:** BOC Info <bocinfo@yamhillcounty.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Woodleys

**CAUTION:** External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

I am writing on behalf of the Woodley ministries at Eloheh. We were introduced to Randy and his family when they attended North Valley Friends...they taught us history and some of the differences in how they worshipped God before they established their farm. I am given to understand that there are permit restrictions interfering with the way they worship, as they practice differently than a Sunday-only service. I would ask that we enable their farm to follow native practices in worship, strengthening our local native community and our overall community. Thank you!

~Nancy Funk  
Cell: 503.550.1648  
Email: [nrfunk@gmail.com](mailto:nrfunk@gmail.com)

## Tiffanie Willis

---

**From:** BOC Info  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 4:38 PM  
**To:** Tiffanie Willis  
**Subject:** FW: In support of the Woodley's religious freedom

Cale George  
Executive Office Specialist  
Yamhill County Board of Commissioner's Office  
434 NE Evans Street  
McMinnville, OR 97128  
[georgec@yamhillcounty.gov](mailto:georgec@yamhillcounty.gov)  
Ph: 503-434-7501  
Fax: 503-434-7553

---

**From:** Dan Taylor <danny.j.tea@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 3:45 PM  
**To:** BOC Info <bocinfo@yamhillcounty.gov>  
**Subject:** In support of the Woodley's religious freedom

**CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

Hello board,

I'm writing in support of accommodations being extended to the Woodley family (Eloheh Indigenous Center) to be able to host their religious gatherings on their land without hinderance.

Religious freedom is one of the bedrock principles of what it means to be America. That freedom must extend to include religions and religious practices that are outside the mainstream. The Woodleys are highly respected in Christian and indigenous circles and their work and community building is a true treasure of Yamhill county.

Please accommodate their appeal

Thank you

**Dan Taylor**  
[danny.j.tea@gmail.com](mailto:danny.j.tea@gmail.com)



**RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
1700 NE 132<sup>nd</sup> Avenue ~ Portland, Oregon 97230  
#503-255-8772 ~ [www.rlcpx.net](http://www.rlcpx.net)

February 10, 2026

Yamhill County Board of Commissioners  
535 NE Fifth Street  
McMinnville, OR 97128

Dear Commissioners,

My name is Rev. Solveig Nilsen-Goodin, I am a fourth generation Lutheran pastor, serving several different congregations in Oregon for the past 30 years. I am currently the pastor of Resurrection Lutheran Church in Portland. I'm writing today to testify to the character of Randy and Edith Woodley and the value of the work of Eloheh in Yamhill County.

I first heard about Eloheh and Randy and Edith through mutual friends about 12 years ago. For about two years I checked them out from a safe distance to see if they were legit; if they were people I might want to learn from.

After two years of listening and watching and reading some of Randy's writing from a distance, I discerned that from everything I could see, these people had good hearts and had something important to teach, so I decided to participate in my first weekend school at Eloheh.

Much to my surprise, the "school" did not involve a single power point presentation or lecture! Instead, at Eloheh, a weekend "school" was an immersion into Indigenous spiritual practices and lifeways. I have since

come to understand that developing a sacred relationship with the land, with God's creation, is as core to Indigenous religious practice as you can get. There *is* no indigenous religion apart from a sacred relationship with the land.

But the thing is, you can't teach someone to have that kind of relationship with God's creation in a classroom. Instead you have to spend time with the land during the day and night. You have to hear stories about the land around the fire. You have to eat the food produced from the land, and have ceremonies and pray prayers of gratitude for all the ways the land sustains us and gives us life. That's how you begin to develop a sacred relationship with the land.

As a pastor, I have preached many sermons about the words of Jesus, "Consider the lilies of the field and the birds of the air." But Randy and Edith taught me to actually take those words to heart and put them into practice. I am a better Christian, a better pastor, a more faithful follower of Jesus because of them.

In the decade since I participated in that first school at Eloheh, I have invited scores of people to Eloheh for schools, ceremonies, workshops and volunteer work days. My young sons helped plant 100 trees at their previous farm. I co-authored a Lenten devotional based on one of Randy's books. My husband and I have become annual contributors to their ministry.

Yamhill County is incredibly blessed to have Eloheh and Randy and Edith Woodley living here, and my fervent prayer is that you will bless all of us by providing accommodations so they are able to offer their teachings and their gifts without restriction.

Thank you for your consideration,

Rev. Solveig Nilsen-Goodin, Pastor  
Resurrection Lutheran Church

## Tiffanie Willis

---

**From:** BOC Info  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 4:37 PM  
**To:** Tiffanie Willis  
**Subject:** FW: appeal for Eloheh

Cale George  
Executive Office Specialist  
Yamhill County Board of Commissioner's Office  
434 NE Evans Street  
McMinnville, OR 97128  
[georgec@yamhillcounty.gov](mailto:georgec@yamhillcounty.gov)  
Ph: 503-434-7501  
Fax: 503-434-7553

---

**From:** Scot Headley <[sheadley@georgefox.edu](mailto:sheadley@georgefox.edu)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 7:35 AM  
**To:** BOC Info <[socinfo@yamhillcounty.gov](mailto:bocinfo@yamhillcounty.gov)>  
**Subject:** appeal for Eloheh

**CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

**To:** Yamhill County Board of Commissioners  
**From:** Dr. Scot Headley, Professor Emeritus, George Fox University  
**Re:** Religious Accommodation for Eloheh Indigenous Center  
**Date:** 02/10/2026

I have lived in Newberg for many years and taught at George Fox for 28 years. During that time, I worshipped at North Valley Friends Church in Newberg. Randy and Edith Woodley worshipped with me, and Randy was a professor at Fox during the same period I was. I greatly benefited from Randy and Edith's counsel and wisdom and learned quite a bit about indigenous expression of Christianity which has enriched my life and the life of the student community at Fox, as well as the worshipping community at North Valley. Randy's understanding, life commitments, and teaching regarding Shalom, good stewardship of the land, and the family of God as represented in all humanity is beneficial and truly needed in our communities and society today.

I write in support of you granting Eloheh Indigenous Center's appeal for religious accommodation. Randy and Edith seek to bless our region with teaching and fellowship through the use of their land. In my visits to Eloheh, when it was situated near Newberg, my family was blessed by the friendship and generosity exhibited there, as well as by learning more about religious practices that honor our Creator and creation. I would like to see many others receive those same blessings in the future through the full use of this land.

Thank you for your consideration.

Scot Headley

## Tiffanie Willis

---

**From:** BOC Info  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 4:36 PM  
**To:** Tiffanie Willis  
**Subject:** FW: Accommodations for Eloheh

Cale George  
Executive Office Specialist  
Yamhill County Board of Commissioner's Office  
434 NE Evans Street  
McMinnville, OR 97128  
[georgec@yamhillcounty.gov](mailto:georgec@yamhillcounty.gov)  
Ph: 503-434-7501  
Fax: 503-434-7553

---

**From:** Ruth Pentecost <ruthpentecost@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 6:07 AM  
**To:** BOC Info <bocinfo@yamhillcounty.gov>  
**Subject:** Accommodations for Eloheh

**CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

Though I appreciate the efforts that Yamhill County takes to create a safe and stable environment for those of us who live here, I'm bothered by the fact that there seems to be no accommodation for religious groups that practice their faith in a different way than we do. When I visit family in Pennsylvania, we certainly accommodate those driving horse and buggy down a public road because we realize that, overall, they are an asset to the community at large.

In short, if Eloheh is not threatening the wellbeing of their local community and especially if they are an asset to many, an accommodation, not a change in law, would be appropriate. Please consider this in your decision this week.

Thank you,

Ruth Pentecost  
Dundee

## Tiffanie Willis

---

**From:** BOC Info  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 4:36 PM  
**To:** Tiffanie Willis  
**Subject:** FW: Letter of Support for Randy and Edith Woodley

Cale George  
Executive Office Specialist  
Yamhill County Board of Commissioner's Office  
434 NE Evans Street  
McMinnville, OR 97128  
[georgec@yamhillcounty.gov](mailto:georgec@yamhillcounty.gov)  
Ph: 503-434-7501  
Fax: 503-434-7553

---

**From:** Joel Mayward <jmayward@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 9, 2026 9:15 PM  
**To:** BOC Info <bocinfo@yamhillcounty.gov>  
**Subject:** Letter of Support for Randy and Edith Woodley

**CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

Dear Yamhill County Board of Commissioners,

I am writing in support of Randy and Edith Woodley, the creators of Eloheh Indigenous Center for Earth Justice near Yamhill. I'm a resident of Newberg and a professor of Christian ministries at George Fox University, which is how I originally met Randy and Edith nearly a decade ago as a seminary student. Since meeting them and seeing their work, I've brought high school and college students to Eloheh for retreats and experiential learning—the students learn from the Woodleys and their land about Christianity and Indigenous spirituality in unique and transformative ways that I simply cannot teach in a classroom. I've become aware that Yamhill County has sought to impose restrictions on how often the Woodleys can host overnight gatherings on their own land, gatherings that are part of their religious practices. I am thus writing in support of Eloheh's appeal for religious accommodation, and would exhort the board to please find a way to accommodate their religious practices. Thank you for your consideration!

Best wishes,

Joel Mayward

---  
Joel Mayward, PhD  
Assistant Professor of Christian Ministries, Theology and the Arts - [George Fox University](#)  
Author - [The Dardenne Brothers' Cinematic Parables](#) (Routledge, 2022), [Sufjan Stevens' Carrie & Lowell](#) (Bloomsbury Academic, 2025), [Theology and the Films of Christopher Nolan](#) (Fortress Academic, 2025)  
Film Critic - [Cinemayward.com](#)  
Bluesky - [jmayward](#)  
Email - [jmayward@gmail.com](mailto:jmayward@gmail.com)

## Tiffanie Willis

---

**From:** BOC Info  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 4:36 PM  
**To:** Tiffanie Willis  
**Subject:** FW: Personal Gatherings

Cale George  
Executive Office Specialist  
Yamhill County Board of Commissioner's Office  
434 NE Evans Street  
McMinnville, OR 97128  
[georgec@yamhillcounty.gov](mailto:georgec@yamhillcounty.gov)  
Ph: 503-434-7501  
Fax: 503-434-7553

**From:** Sarah <shaleina.frauenpower@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 9, 2026 7:48 PM  
**To:** BOC Info <bocinfo@yamhillcounty.gov>  
**Subject:** Personal Gatherings

**CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

Greetings Commissioners,

I am writing to you in support of Eloheh Indigenous Center for Earth Justice. They have the right to host gatherings on their land as they so choose without bureaucrats controlling them. They have the right to gather, teach, and share food on their own land whenever they want. The government does not get to prevent people from having friends over on their own property.

Stop restricting Eloheh Indigenous Center for Earth Justice's right to gather.

Sincerely,  
Sarah Hale-Meador

## Tiffanie Willis

---

**From:** BOC Info  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 4:36 PM  
**To:** Tiffanie Willis  
**Subject:** FW: Letter in support of Docket E-15-25

Cale George  
Executive Office Specialist  
Yamhill County Board of Commissioner's Office  
434 NE Evans Street  
McMinnville, OR 97128  
[georgec@yamhillcounty.gov](mailto:georgec@yamhillcounty.gov)  
Ph: 503-434-7501  
Fax: 503-434-7553

---

**From:** Angel Cheng <[angel.h.cheng@gmail.com](mailto:angel.h.cheng@gmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 9, 2026 7:50 PM  
**To:** BOC Info <[bocinfo@yamhillcounty.gov](mailto:bocinfo@yamhillcounty.gov)>  
**Subject:** Letter in support of Docket E-15-25

**CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

Dear Board of Commissioners of Yamhill County,

My name is Angel Cheng and I am a supporter of Eloheh Indigenous Center for Earth Justice (6033 NW Lilac Hill Rd., Yamhill). I am writing to express my support for Docket E-15-25 to allow ceremonial gatherings and Indigenous agricultural practices to continue at Eloheh. Eloheh is a center for religious and spiritual connection to the land per the Native American customs of its founders, Dr. Randy and Edith Woodley. Their gatherings are protected under federal religious freedoms. We ask that you, the Board of Commissioners, allow their gatherings to continue for educational and religious purposes in peace.

Thank you,

Angel Cheng

## Tiffanie Willis

---

**From:** BOC Info  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 4:36 PM  
**To:** Tiffanie Willis  
**Subject:** FW: Eloheh Indigenous Center for Earth Justice appeal for religious accommodation

Cale George  
Executive Office Specialist  
Yamhill County Board of Commissioner's Office  
434 NE Evans Street  
McMinnville, OR 97128  
[georgec@yamhillcounty.gov](mailto:georgec@yamhillcounty.gov)  
Ph: 503-434-7501  
Fax: 503-434-7553

---

**From:** Andrew Wade <[pastorandy@bethelwhitesalmon.org](mailto:pastorandy@bethelwhitesalmon.org)>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 9, 2026 7:41 PM  
**To:** BOC Info < [bocinfo@yamhillcounty.gov](mailto:bocinfo@yamhillcounty.gov)>  
**Subject:** Eloheh Indigenous Center for Earth Justice appeal for religious accommodation

**CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

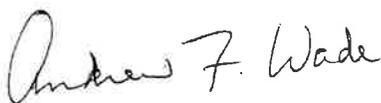
Dear Yamhill County Board of Commissioners,

I'm writing in support of Eloheh Indigenous Center for Earth Justice. I have been connected with this vital work for several years, and I'm grateful for the teaching and work that they are doing. Central to their work is the religious practice of gathering on the land. Unlike our Western ways, Indigenous gatherings often take a few days in a row to learn and practice their religious traditions together. As I'm sure you're aware, the United States outlawed these practices for nearly one hundred years, and they were only legally permitted in 1978. Religious freedom is critical to who we are as a nation and should be protected for all faiths.

Randy and Edith Woodley are highly respected Indigenous leaders who have demonstrated commitment to the broader community and a desire to cultivate the common good. I have personally benefited from their teaching on the land, as have the Christian faith communities I've connected with them.

I fully support the work they do at Eloheh and ask that you grant religious accommodation so they can exercise their religious right to hold ceremonies and gatherings on their land in ways that honor their Indigenous traditions and practices.

Respectfully,



**Rev. Andrew Wade (UCC/Mennonite)**

Andrew Wade (he him)

Pastor

Bethel United Church of Christ

<http://www.bethelwhitesalmon.org/>

541-806-5415

## Tiffanie Willis

---

**From:** BOC Info  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 4:36 PM  
**To:** Tiffanie Willis  
**Subject:** FW: Eloheh Indigenous Center

Cale George  
Executive Office Specialist  
Yamhill County Board of Commissioner's Office  
434 NE Evans Street  
McMinnville, OR 97128  
[georgec@yamhillcounty.gov](mailto:georgec@yamhillcounty.gov)  
Ph: 503-434-7501  
Fax: 503-434-7553

---

**From:** Colin Saxton <colin@northvalleyfriends.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 9, 2026 7:28 PM  
**To:** BOC Info <bocinfo@yamhillcounty.gov>  
**Subject:** Eloheh Indigenous Center

**CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

Greetings,

As a pastor at North Valley Friends Church in Newberg, OR, I encouraged you to please consider lifting the restriction placed on the Eloheh Indigenous Center. I

I have known the Woodley family for many years, and have appreciated their ministry here in Oregon and beyond. The family's Christian faith intersects with their indigenous heritage in important ways that transform many lives.

Indigenous spirituality, even when rooted in Christian experience, requires extended, land-based gatherings that do not fit the pattern practiced by most groups on Sunday mornings.

Also, our commitment to religious freedom should protect all faith traditions. Please support the religious accommodation appeal from the Eloheh Indigenous Center to continue their important work.

Sincerely,

Colin Saxton  
Clerk of the Pastoral Team  
North Valley Friends Church  
Newberg, OR

2/9/26

Subject: Eloheh Indigenous Center's Appeal for Religious Accommodation

Dear Members of the Yamhill County Board of Commissioners,

I am writing from personal experience to support Eloheh Indigenous Center's request for religious accommodation. I have participated in Christian retreats that take place in retreat centers, where people deepen their faith through shared meals, prayer, ceremony and sharing of stories in a setting set apart for spiritual formation.

I personally visited Eloheh as part of our church group interested in learning about Indigenous religious practices with the land. What I experienced was a retreat-like setting where people learn by being with the land, spending time outdoors, sharing food, hearing stories and offering prayer and ceremonies of gratitude. This kind of sacred relationship with the land is formed through lived, shared experience by being on the land itself.

I respectfully ask that Eloheh Indigenous Center be allowed to continue this essential religious work.

Sincerely,

Nancy McAuliffe  
740 First Street  
Lake Oswego, OR 97034

## Tiffanie Willis

---

**From:** BOC Info  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 4:35 PM  
**To:** Tiffanie Willis  
**Subject:** FW: Eloheh Indigenous Center Appeal

Cale George  
Executive Office Specialist  
Yamhill County Board of Commissioner's Office  
434 NE Evans Street  
McMinnville, OR 97128  
[georgec@yamhillcounty.gov](mailto:georgec@yamhillcounty.gov)  
Ph: 503-434-7501  
Fax: 503-434-7553

**From:** Bill Rourke <[mybillrourke@hotmail.com](mailto:mybillrourke@hotmail.com)>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 9, 2026 5:17 PM  
**To:** BOC Info <[mocinfo@yamhillcounty.gov](mailto:bocinfo@yamhillcounty.gov)>  
**Subject:** Eloheh Indigenous Center Appeal

CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.  
Yamhill County Board of Commissioners,

I'm writing in support of Randy and Edith Woodley and the Eloheh Indigenous Center appeal for religious accommodation.

I have known the Woodleys for many years and fully support their Christian ministry to the indigenous community in our area. I have heard their presentations at my local Newberg church and at the Friendsview Retirement Community. I have also participated, as well as a non-indigenous person can, in one of their events. I have read Randy's books and am well aware of his role as a professor at the Portland Seminary, a ministry of George Fox University, where he now holds emeritus status.

The emphasis on using a culturally sensitive approach to Christian ministry is very appealing and effective. Adapting the common practices of the local indigenous people in their ministry is effective, and I support it fully. County regulations must accommodate the fact that this religious practice must occur outside, on the land. Please respond favorably to this appeal.

Thank you from a Christian brother of the Woodleys,

Bill Rourke  
1201 E. Fulton St., Apt. 13  
Newberg, OR 97132

RECEIVED BY

FEB 10 2026

YAMHILL COUNTY  
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

February 3, 2026

Yamhill County Board of Commissioners  
535 NE Fifth St.  
McMinnville, OR 97128

Dear Commissioners,

Is there no place in today's world for the wisdom of the indigenous peoples who have lived here for thousands of years and know the land? We white men thought that we had a better understanding; that our way was better. Is it? The air we breathe, the water we drink and our very earth are polluted almost beyond repair. Hasn't the time come to explore other ways?

The indigenous peoples have a spirituality that is incorporated into their very being. Isn't this how we are expected to live our faith; not just at Sunday worship? Eloheh should be held as a model to be followed. It should be encouraged to thrive and grow. Please consider supporting their initiatives and be a true blessing to them. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Maggie Nagel

1470 Holiday Drive

Casa Grande, AZ 85122

## Tiffanie Willis

---

**From:** BOC Info  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 4:47 PM  
**To:** Tiffanie Willis  
**Subject:** FW: Testimony for Eloheh hearing

Cale George  
Executive Office Specialist  
Yamhill County Board of Commissioner's Office  
434 NE Evans Street  
McMinnville, OR 97128  
[georgec@yamhillcounty.gov](mailto:georgec@yamhillcounty.gov)  
Ph: 503-434-7501  
Fax: 503-434-7553

**From:** Brennen Guillory <brennen.guillory@mac-coop.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 3:00 PM  
**To:** BOC Info <bocinfo@yamhillcounty.gov>  
**Subject:** Testimony for Eloheh hearing

**CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

Dear Yamhill County Commissioners,

My name is Brennen Guillory. I am the pastor of McMinnville Cooperative Ministries here in McMinnville. I am familiar with Eloheh though I have not engaged deeply in their ministry and religious practices here in Yamhill County.

However I am concerned about the substantial pressure the county may bring to this religious community.

My mother taught me that one of the things that makes America great is religious freedom. That Americans are free to express and practice their religion without interference from the government - even when those religions do something different than yours. And in fact the most important thing was to protect the religious freedoms of religions that were different than yours, because once the government stifled freedom of one religion, your religion and your speech were not far behind.

I am concerned that if the communities that gather at Eloheh cannot hold religious services overnight more than once a year, what that might mean for our own overnight vigils that are a part of our religious heritage. Or allowing mission groups who are passing through our area to spend the night in our church. Or the many meals we have that are not catered. There is so much practical overlap in our religious practice - I begin to be concerned about our own religious freedom and how it might be clamped down on, if not overtly, then simply regulated out of existence.

So I ask you to make accommodation for Eloheh and the Woodleys for the free expression of their

religious beliefs and not overburden their religious practice. Not just for them, but for all of us who practice our religion in Yamhill County.

Peace,  
Pastor Brennen Guillory

--

**Pastor Brennen Guillory**

McMinnville Cooperative Ministries

[mac-coop.org](http://mac-coop.org)

*Inspired by Christ, our mission is to love and serve with all people to restore all of creation to God's loving embrace*

## Tiffanie Willis

---

**From:** BOC Info  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 4:47 PM  
**To:** Tiffanie Willis  
**Subject:** FW: Letter of Support for Eloheh before the Yamhill County Land Use Board

Cale George  
Executive Office Specialist  
Yamhill County Board of Commissioner's Office  
434 NE Evans Street  
McMinnville, OR 97128  
[georgec@yamhillcounty.gov](mailto:georgec@yamhillcounty.gov)  
Ph: 503-434-7501  
Fax: 503-434-7553

**From:** Matt Johnson <[mattj@fpc-mac.org](mailto:mattj@fpc-mac.org)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 2:54 PM  
**To:** BOC Info <[mocinfo@yamhillcounty.gov](mailto:bocinfo@yamhillcounty.gov)>  
**Subject:** Letter of Support for Eloheh before the Yamhill County Land Use Board

**CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

Dear Yamhill County Commissioners and Land Use Board,

Please see the letter linked to here in support of Eloheh's petition.

[2.10.2026 Matt Johnson, County Commissioners Testimony.docx](#)

I also would like the opportunity to speak at the hearing to be held on Thursday at 10:00AM.

Thank you,

Pastor Matt Johnson  
First Presbyterian Church, McMinnville

## Tiffanie Willis

---

**From:** BOC Info  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 4:47 PM  
**To:** Tiffanie Willis  
**Subject:** FW: Testimony in Support of Eloheh Farm and the Religious Freedom of Randy and Edith Woodley

Cale George  
Executive Office Specialist  
Yamhill County Board of Commissioner's Office  
434 NE Evans Street  
McMinnville, OR 97128  
[georgec@yamhillcounty.gov](mailto:georgec@yamhillcounty.gov)  
Ph: 503-434-7501  
Fax: 503-434-7553

---

**From:** Mark Lindberg <markl@fccceneugene.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 12:31 PM  
**To:** BOC Info <bocinfo@yamhillcounty.gov>  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of Eloheh Farm and the Religious Freedom of Randy and Edith Woodley

**CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

To the Yamhill County Board of County Commissioners,

My name is Rev. Mark A. Lindberg, and I serve as Associate Minister at First Congregational United Church of Christ in Eugene, Oregon. I am writing to offer testimony in strong support of Randy and Edith Woodley and their appeal regarding land use restrictions affecting Eloheh Farm.

I respectfully urge the Board to allow the Woodleys to host overnight guests, serve food grown on their farm, and utilize their WHO-compliant composting toilets. These activities are not simply operational or lifestyle choices; they are essential expressions of the Woodleys' Indigenous, land-based spiritual practice.

Indigenous spirituality is deeply rooted in relationship -- relationship with the land, with community, and with Creator. At Eloheh, teaching, ceremony, shared meals, and overnight presence on the land are inseparable from religious expression. Preventing guests from staying overnight or sharing food grown on the land effectively prevents the Woodleys from practicing their faith in its authentic and traditional form.

As a Christian clergy leader, I hold deeply the importance of protecting religious freedom for people of all traditions. Religious liberty in our nation has too often been defined through structures familiar to Western religious institutions, such as church buildings and scheduled worship services. Indigenous spiritual traditions, however, are inherently land-based and community-centered. Protecting religious freedom must include protecting these forms of practice as well.

The Woodleys' work at Eloheh contributes not only to Indigenous cultural preservation, but also to education, ecological stewardship, and reconciliation across communities. Their model of land care, hospitality, and spiritual formation serves the broader public good and reflects values that many of us across faith traditions seek to uphold.

I respectfully ask the Board to support reasonable accommodations that allow the Woodleys to continue their religious and cultural work without unnecessary restriction. Doing so affirms constitutional protections, honors Indigenous spiritual traditions, and demonstrates Yamhill County's commitment to religious diversity and equity.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration and for your service to the people of Yamhill County.

Respectfully,

Rev. Mark A. Lindberg  
Associate Minister  
First Congregational United Church of Christ  
Eugene, Oregon

--  
Rev. Mark A. Lindberg, Associate Minister (he, him)  
First Congregational United Church of Christ  
1050 East 23rd | Eugene, OR 97405  
541.520.8171 (text or voice) | [fcceugene.org](http://fcceugene.org)



## Tiffanie Willis

---

**From:** BOC Info  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 4:46 PM  
**To:** Tiffanie Willis  
**Subject:** FW: Testimony for Board of Commissioners meeting, Thursday February 12th

Cale George  
Executive Office Specialist  
Yamhill County Board of Commissioner's Office  
434 NE Evans Street  
McMinnville, OR 97128  
[georgec@yamhillcounty.gov](mailto:georgec@yamhillcounty.gov)  
Ph: 503-434-7501  
Fax: 503-434-7553

---

**From:** don manghelli <don40m@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 4:29 PM  
**To:** BOC Info <bocinfo@yamhillcounty.gov>  
**Subject:** Testimony for Board of Commissioners meeting, Thursday February 12th

**CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

Yamhill County Board of Commissioners  
535 NE 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
McMinneville, OR 97128

Dear Commissioners,

I have had the good fortune to attend functions at Eloheh Farm in Yamhill County. I am trained as a Roman Catholic Priest. I can say that everything I have learned from Randy and Edith correlates completely with what my Christian faith teaches.

Their Native American spirituality is based on relationship to the land—land that has been a keeper of Indigenous knowledge since time immemorial, (Their oral traditions go back past 10,000 years, the time of the Missoula floods that shaped the Willamette valley of today). Therefore, in order to properly transmit those teachings—teachings that are so needed today that teach how to live in harmony with other and the earth around us—they need to be able to have people experience those teachings while on the land.

Theirs is not an agribusiness. They never charge for their teachings, but accept free-will offerings. They have been clear that they share their teachings with both native Americans,

and with the descendants of the colonial settlers that forced them off the land with treaties in the 1850's. These teachings are so needed now, in a world experiencing the warmest winter in the 85 years I have been on this planet.

Please find a way to accommodate their needs.

Don Manghelli

Trained Roman Catholic Priest

Member and elder, Spirit of Grace church, Beaverton Oregon

Residence:

16250 SW Copper Creek Drive,

Tigard, OR 97224

Don40m@gmail.com

503 936 4621

## Tiffanie Willis

---

**From:** BOC Info  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 4:46 PM  
**To:** Tiffanie Willis  
**Subject:** FW: Appeal for Eloheh Indigenous Center for Earth Justice

Cale George  
Executive Office Specialist  
Yamhill County Board of Commissioner's Office  
434 NE Evans Street  
McMinnville, OR 97128  
[georgec@yamhillcounty.gov](mailto:georgec@yamhillcounty.gov)  
Ph: 503-434-7501  
Fax: 503-434-7553

**From:** Benjamin Barnett <Benjamin.Barnett@havurahshalom.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 4:17 PM  
**To:** BOC Info <bocinfo@yamhillcounty.gov>  
**Subject:** Appeal for Eloheh Indigenous Center for Earth Justice

**CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

Dear County Commissioners,

My name is Benjamin Barnett, and I serve as the rabbi of Havurah Shalom, a synagogue in NW Portland. I had the honor of first meeting Randy and Edith Woodley several years ago when I initially visited Eloheh Farm. I was there with many of my congregants as well as representatives of several area churches. The Woodleys were gracious hosts, taking us on a tour of their center, sharing their story with us, and describing the amazing work they do with people who visit their center. Contrary to the harassment and obstruction they faced when they first established Eloheh in Kentucky, they were now in a place in which they could thrive and be welcomed by the surrounding community. It was very moving for me to witness the ways in which their devotion to their cultural and spiritual practices were benefiting so many people who came to learn at Eloheh, as well as the land and its resources that we all share.

As a Jewish leader, it has been inspiring for me to get to know Randy and Edith, and to see them celebrate their tradition in such beautiful and generous ways. This is exactly the kind of religious expression and dedication to community we should be honoring and protecting. It is certainly not anything we should allow legal restrictions to obstruct, even if unintentionally. So I am writing to urge you to support Eloheh Indigenous Center's appeal for religious accommodation.

The Woodleys are respected educators and authors who deserve our respect for their dedication to community, to their heritage, and to the well-being of all peoples and of the earth we all share. Please find a way to accommodate their religious practice rather than restrict it.

Sincerely,  
Rabbi Benjamin Barnett  
Havurah Shalom, Portland

Rabbi Benjamin Barnett (he/him)  
Havurah Shalom  
825 NW 18th Ave.  
Portland, OR 97209  
503-248-4662 ext. 3  
[www.havurahshalom.org](http://www.havurahshalom.org)

## Tiffanie Willis

---

**From:** BOC Info  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 4:45 PM  
**To:** Tiffanie Willis  
**Subject:** FW: Eloheh Indigenous Center for Earth Justice

Cale George  
Executive Office Specialist  
Yamhill County Board of Commissioner's Office  
434 NE Evans Street  
McMinnville, OR 97128  
[georgec@yamhillcounty.gov](mailto:georgec@yamhillcounty.gov)  
Ph: 503-434-7501  
Fax: 503-434-7553

---

**From:** Katy D <katydockter@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 3:46 PM  
**To:** BOC Info <bocinfo@yamhillcounty.gov>  
**Subject:** Eloheh Indigenous Center for Earth Justice

**CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

To Yamhill County Board of Commissioners,

I am writing to you in support of Eloheh Indigenous Center for Earth Justice and the religious/spiritual work they do at, and through, Eloheh. Our American Constitution protects the right to religious freedom represented in various faiths, and various expressions within the same faiths.

I have been to Eloheh in the past and volunteered working alongside other volunteers and workers learning about the religious expression of American Indigenous populations. Their religious expressions are different from how I express my faith in my church and yet it should be protected by all (county, state and federal laws).

I also heard the Woodley's speak at a book talk at Powell's Books a few years ago. Their openness to share their belief structures and listening to others' questions helped build a knowledge base to those of us who live different lives and have different backgrounds. Their sharing, verbally and through their indigenous practices, are important in building understanding and growing strong community bonds. 'Unity, listening, community' are all in short supply in our country in these current times. Edith and Randy Woodley are examples of people who can help us overcome such divisions. I ask that you will support their appeal for religious accommodations.

Sincerely,  
Katy Dockter  
Portland Oregon

## Tiffanie Willis

---

**From:** BOC Info  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 4:44 PM  
**To:** Tiffanie Willis  
**Subject:** FW: Eloheh Indigenous Center

Cale George  
Executive Office Specialist  
Yamhill County Board of Commissioner's Office  
434 NE Evans Street  
McMinnville, OR 97128  
[georgec@yamhillcounty.gov](mailto:georgec@yamhillcounty.gov)  
Ph: 503-434-7501  
Fax: 503-434-7553

**From:** Bernadetta Devlaeminck <dettadv@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 2:26 PM  
**To:** BOC Info <bocinfo@yamhillcounty.gov>  
**Subject:** Eloheh Indigenous Center

**CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

Eloheh Indigenous Center

Knowing that within Yamhill County is a Trappist Monastery in Lafayette that is free to practice Christianity's systems of worship which includes teaching, praying, overnight and longer stays at their location. I do not understand why Eloheh Indigenous Center doesn't fit in the same manner the Monastery does.

I have visited the Eloheh Indigenous Center several times and have come away with great respect and appreciation for their way of life and what they want to accomplish for indigenous communities by the use of overnight and longer stays so they can better incorporate their beliefs into the lives of participants similar to what visitors to the Monastery do in Lafayette.

Why does it seem that the Eloheh Indigenous Center has not received the same consideration?

Thank you for your work.  
Bernadetta Devlaeminck

## Tiffanie Willis

---

**From:** BOC Info  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 4:42 PM  
**To:** Tiffanie Willis  
**Subject:** FW: Public Comment on Eloheh and use

Cale George  
Executive Office Specialist  
Yamhill County Board of Commissioner's Office  
434 NE Evans Street  
McMinnville, OR 97128  
[georgec@yamhillcounty.gov](mailto:georgec@yamhillcounty.gov)  
Ph: 503-434-7501  
Fax: 503-434-7553

---

**From:** Dana McBrien <mcbriendm@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 2:11 PM  
**To:** BOC Info <bocinfo@yamhillcounty.gov>  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Eloheh and use

**CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**  
February 1, 2026

Dear Friends,

Our Congregation became aware last week that Yamhill County has imposed permit restrictions that directly interfere with Indigenous religious practices at Eloheh Indigenous Center for Earth Justice, a religious 501(c)(3) nonprofit running a 10-acre teaching farm in Yamhill County. As we hope you are already aware, Indigenous spirituality is centered on humanity's sacred relationship with the land. The Eloheh farm embodies that spirituality through its seed saving, land stewardship, regenerative agriculture, and other spiritual practices.

It is our understanding that the County is limiting overnight camping at Eloheh farm to a single event each year. This makes it impossible for vitally important religious ceremonies (including sweat lodge, cedar fire, and seasonal ceremonies) to take place. Additionally, the County restricts the Eloheh farm from serving the food they grow and from using composting as a sanitation method, which similarly undermines the farm's religious connection to sacred land. It is difficult to imagine a more offensive intrusion into the religious practices of Indigenous peoples.

Edith and Randy Woodley, and the Eloheh farm, have become guiding lights for our Church in honoring Indigenous spiritual practices. Indeed, the Woodleys led an ecumenical workshop at our church just last fall on Indigenous spirituality, attracting dozens of participants from diverse Christian traditions. The Eloheh farm plays a critical role by allowing Christians and people of other faiths to deepen their care for God's Creation. In the workshop context, we can only absorb ideas and stories connected to Indigenous spirituality. Through visits and ceremonies at the farm, we can learn Indigenous spiritual practices and deepen our own relationship with Mother Earth and all God's Creation. Thus, in a very real way, the

County's restrictions on the Eloheh farm threaten not only the religious freedom of the Woodleys and other Indigenous peoples, but also the religious freedom of all who are touched by that spirituality.

The Church Council is the governing body of First Congregational UCC of Salem, Oregon. Our church was founded in 1852 on ancestral Indigenous lands in the mid-Willamette Valley. We seek to honor those lands and the Indigenous peoples who traditionally served as their guardians by learning from the Woodleys and others how best to care for them and to practice other Indigenous spiritual traditions. We, as the Church Council, request that the County eliminate the restrictions placed on the Woodleys and their lands, knowing that those restrictions interfere in a profound way with both religious practices on the Eloheh farm and with our exercise of religion. May God bless you with boundless understanding.

Dana McBrien, Moderator, on behalf of the Church Council  
First Congregational UCC, Salem, OR

February 3, 2026

Yamhill County Board of Commissioners  
535 NE Fifth St.  
McMinnville, OR 97128

Dear Commissioners,

Is there no place in today's world for the wisdom of the indigenous peoples who have lived here for thousands of years and know the land? We white men thought that we had a better understanding; that our way was better. Is it? The air we breathe, the water we drink and our very earth are polluted almost beyond repair. Hasn't the time come to explore other ways?

The indigenous peoples have a spirituality that is incorporated into their very being. Isn't this how we are expected to live our faith; not just at Sunday worship? Eloheh should be held as a model to be followed. It should be encouraged to thrive and grow. Please consider supporting their initiatives and be a true blessing to them. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Maggie Nagel

1470 Holiday Drive

Casa Grande, AZ 85122

# *Cascade View*

## COVENANT CHURCH

February 10, 2026

Yamhill County Board of Commissioners  
535 NE Fifth Street  
McMinnville, OR 97128

Aloha Commissioners,

My name is Jim Sequeira. I pastor Cascade View Covenant Church in Vancouver, Washington, a church I planted 27 years ago. I am an ordained minister in the Evangelical Covenant Church. I did my post-graduate work at Western Seminary in Portland, Oregon, and the North American Institute for Indigenous Theological Studies in cooperation with Portland Seminary (formerly George Fox Seminary).

I have known Randy and Edith Woodley for over 15 years, and I have served on Eloheh's board for over 12 years.

While I live in Vancouver, Washington, because of my relationship with the Woodley's and my involvement with Eloheh Indigenous Center for Earth Justice, I find myself in Yamhill County regularly.

Whether living in Newberg or now in Yamhill, the Woodley's have always demonstrated the important biblical values of hospitality and teaching. Because of the work, writing, and speaking engagements Randy and Edith have done, and continue to do, they have drawn national and international attention. As a result, they regularly have people "passing through and dropping in" to see their farm. In spite of these last-minute drop-ins, Randy and Edith extend hospitality even to strangers through a shared meal and a walkthrough of the farm.

As a pastor, facilitator, and leader in the Evangelical Covenant Church at both regional and national levels, I have witnessed how three-day immersive experiences often produce some of the most effective learning and transformational outcomes. In shared rhythms of worship, ceremony, story, teaching, prayer, and unhurried conversation, people don't just receive information—they're formed in ways that are hard to replicate in separate meetings.

I attended a para-church gathering called Young Life in Salem, Oregon for a year, but it wasn't until I went to a Young Life camp in Canada called Malibu for a week that I seriously committed myself to following Jesus and eventually to becoming a pastor.

That's the power of immersive experiences. For 17 years I co-facilitated a racial righteousness immersive experience called Journey to Mosaic. Our group spent four days on a bus visiting places connected to racial injustice throughout the Northwest Portland, Newberg, Tacoma, Seattle, Yakama, and White Salmon—and hearing personal stories from people who experienced racial injustice, including Japanese Americans interned in prison camps, Native

Americans, Hispanics, Chinese Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Native Alaskans. We heard stories of injustice while also experiencing each group's acts of hospitality.

What Eloheh Indigenous Center for Earth Justice provides is an Indigenous immersive experience that has deeply, and without regard to background, encouraged interfaith groups to grow spiritually. We have partnered with my denomination in an immersive experience called "Weaving Peace and Justice in a Broken Land," where seminary students, ministers, and executive leaders in the Evangelical Covenant Church have participated and have endorsed the partnership and committed to supporting it. We limit the number of participants to 15 co-learners, which we have found to be most effective.

I personally know of partnerships we've done with Fuller Theological Seminary, the North American Institute for Indigenous Theological Studies, Whitworth University, George Fox University, and local churches. This is only a small sampling compared to the many other interfaith groups, churches, organizations, and institutions within the Woodley's' network. Our goal has been to grow relationships into friendships and behind the names of these organizations are friendships that have continued to grow over the years.

Indigenous Peoples' wisdom and spirituality have been shaped and passed down for centuries through immersive learning in partnership with creation. Through a three-day immersive experience, our co-learners are able to build trust more quickly, encounter God's creation in more intimate and personal ways, and learn that working and harvesting the land is a partnership with the land. They also experience Indigenous ceremonies that introduce new expressions of knowing God and deepen spirituality. And learning doesn't end when we stop talking; the land, creation, and God still have more to teach us as we are on the land.

Our co-learners return home with new and renewed spiritual interests and practices, with many sharing how they have taken what they learned in a rural context and applied it within their urban context.

For Yamhill County, this matters because Eloheh brings people to this area for learning, reflection, and relationship that emphasize respect for the land, shared responsibility, and community-minded practices. Co-learners leave with a deeper commitment to care for creation, to listen well across differences, and to return home as better neighbors and community members. In a time when division and disconnection are common, Eloheh quietly strengthens the kind of understanding, stewardship, and relational health that benefits the wider county and country.

Blessings,

Rev. Jim Sequeira, Pastor  
Cascade View Covenant Church

Pastor Jim Sequeira [jim@cascadeview.org](mailto:jim@cascadeview.org) 360-513-6202

Meeting: 221 NE Chkalov Dr, Vancouver, WA 98684 Mailing: PO Box 872053, Vancouver, WA 98687

# Explore the Tourism Cares Meaningful Travel Map



## ELOHEH INDIGENOUS CENTER FOR EARTH JUSTICE AND ELOHEH FARM & SEEDS

Indigenous Tourism

### OUR EXPERIENCES

Eloheh sells Open Pollinated vegetable, medicinal, herb and flower seeds. We also host extended weekend schools and day schools along with volunteer work opportunities. On the last Saturday of each month (excluding NOV-JAN) we host a volunteer work day.

### ABOUT US

Eloheh teaches, inspires, guides, mentors and models through an Indigenous worldview, a co-sustaining, harmonious relationship between humanity, earth and Creator. Indigenous values guide all our decisions, while keeping the whole community at creation in mind. Eloheh Farm & Seeds seeks to be a model regenerative teaching-farm utilizing permaculture, bioministry and Traditional Indigenous knowledge. Our Eloheh Farm motto is: "Plant, Grow, Harvest, Share." We often share our produce with those in need and make donations of our seeds for community groups and benevolent organizations. Eloheh Farm Seeds are among the finest available for the earth, animals and people alike. Our goal is to protect ourselves and future generations with non-GMO, heirloom





## Alicia Lisle

---

**From:** BOC Info  
**Sent:** Monday, February 9, 2026 2:16 PM  
**To:** Planning  
**Subject:** FW: In Support of Randy and Edith Woodley

Cale George  
Executive Office Specialist  
Yamhill County Board of Commissioner's Office  
434 NE Evans Street  
McMinnville, OR 97128  
[georgec@yamhillcounty.gov](mailto:georgec@yamhillcounty.gov)  
Ph: 503-434-7501  
Fax: 503-434-7553

**From:** Rob Elliott <elliott.robert08@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 7, 2026 5:56 PM  
**To:** BOC Info <bocinfo@yamhillcounty.gov>  
**Subject:** In Support of Randy and Edith Woodley

CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Leaders,

I'm a big fan of Eloheh Indigenous Center. These folks check a lot of boxes in the community.

Dr. Randy Woodley was kind enough to spend some time with me several years ago when I needed wise counsel. I've benefited from his wisdom, public conviction and desire to do good in the world.

Here's why I love these folks so much:

1. They make space for people to develop lifelong friendships. In an increasingly disconnected world, this matters.
2. They respect the land, sustainability and hard work. These are American values.
3. They have integrity and lead by example. I hope to be more like them as I grow old.

I recognize governing is complicated. At the same time, I recognize that doing the right thing takes courage. Blessings to you as you lead.

Peace be with you,

Rob Elliott

**From:** [Bryan Boyd](#)  
**To:** [BOC Info](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Eloheh Indigenous Center  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 11, 2026 9:01:26 AM

---

CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Yamhill County Board of Commissioners,

I am writing to ask that you please find ways to accommodate the Eloheh Indigenous Center's spiritual practice rather than restrict it.

I taught with Randy Woodley at George Fox University for many years and have deeply appreciated his faithful contributions to our community. His wisdom and generosity have deeply impacted me personally as well as so many others in our county.

I hope we can accommodate their land-based spirituality and Christianity that looks different than church on Sunday mornings.

Respectfully,  
Bryan

Bryan Boyd  
Professor of Theatre, Theatre Program Director | George Fox University  
503-729-7435 | [bryanboyddesign.com](http://bryanboyddesign.com)

**From:** [Ewa Hammer](#)  
**To:** [BOC Info](#)  
**Subject:** Eloheh Indigenous Center"s appeal for religious accommodation on 2/12/26  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 11, 2026 8:49:18 AM

---

**CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

Honorable Commissioners,

I have been deeply inspired by the books and talks of Randy Woodley on the Harmony Way. This is a form of Indigenous spirituality that is very close to my own practice of Franciscan Christianity. Please find a way to allow these good people to practice their religion in their own way.

I fully support Eloheh Indigenous Center's appeal for religious accommodation.

Thank you for giving this matter your consideration,

Ewa Hammer

**From:** [Jessica Baker](#)  
**To:** [BOC Info](#)  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 11, 2026 6:39:47 AM

---

**CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

To whom it may concern,

My name is Jessica Baker and I'm a resident of Newberg, Oregon, in Yamhill county.

It has recently come to my attention that Yamhill County has imposed permit restrictions that limit how often groups can host overnight gatherings on their own land.

I am concerned with this specifically regarding my friends, the Woodleys who run Eloheh Indigenous Center.

Eloheh is an interfaith, non-sectarian organization that focuses on allowing people of all faiths to learn an Indigenous worldview and indigenous theologies.

The restrictions imposed by Yamhill county would make many of the traditional ceremonies practiced at Eloheh—sweat lodges, cedar fire ceremony, seasonal gatherings—nearly impossible to hold.

I understand the regulations weren't written to target the indigenous community, but they were written by people who assumed religion looks like church on Sunday morning. Indigenous spirituality doesn't fit that box. It never has.

I urge the county to reconsider these regulations, especially for those whose religious freedoms will be obstructed due to the regulations.

--- Jessica Baker (she/her)

**From:** [CLAIRE MARSDEN](#)  
**To:** [BOC Info](#)  
**Subject:** Land use restrictions  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 11, 2026 1:50:44 AM

---

**CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**  
Please allow the land based religious practices to take place at the Eloheh Indigenous Centre for Earth Juictice.

Thank you

Claire Marsden



# the First Baptist Church of McMinnville

125 SE Cows Street, McMinnville, Oregon 97128 | 503.472.7941 | [www.fbcmac.org](http://www.fbcmac.org)

Yamhill County Board of Commissioners  
535 NE Fifth Street  
McMinnville, OR 97128  
[bocinfo@co.yamhill.or.us](mailto:bocinfo@co.yamhill.or.us)

February 10, 2026

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for your attention to the concerns of those who live at, and those who visit and learn from, Eloheh Indigenous Center for Earth Justice.

I have served for ten years as the senior pastor of the First Baptist Church of McMinnville. My Ph.D. is in Religious Studies, with an emphasis on ritual practice and embodied meaning-making. As a pastor, a scholar, and a community member, I value Eloheh's work and witness and appreciate the gifts Randy and Edith Woodley, and others connected to Eloheh, offer to Yamhill County and beyond.

Those gifts are many. The Woodleys are generous with their stories and their hospitality. Folks at First Baptist Church have read two of Randy's books through our Native Voices Book Group; we have learned from his time as a guest preacher with our congregation; we have visited to the farm to participate in volunteer work days; we have visited the farm to learn regenerative practices; we have visited the farm to celebrate the community the Woodleys are building, a community centered on care for creation and justice for all. Other staff from Eloheh Farm have developed deep connections with our congregation over the past three years, and we value our learning from them, too. There is a gentleness of spirit and a deeply-rooted wisdom that characterizes those who spend significant time at Eloheh; those are qualities that make me want to spend more time there.

There's also a challenge inherent in the work of the Woodleys, and of Eloheh. They point out the distortions that happen in our individual spirits and in our society when we separate ourselves from our land, from our food, from the earth that cradles and nourishes and sustains us. They urge all people to learn from Indigenous ways of knowing and being, stressing that the attention to relationality at the heart of Indigenous spirituality is a call that, when heeded, can help to heal the hurt of our communities and our collective home.

This work - the care and the challenge - happens slowly, over time, as people are welcomed onto the Eloheh property and settle in for a period of contemplation, conversation, and discovery. The learning happens through encounter with Indigenous practice. The restrictions on overnight stays and on serving food grown on the land and prepared by the same folks who have grown it are violations of the very religious principles that allow the restorative spiritual work to take place. Please do what you can to protect the religious freedoms of the Woodleys, to preserve the good they are bringing to our county and to the wider world, and to make possible more learning, more growth, that centers the well-being of both people and planet. We all will be better for it.

Thank you,  
Reverend Erika Marksbury, Ph.D.

---

Together, we follow the call of the Spirit and the teachings of Jesus  
to learn, love, serve, and seek justice and joy for all.



February 10, 2026

Dear Yamhill County Board of Commissioners,

My name is Rev. Ron Werner, Jr. I am a Lutheran pastor and co-director of Together Lab, an organization that works with hundreds of faith communities, public schools, and nonprofits to build an Oregon where all belong. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Eloheh Indigenous Center's appeal for religious accommodation.

I have had the privilege of knowing Dr. Randy and Edith Woodley for the past six years. We first connected through mutual friends and through "Common Table," a statewide initiative launched after data revealed Oregon was leading the nation in hate crimes per capita. In response, we gathered religious and spiritual leaders from across traditions—monks and Mormons, ministers and rabbis, bishops, imams, and Indigenous leaders like the Woodleys. Over several years, including the early pandemic, we shared stories, grief, ritual, tears, and laughter, leaning into our differences. When we asked how to reduce hate crimes in Oregon, our answer was simple: build friendships that make room for difference.

I have worked in multifaith and community organizing for nearly twenty years and have come to believe that our differences are not obstacles to belonging—they are what nurture it. As John A. Powell of the Othering and Belonging Institute reminds us, belonging is not just a feeling; it is structural. It requires public decisions and policies that make room for people to fully live their identities, cultures, and faith traditions.

As a Christian pastor, I believe deeply that religious freedom is not reserved for a few traditions; it is a fundamental right that must be extended equitably to all communities. Indigenous spiritual practices are among the oldest religious traditions on this land. They deserve the same respect, protection, and accommodation afforded to other faith communities across Yamhill County.

Eloheh Indigenous Center is a place of ceremony, cultural preservation, healing, and spiritual practice. Its presence strengthens not only Indigenous communities but the broader fabric of our region. When we honor Indigenous religious expression in tangible, structural ways, we take an important step toward justice, reconciliation, and shared flourishing.

Granting this appeal affirms the County's commitment to fairness, religious liberty, and inclusion. It signals clearly that Yamhill County recognizes and respects the sacred traditions of Indigenous communities in this region and understands that belonging must be embodied in policy as well as sentiment.

I urge you to approve Eloheh Indigenous Center's appeal for religious accommodation. Thank you for your leadership and careful consideration.

Respectfully,

Rev. Ron Werner, Jr.  
Co-Director, Together Lab

**From:** [Miriam Bock](#)  
**To:** [BOC Info](#)  
**Subject:** Eloheh Indigenous center  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 8:38:59 PM

---

CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Board of Commissioners,

I support the Indigenous Center's appeal for religious accommodation. The Woodleys are respected educators and authors who have served Indigenous communities for over 30 years and have helped many other folks as well, like myself. I have visited their farm and understand their need to host retreats and have meetings after their own fashion and in their own ways to benefit their community. I personally have learned a lot from reading their book *Becoming Rooted*, taking care of the earth.

Please find a way to accommodate their religious practice.

Thank you,  
Sincerely,  
Miriam Bock from  
Newberg, Oregon

**From:** [Deana VandenHoek](#)  
**To:** [BOC Info](#)  
**Subject:** In support of Eloheh  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 7:59:26 PM

---

CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Yamhill County Commissioners,

I am writing to you in support of Eloheh. We have supported their work for several years and are grateful they are here in our county. The work they are doing, honoring indigenous culture, foods, land management, and spirituality, is vital to our community. We urge you to allow them to continue meeting, teaching, and sharing their indigenous food with friends and family who come to their land.

Hosting groups of family and friends for work and learning weekends, and sharing food, should be allowed. This is no different from the many home church groups, gardening clubs, camps, or festivals held in other locations in our county. Please allow them to continue the work that recently earned them a Traditional Innovation Award from Leadership Education at Duke Divinity. We are blessed to have Eloheh as a neighbor and community partner!

Best Regards,  
Deana VandenHoek

**From:** [Janet Parker](#)  
**To:** [BOC Info](#)  
**Subject:** Written Testimony for Eloheh Hearing on Feb. 12  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 7:06:51 PM  
**Attachments:** [Written testimony for Eloheh hearing Parker.docx](#)

---

CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear Yamhill County Board of Commissioners,

Please find attached my testimony in support of Randy and Edith Woodley and Eloheh/Eagles Wings for their hearing before the Board on Feb. 12. Thank you for reading this testimony and giving it your careful consideration.

Rev. Dr. Janet Parker

--

Rev. Dr. Janet Parker  
[revjanpark@gmail.com](mailto:revjanpark@gmail.com)  
M: (503) 974-4166

Yamhill County Board of Commissioners  
535 NE Fifth Street  
McMinnville, OR 97128  
[boinfo@co.yamhill.or.us](mailto:boinfo@co.yamhill.or.us)

Dear Commissioners,

Thank you so much for taking up this important matter regarding the land use restrictions placed on Eloheh/Eagles Wings. I was deeply alarmed when I learned that due to an accident of zoning, the Woodleys might be prevented from engaging in their critically important ministry, a ministry which benefits so many people in Yamhill County and beyond.

I am a minister in the United Church of Christ living in Beaverton, OR. I work in interim or transitional ministry and I am not currently serving a congregation, but I have served both urban and rural congregations in Clackamas, Marion and Multnomah counties. I also have a Ph.D. in Christian theology and ethics from Union Theological Seminary in New York. My doctoral work focused on Christian ecological ethics in dialogue with Indigenous religious traditions and worldviews. During my studies and my visits to Indigenous communities in the United States, I learned that Indigenous religion is often practiced outdoors and includes ceremonies on the land that are practiced at all different times of the day or night, depending on the ceremony. Sometimes, people need to tend a fire all night long to make sure it doesn't go out, and then a ceremony is held at dawn.

In other words, Indigenous spirituality is not confined to worship in a building on Sunday mornings, but is integrally related to being outside, in nature, in connection with the land. The land itself is considered sacred in a way that would have been understood by my Celtic ancestors in the British Isles—a reality that has been forgotten by modern Christians who learned to separate spirit from matter and faith from Creation.

For these reasons, it is *essential* that Eloheh be permitted to practice their faith and share their ministry in ways consistent with their Indigenous heritage and worldview. This includes having people stay overnight on their property, eat food lovingly prepared by hand from their own farm, and use composting toilets to create safe fertilizer for their crops. As a Christian pastor, I find these practices of hospitality, self-sufficiency, harmony with nature, and community ritual quite consistent with the practice of the earliest Christians and with Jesus himself. Jesus and the earliest Christians (in the book of Acts, in the desert monastic communities and later Benedictine and Franciscan communities) shared meals together with food they raised, prayed overnight together, and strove to live in harmony with Creator and Creation.

I learned of Randy Woodley's important work as a theologian in 2011, when I read his book, *Shalom and the Community of Creation*. And I have known the Woodleys personally since I moved to Oregon in 2013. I have spent many days at the Eloheh Farm and Indigenous Center for

Earth Justice in Yamhill County, and also in Newberg where it was located before that. I have participated in sweat lodges, talking circles, farm volunteer work, and presentations by Dr. Woodley on Indigenous spirituality. As a leader in the interfaith organization, EcoFaith Recovery, I have organized churches to volunteer on their farm, to attend their educational events, and to read one of Randy's recent books, *Becoming Rooted: One Hundred Days of Reconnecting with Sacred Earth*. In fact, I co-edited a book inviting Christians to reflect on *Becoming Rooted* during the season of Lent in 2022. Many churches in Oregon and beyond have used this little volume to rediscover Christianity's own heritage of love for Creation, in dialogue with Indigenous spirituality.

Whenever I visit Eloheh, I meet Christians from all denominations and backgrounds. They are there because they are thirsty for what Eloheh offers: genuine connection to their Creator, to the natural world, to a lost vision of harmony with the earth that they know exists within their faith but which is often overlooked. Eloheh is one of the best models for interfaith engagement that I have ever seen, because it brings people into their hearts and bodies as well as their minds. This integration is what helps people learn and transform and go back to their own communities changed for the better.

I can't emphasize enough that something irreplaceable would be lost if the current restrictions on the Woodleys' use of their property are allowed to stand. I believe these restrictions place a substantial burden on their free exercise of religion. I have confidence that a legal way can be found to accommodate their religious practices so that their ministry can continue to change lives.

Thank you so much for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Janet Parker  
United Church of Christ minister  
Leader in [EcoFaith Recovery](#)

**From:** [Casey Jonquil](#)  
**To:** [BOC Info](#)  
**Subject:** Eloheh indigenous Center hearing  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 6:19:38 PM

---

CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

I am writing to ask your council to please give every consideration in legally accommodating Eloheh's plans for advancing their center's need to accommodate students and visitors attending their religious and educational institution. I ask you to NOT roadblock or speedbump their proper and esteemed goals. I have met Randy and Edith and heard them speak a number of times and I have the highest regard for their integrity and goodwill. Their center can only be an asset to Yamhill County and your support will do immense good.

Sincerely, Casey Jonquil

**From:** [Ledger](#)  
**To:** [BOC Info](#)  
**Subject:** please grant Eloheh an exemption to continue their good work  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 5:34:19 PM  
**Attachments:** [this-is-worship-200-1-3.pdf](#)

---

**CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

Dear Yamhill County Commissioners,

My name is Stephanie Ladd, and I met Randy and Edith Woodley through a pastor friend of mine. I love what they are doing on their property, and was heartbroken to find that recent Yamhill ordinances (unintentionally) make some of their work impossible. Please see attached for a graphic version of my plea -- it would mean the world to me to know that you have granted them an exemption to continue teaching, worshiping, and creating a model conservation farm.

All good things to you,  
Stephanie

EDITH AND RANDY WOODLEY FOUNDED ELOHEH IN ORDER  
TO SEEK HARMONY -  
BETWEEN CREATOR AND HUMANS,  
BETWEEN HUMANS AND HUMANS,  
BETWEEN HUMANS AND THE EARTH.

THEY SEEK HARMONY ALONG THE PATHS  
THEIR ANCESTORS TAUGHT THEM:

FOREST FARMING  
TO RESTORE ECOSYSTEMS  
WHILE PROVIDING FOOD;

SHARING THAT FOOD;  
GATHERING IN  
CIRCLES

TO SPEAK TO ONE  
ANOTHER  
AS PLAIN PEOPLE;

SHARING SWEAT LODGE  
CEREMONIES;

HOSTING GUESTS  
AND LEARNERS  
IN YURTS.



This is worship.



IT IS ALSO COMMUNITY, AGRICULTURE, JUSTICE-BUILDING,  
AND EDUCATION. THAT IS THE POINT.  
THOSE THINGS ARE PART OF ONE WHOLE.

RECENT YAMHILL COUNTY ORDINANCES  
PROHIBIT OVERNIGHT GATHERINGS  
ON PRIVATE PROPERTIES MORE THAN  
ONCE A YEAR. THIS IS NOT IN-  
TENDED TO SUPPRESS ELOHEH'S  
FREEDOM TO WORSHIP,  
BUT THAT IS WHAT IT DOES.

PLEASE WRITE THE YAMHILL  
COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TO ENJOIN UPON LAWMAKERS  
THE CONSTITUTIONAL NEED FOR  
AN EXEMPTION FOR ELOHEH.

Let them  
practice their faith  
in peace.



**From:** [Jeff Pratt](#)  
**To:** [BOC Info](#)  
**Cc:** [Eloheh Indigenous Center](#)  
**Subject:** Eloheh Indigenous Center's appeal for religious accommodation  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 10, 2026 5:12:37 PM

---

**CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing in support of the Eloheh Indigenous Center and urge you to do everything possible to accommodate their religious practices at their site.

I became acquainted with Eloheh and the Woodleys several years ago while participating in a program, "Reckoning with Racism" sponsored by Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon. I have the highest respect and admiration for the Woodleys. They are doing important work -- cultural, environmental, and spiritual -- which deserves to be encouraged.

My Christian faith tells me that "In my Father's house are many mansions".... and that they are not all the same! In the spirit of the Bill of Rights, I urge you to reject any severe restrictions on Eloheh and their community practices.

Warm Regards,

Jeffrey C. Pratt  
Treasurer  
Clackamas United Church of Christ

**From:** [Manda Frederick](#)  
**To:** [BOC Info](#)  
**Subject:** Support of Eloheh and Religious Land-Use  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 11, 2026 9:25:57 AM

---

**CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.**

Dear Members of the Yamhill County Board of Commissioners,

My name is Manda Frederick, and I am writing in support of Docket E-15-25 regarding Eloheh Indigenous Center for Earth Justice (6033 NW Lilac Hill Rd., Yamhill).

Eloheh serves as a place of spiritual practice, education, and land-based relationship rooted in the Native American traditions of its founders, Dr. Randy and Edith Woodley. The ceremonial gatherings and Indigenous agricultural practices taking place there are not ancillary activities — they are expressions of deeply held religious and cultural commitments.

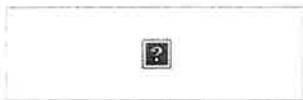
Edith and Randy not only help people on their own spiritual journeys, but they teach responsible relationships with the earth — we need these kind of educators doing this kind of work.

Federal protections for religious freedom exist to safeguard precisely this kind of sacred practice. I respectfully ask that the Board allow these ceremonial and educational gatherings to continue without disruption, honoring both the spiritual integrity of the community and the legal rights that protect it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Manda



**Manda Frederick**  
Communications Manager

**From:** Carol P  
**To:** [BOC Info](#)  
**Subject:** Permitting re overnight stays operations  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 11, 2026 9:17:02 AM

---

CAUTION: External Sender. Use caution when opening attachments, clicking links, or responding.

Dear members of the Yamhill Co. Board of Commissioners:

I am writing to you as a follower of Eloheh Indigenous Center for Earth Justice, a 10-acre teaching farm run by indigenous folks. They are farmers and seed keepers and they host small groups that come to learn traditional indigenous approaches to land, food and community. As part of the learning process, many of the groups are hosted for meals and overnight stays. The permit restrictions that Yamhill County imposed last year restrict overnight stays to once a year, which has an ongoing negative impact on Eloheh's mission and work.

In the past, our governments have done great harm to indigenous communities; banning ceremonies, punishing, traditional practices, and forcing assimilation.

I am certain that the permit restrictions that were imposed by the Board of Commissioners last year were not intended to encroach on Eloheh's efforts to educate non-indigenous peoples of indigenous farming practices. Please amend the permitting process to allow Eloheh and other similar organizations to continue to operate; to be able to gather, teach, and share food on their land.

Carol Pinegar  
(she/her/ella)  
Portland, OR