**Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples**

**FY 2016 Annual Report**

**October 1, 2015 – September 30, 2016**

**Submitted October 20, 2016 by Paula Palmer**

1. **Words that Come Before all Else**

The Haudenosaunee peoples begin their gatherings with the Thanksgiving Address, also known as The Words that Come Before all Else. It is good to begin by giving thanks for the many gifts that make this work toward right relationship with Native peoples possible.

Thanks, first, to the Spirit that breathes life, love, purpose, courage, and solace into this ministry.

Thanks also to the Boulder Friends Meeting: The continued spiritual nurture that I receive from my Spiritual Care Committee is a great blessing to me, foremost among many gifts that I receive from Boulder Meeting. Additional significant gifts from the meeting include the collaboration and commitment of the Indigenous Peoples Concerns Committee; the participation of many Boulder Friends in the Toward Right Relationship workshops; the collaboration of Boulder Friends who have become trained and certified Toward Right Relationship workshop facilitators; bookkeeping and administrative support from the meeting’s treasurer, bookkeeper, and Finance Committee; careful supervision of the Oversight Committee; a caring and supportive clerk; and financial support through the Peace and Social Justice Committee and the Indigenous Peoples Concerns Committee and from individual Friends. I often think “it takes a village” to do this work, and Boulder Meeting is the nucleus of that village.

During this fiscal year, the Toward Right Relationship project has been supported by grants from the Louisville Institute (Pastoral Study Project), Swarthmore College (the Moore Fellowship), Pendle Hill (the Cadbury Scholarship), the City of Boulder (Martin Luther King Day celebration), the City of Lafayette (Cultural Arts Commission), and by the many churches, colleges, and civic organizations that have hosted Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples workshops.

Jerilyn DeCoteau (Turtle Mountain Chippewa) played an increasingly significant role this year, facilitating both local and out-of-state TRR workshops and advising me as I conducted research on the role Quakers played during the era of the Indian boarding schools. As chair of the board of the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition, Jerilyn has been incredibly helpful and supportive of my Quaker Indian Boarding School research and its dissemination. Her involvement in planning and carrying out all aspects of the Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples project has been critical to building credibility and relationships with Native and non-Native organizations and communities. And it is a joy to work with her.

Other close advisors and supporters of the Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples work to whom I am especially grateful include Doreen Martinez (Mescalero Apache), Ann Cairns, Larry Bangs, Brett Shelton (Lakota Sioux), Elicia Goodsoldier (Navajo/Spirit Lake Dakota), Don Wharton (NARF), Christine McCleave (executive officer of National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition), Linda Jenkins, Steve Chase (Pendle Hill), Kaye Edwards and Guthrie Miller.

Special thanks to Army Armstrong and Cec Girz, of Armstrong Films, who filmed my slide presentation on the Quaker Indian Boarding Schools, created DVDs and posted the film online, all pro bono. And to the many families who provided lodging, meals, and ground transportation as I presented workshops and talks around the country: thank you, Friends.

1. **Traveling in Ministry**

As I travel in the Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples ministry, I carry Traveling Minutes from Boulder Meeting and from Inter-Mountain Yearly Meeting (the texts of these minutes are posted at [www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-right-relationship](http://www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-right-relationship)). Clerks of Quaker meetings where I present workshops or give talks usually write comments on copies of the Traveling Minutes. I’d like to share a few of the comments that clerks wrote this year:

*Dear Friends,*

*Greetings from Milwaukee Friends! We have been so blessed to have Friend Paula Palmer with us this past week to open minds and engender change amongst us here in Milwaukee. Paula speaks of the pursuits over years of involvement with issues of social justice and Native Peoples in particular. We are very appreciative of all the careful laboring Boulder Meeting has done with Paula to make this current ministry possible. This is an unexpected lesson for us in how to enable a Friend to follow their Way.*

*Through her two presentations, “Quaker Indian Boarding Schools: Facing our History and Ourselves” and “From a Leading to a Ministry,” she compellingly described to us how the Way opened for her to step by step, in an ever deepening involvement. From a leading to work for social justice to a ministry involving extensive and ongoing research taking her in new and unexpected directions, she has obediently answered the call, and truly walks the walk of continuous revelation in our world today.*

*We had a very good turnout of Friends who were both interested and shocked by what she had to say. We have new awareness of the insidious legacy of the Papal “Doctrine of Discovery”, the importance of the UN’s Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and a challenge to seek shared human rights in this land we all call home. We are asked to discover for ourselves a response to the situation we find ourselves in with respect to Native Peoples and others with whom we have cultural and religious differences.*

*Paula had a very full week. Between presentations at Milwaukee Meeting she traveled north to offer her workshop, “Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples,” and spend time with Friendly worship groups in Ripon, Winnebago and Oshkosh where she was supported by two Friends from Milwaukee Meeting. She also made presentations to two other faith groups during the week. Wow!*

*Many thanks for the support you provide Paula. For some here she has started something, for some she has nurtured something, but for all of us she has modeled Quaker courage.*

*Ravenna Helson, Clerk, Milwaukee Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends*

*Our time with Paula was rich and fruitful, with two presentations/workshops which brought together about 65 people from various organizations in the Fox Valley of Wisconsin. The “Right Relationship” workshop birthed some new collaborations and a follow-up workshop is already scheduled for a local school! We are very grateful for your support of Paula’s ministry, and for the opportunity to receive her gifts here.*

*Kat Griffith, clerk, Winnebago Worship Group (under the care of Madison Monthly Meeting)*

*The Pendle Hill community was delighted to welcome Paula Palmer to our campus for three months this year as our 2015-6 Cadbury Scholar. We were so moved by her research project to look closely at Quaker complicity, well-meaning as it might have been, in the cultural genocide project of Indian boarding schools. She was diligent and faithful in the research, shared what she was learning with us and other groups in the area, and also contributed to our community life and was a profound spiritually deepening presence among us. We have been enriched by her ministry that has inspired us all as we seek to engage in the ongoing movement toward healing that our human community needs. Her pattern and example in witness teaches us all. Blessings to her and to Boulder Friends Meeting for supporting her ministry.*

*With love and Thanksgiving,*

*Steve Chase, Director of Education, Pendle Hill*

1. **Program Objectives and Achievements this year**

For a more detailed account of Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples activities throughout the fiscal year, please see the FY 2016 quarterly reports.

1. *Raise funds to support this work plan and meet the budget through individual and group donations, grants, honorariums, and social media.*

We raised $49,824 and spent $49,700. Both figures are 10% under budget. See details in the Financial Report below.

1. *Present the three TRR workshops -- “Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: Toward Right Relationship with America’s Native Peoples” (for adults in the general U.S. population), “Re-Discovering America: Understanding Colonization”(for middle schools, high schools, and religious education programs), and “Native History; Native Rights: Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change,”(for Native American communities, organizations, and tribal colleges) at least 20 times, hosted by faith communities, educational institutions, and Native organizations around the country. Note: These presentations will be given by Paula and by trained and certified TRR workshop facilitators.*

During this fiscal year, I facilitated 17 TRR workshops for adults in Maryland, Washington DC, Colorado, Utah, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin. Trained and certified facilitators presented 13 TRR workshops in Arizona, Colorado, Wisconsin, Kansas, Pennsylvania, Washington DC, and Utah. In addition, Jerilyn DeCoteau and I facilitated the “Re-Discovering America” workshop with middle school and high school students in Lafayette’s Peer Empowerment Program. A total of 1,209 people participated in TRR workshops this year.

1. *Train, certify, and coach at least 10 people to present the Toward Right Relationship workshops on their own as part of the TRR Facilitators’ Network.*

I conducted four facilitator trainings, two by conference call (16 trainees), one on-site in Boulder (8 trainees), and one on-site in Milwaukee WI. Of the 32 people who received training, 18 have been certified to facilitate TRR workshops.

1. *Build a support and communications system for the TRR Facilitators Network, so that facilitators continue to share and grow in effectiveness together.*

I am looking for a volunteer facilitator to do this because I have not been able to dedicate the time required to do it myself.

1. *Conduct research on the role the Religious Society of Friends played in the Indian Boarding School era (see:* [*www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-boarding-school-research*](http://www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-boarding-school-research)*).*

I spent 17 weeks at Pendle Hill, conducting research in the Friends Historical Library at Swarthmore College and the Quaker Collection at Haverford College.

1. *Publish 2 articles and give 3 talks/presentations on the results of the Quaker Indian School research, offering this research for reflection by Friends and by Native American organizations.*

My article, “The Quaker Indian Boarding Schools: Facing our History and Ourselves,” is published in the October 2016 issue of Friends Journal, also available online. My paper for presentation at the Nov 10-12, 2016 conference on Quakers, First Nations, and American Indians is being circulated among conference participants with the pre-conference documents. A one-hour interview with Northern Spirit Radio is posted at <http://northernspiritradio.org/episode/toward-right-relationship-americas-native-peoples>. I delivered my 50-minute slide presentation eight times, at Swarthmore College, the FCNL office in Washington DC, Friends House in Sandy Springs MD, Intermountain Yearly Meeting’s annual session, Friends General Conference, Milwaukee Friends Meeting, Winnebago (WI) Worship Group and as a webinar sponsored by the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition. Film makers Army Armstrong and Cec Girz filmed the slide presentation and we will post it online and make DVDs for circulation soon.

It is important to remember, though, that doing the research is only a first step. The research needs to be followed by reflection and appropriate actions on the part of all the church denominations that participated in the federal government’s policy of forced assimilation by means of Indian boarding schools – including Quakers.

1. *Engage with Quaker meetings, organizations, schools, and colleges about Indigenous peoples’ concerns generally, and specifically about the Doctrine of Discovery, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the impacts of the Indian Boarding Schools, as well as the roles Friends have played in these issues and ways that Friends can contribute to genuine healing processes.*

I correspond and have phone and skype conversations with Friends around the country who have questions about Indigenous peoples’ concerns or who want to raise these issues in their own meetings or Quaker organizations. I collaborated with Jamie Bissonette, a Wabanki staff member of the AFSC office in Maine, to develop a program for presentation at Friends General Conference Gathering in July. I met with Ruth Flower, who retired from her position at FCNL but continues to work on Native American issues as a consultant with FCNL, and with members of the Indian Committees of Baltimore Yearly Meeting and Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. I gave talks at Quaker Institute for the Future Summer Seminar, Friends House at Sandy Spring MD, IMYM, FGC, several monthly meetings, and Swarthmore College, and I co-facilitated a TRR workshop at Haverford College.

1. *Develop partnerships with other faith communities to carry the Toward Right Relationship ministry into wider faith community circles.*

During the year, we facilitated workshops with Unitarian, Presbyterian, Methodist, Lutheran, Roman Catholic and Interfaith groups in Arizona, Maryland, Utah, Washington DC., Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Colorado, and Kansas. It was especially gratifying to present a workshop at the Parliament of World Religions in Salt Lake City Utah, and at the Ecumenical Advocacy Days in Washington DC.

1. *Develop partnerships with Native American organizations, schools, and colleges to offer the TRR workshops and to promote truth, reconciliation, and healing within Native communities.*

During this year, I participated in an ad hoc committee that drafted a resolution to create “Indigenous Peoples Day” in the City of Boulder. We celebrated its approval by Boulder City Council in August and planned a 2-day inaugural observance for Oct. 9 and 10. I am working very closely with the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition, especially with its executive officer Christine McCleave and board chair Jerilyn DeCoteau. In June, I participated in the Native American Rights Fund’s day of prayer to protect sacred sites.

Native Americans have responded to my research with much appreciation. The Boarding School Healing Coalition posted my talk on their website where it can serve as a model for other church denominations. I have been invited to present my talk on the Quaker Indian Boarding Schools at the Native American Rights Fund (scheduled in October 2016) and at the Baltimore American Indian Center (in November 2016).

1. *Maintain the TRR website (*[*www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-right-relationship*](http://www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-right-relationship)*) and enhance TRR’s presence on Facebook and perhaps other social media.*

Dave Lohman created a second webpage, [www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-boarding-school-research](http://www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-boarding-school-research), where we are posting boarding school-related documents, articles, links, and resources. Dave regularly posts updates on the TRR page as well. Ann Cairns posts updates and articles on our Toward Right Relationship Project Facebook page. When the film of my talk on the Quaker Indian Boarding Schools is complete, we will have a presence on Vimeo. My interview with Northern Spirit Radio is posted at <http://northernspiritradio.org/episode/toward-right-relationship-americas-native-peoples>, and my Friends Journal article is posted on their website along with comments from readers.

1. *Undertake new project initiatives as guided by the IPC committee, Native American advisors, Quaker organizations, and the Inner Light*.

I am beginning to conduct research on processes for truth and reconciliation, restorative justice, peace-making, and healing, especially Native peoples’ own processes. This work will be further developed next year.

1. *In consultation with Boulder Meeting and other organizations, consider whether it may be beneficial to move the TRR project to a different organizational home.*

We have had no discussion on this question this year.

1. *Meet monthly with the IPC committee and the Spiritual Care Committee, and quarterly with the Oversight Committee. Submit quarterly program/financial reports and post them on the TRR website. Give verbal reports to Boulder Meeting at the invitation of the clerk.*

These meetings have been held as scheduled, and reports have been submitted, posted on the website, and delivered at meetings for business with attention to spirit at the invitation of the clerk.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. **Summary of Program Activities, FY 2016 (Oct 1, 2015-Sept 30, 2016)** | | | |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Planned | Actual YTD |  |  |
| Workshops delivered | 20 | 18+13\* |  | |
| Facilitators trained | 10 | 32 |  | |
| Presentations to Quaker organizations | unspecified | 8 |  | |
| Grant proposals submitted | unspecified | 5\*\* |  | |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| \* 18 by Paula Palmer, 13 by trained facilitators  \*\*Louisville Institute, Sisters of Loretto, City of Lafayette, City of Boulder (2 proposals)   1. **Statement of Financial Activities, FY 2016 (Oct 1, 2015-Sept 30, 2016)**   Prepared by Toby Gallegos, Bookkeeper | | | |  |
|  |  |  | Over (Under) |  |
|  | Actual FY16 | Budget FY16 | Budget | **% of Budget** |
| Beginning Balance, 10/1/15 | 7,007 | 7,007 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Income |  |  |  |  |
| Individual donations | 21,637 | 19,500 | 2,137 | 110.96% |
| Crowdsourcing | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
| Workshop host organization donations | 7,564 | 10,600 | (3,036) | 71.36% |
| Boulder Meeting donations | 782 | 500 | 282 | 156.46% |
| Grants | 19,840 | 25,000 | (5,160) | 79.36% |
| Total Income | 49,824 | 55,600 | (5,776) | 89.61% |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Expenses |  |  |  |  |
| Project Director Compensation | 44,100 | 44,100 | 0 | 100.00% |
| Consultants | 330 | 5,000 | (4,670) | 6.60% |
| Conference fees | 1,129 | 1,500 | (372) | 75.23% |
| Supplies, printing, postage, other | 1,289 | 1,000 | 289 | 128.94% |
| Travel | 2,852 | 4,000 | (1,148) | 71.30% |
| Total Expenses | 49,700 | 55,600 | (5,900) | 89.39% |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Net Operating Income | 124 | 0 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Fund Balance, 12/30/15 | 7,617 |  |  |  |
| Fund Balance, 3/31/16 | 19,222 |  |  |  |
| Fund Balance, 6/30/16 | 13,508 |  |  |  |
| Fund Balance, 9/30/16 | 7,131 | 7,007 |  |  |