**Quarterly Report, April 1 – June 30, 2014**

**Toward Right Relationship Project (TRR)**

**Boulder Friends Meeting**

Submitted by project director Paula Palmer

July 9, 2014

NOTE: All quarterly reports are posted at: boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-right-relationship

During the third quarter of the 2014 fiscal year, I continued to meet monthly with my Spiritual Care Committee and the Indigenous Peoples Concerns (IPC) Committee, and quarterly with the Toward Right Relationship (TRR) Oversight Committee.

**The Spiritual Care Committee** defined its role in a document called “Spiritual Care Committee on Behalf of Paula Palmer as She Carries out the Toward Right Relationship Ministry.” They submitted this document to Oversight and Membership. The Committee offered helpful suggestions for staying healthy as I travel in this ministry. They continued to hold me and all workshop participants in the Light during local presentations of the workshop (at St. John’s Episcopal Church and Boulder Meeting) and they arranged for Friends to hold me in the Light during presentations away from home (Colorado Springs Meeting, Ithaca NY Meeting, Syracuse NY, FGC Gathering). The presence of a Friend holding us in the Light deepens the workshop experience for all and keeps me grounded in the spirit as I facilitate the exercise. I am so grateful for this traditional Quaker practice and to the Spiritual Care committee for their loving attention to my need for this spiritual grounding. The Spiritual Care Committee supported the IPC committee’s request to designate $17,500 of the meeting’s 2014 budget surplus funds to the TRR project.

The **Indigenous Peoples Concerns Committee** advises and assists the TRR project in many ways, and also carries out other projects. IPC members facilitated two presentations of the TRR workshop at Intermountain Yearly Meeting at Ghost Ranch in June, in my absence (I was in Philadelphia presenting the workshop at Friends Association on Higher Education and Friends Council on Education the same week). Claire Sheridan has taken leadership among IPC committee members in facilitating the workshop, with the help of Marilyn Hayes, Craig Hafner, Pat Kelley, Bruce Thron-Weber, Kaye Edwards, Jane Westberg, Dave Lohman, and Sunny Brown. Boulder Friends who are not committee members have been volunteering to help present the workshop, too. This quarter they included Daniel Booth, Diane Byington, Mary Carhartt, Bob Atchley, Mary Downton, and Uintah Shabazz.

In February, the IPC Committee requested that $17,500 of the meeting’s 2014 budget surplus funds be designated to the TRR project. By July, however, third quarter financial reports showed significant savings in travel expenses (thanks to donations of airline vouchers, frequent flyer miles, housing, and ground transportation) and increased donations from meetings and organizations that hosted the workshops. In light of this, IPC withdrew its request for 2014 surplus funds beyond the $10,000 that the meeting designated to the TRR project at the May meeting for worship with a concern for business.

The **TRR Oversight Committee** reviewed monthly financial reports provided by me and the Meeting’s treasurer and bookkeeper. Committee members noted that contributions from workshop participants and host organizations are covering the direct costs of travel and lodging for workshop presentations, but they are definitely not sufficient to meet the TRR project’s budget. For this reason, the Oversight Committee supported IPC’s request to Meeting that $17,500 of the 2014 budget surplus fund should be designated to the TRR ministry. After reviewing the third quarter financial report, the Oversight Committee concurred with IPC that it would not be necessary to ask meeting for 2014 surplus funds beyond the $10,000 designated in May.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Truth, Reconciliation, and Healing**  In the course of carrying out this ministry, my conversations with Friends, Quaker organizations, and Native leaders revolve around the question, How can the wounds of 500 years of colonization be healed? I am hearing very similar approaches to this question from Friends and Native people.  Since last Fall, I’ve been framing the Toward Right Relationship workshop in the “Five Steps to Healing” laid out by the Pawnee attorney Walter Echo-Hawk in his book, *In the Light of Justice*. Echo-Hawk describes the ways both Native people and people of European descent continue to suffer the wounds of colonization, and how we all stand to benefit from undertaking a healing process together. The first step in this process is: Recognize the harm that has been done. This is the truth-telling part of any truth and reconciliation process, and it is the work we begin in the TRR workshop. From there, we can set our sights on the next steps, which are: (2) Make a complete and sincere apology and ask for forgiveness; (3) Accept the apology and forgive; (4) Decide what needs to be done to make things right; and (5) Do those things and experience the benefits of healing. Echo-Hawk says he drew on all the world’s spiritual/wisdom traditions to define these 5 steps, and I think they are very familiar to Christians. I wrote about this in my article in the Jan/Feb issue of *Western Friend* (posted at boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-right-relationship).  In my meetings with AFSC staff in March and June, I learned that AFSC had recently brought Walter Echo-Hawk to Maine as a consultant. AFSC is implementing Echo-Hawk’s Five Steps to Healing in their truth and reconciliation work with the Wabanaki people and the state’s child welfare division. They are using it also in their healing work in Burundi and other countries fractured by racial and ethnic violence. It feels significant to me that both AFSC and I found our way to Walter Echo-Hawk and that we both are being guided by his wisdom.  Can Friends and Native people share our common understandings of the healing process and undertake this work together? This is the question that we are exploring in the TRR project. I am hearing it echoed by both Friends and Native people, and this feels very hopeful.  **TRR Project Evaluation**  Over 1600 people have now participated in the TRR workshops, in ten states. Almost all of them fill out the evaluation forms we give them at the close of the workshop. They indicate ways they would like to follow up (by recommending the workshop or hosting another workshop presentation, by being trained to facilitate the workshop, by offering financial support, etc.). I haven’t quantified all their responses, but the most common statements are these:  What were the most meaningful aspects of the workshop?   * The experiential exercise made the history real in a way I had never understood before. * The time for silent reflection. * The quality of the sharing.   Has this experience planted a seed in you for growth toward right relationship?   * I want to think more about this for myself and with my community.   Please offer any suggestions:   * None – it is excellent as is. * It should be longer with more time to share ideas about how to move forward. * Take this into the schools!   Native Americans have participated in most of the workshop presentations. Here are some comments:  *“Now I am more hopeful of seeing healing during my lifetime, and some of my prejudice against white people in general has been exorcised. The workshop is wonderful. Repeat it! Share it!”*  -- Brett Shelton, Lakota  *“I haven’t been speaking up as a Native person lately, but this makes me feel ready to step into my role educating people about our history. I didn’t have high expectations for this workshop, but you did a really good job.”* – Gabe Smith, Ojibwe  *“I want to take this to my reservation. Native people don’t know this history either…. We all need to understand what happened so that we can come together as a country.”* – Rio Ramirez, Tohono O’odham  Among Boulder Friends, a number of concerns about the workshop have been expressed. I would like to be able to have open conversations with Friends who have concerns. We are all on a learning path.  **Third Quarter Workshop Presentations and Number of Participants**   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | 4/27/2014 | St. John's Episcopal Church, Boulder | 21 |  | | 5/6/2014 | Horizons Middle School | 22 |  | | 5/15/2014 | Denver Justice & Peace Committee | 34 |  | | 5/16/2014 | Boulder Friends Meeting | 21 |  | | 5/18/2014 | Colorado Springs Friends Meeting | 18 |  | | 6/11-14/14 | IMYM, Ghost Ranch NM | 25 |  | | 6/11-14/14 | Friends Assn for Higher Ed, PA | 12\* |  | | 6/11-14/14 | Friends Council on Education | 10\* |  | | 6/20/2014 | Ithaca Friends Meeting | 25 |  | | 6/21/2014 | Syracuse Friends Meeting | 36 |  | | 6/29-7/5/14 | Friends General Conference, PA | 30 |  | |   \* These numbers are low because overall attendance at FAHE and FCE was half of the expected registration, so attendance at the concurrent sessions ranged from 3 to 15. Teachers in the Philadelphia area were unable to come because schools were still in session, making up for the exceptionally high number of snow days this snowy year. It was interesting that participants in the TRR workshops said it was a powerful experience even with such small numbers. |
| **Trainings for Facilitators**  In Syracuse NY, I trained three people who want to be able to present the workshop on their own – one Quaker and two non-Quakers. Eight additional people who participated in the Syracuse workshop asked to be trained as facilitators; five of these are Methodist ministers who want to take this ministry to their congregations. I plan to do this training by skype in August. I am also in the process of scheduling trainings for facilitators in Boulder and Ithaca NY, and with other people from around the country who indicated on their Evaluation sheets that they would like to receive this training. As these trained facilitators begin to offer the workshop on their own, we’ll be engaging many more communities in this work for truth, reconciliation, and healing. |
| **New Program for Middle Schools and High Schools:**  **“Re-Discovering America: Understanding Colonization”** |
| Since we began offering the TRR workshop, Native and non-Native people alike have been urging us to develop a similar program for young people. This spring, with Jerilyn DeCoteau, an Ojibwe educator and volunteer with Reading to End Racism, I developed a version of the workshop that can be presented in middle school and high school classrooms. The script can be read in 25 minutes, followed by time for reflection and sharing among the students during a 50-minute class period. We also developed a homework assignment that teachers can use. We pilot-tested this program as part of Reading to End Racism’s program at Horizons Middle School in May. The students and the classroom teacher gave the program high marks, for example:  Students: “The presentation was amazing and because of it I learned more than I could have any  other way.”  “The lesson today was really powerful and moving. I learned a lot and this has inspired me  to dig deeper and take actions to help end racism and prejudice.”  “It was a great activity and it really helped me to imagine what happened.”  Teacher: “The script is GREAT!”    In June, Kaye Edwards and I presented the middle school/high school program to Quaker teachers at the conference of Friends Council on Education (on the campus of Haverford College). Participants gave it high marks, along with suggestions to include more interactivity and more stories of healing and reconciliation. Diane Randall, general secretary of FCNL, encouraged me to present the program with Young Friends at yearly meetings. Ithaca NY Friends are encouraging their school district to invite me to train teachers there to present the program in their classrooms.  We posted new flyers about “Re-Discovering America: Understanding Colonization” on the TRR website, [www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-right-relationship](http://www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-right-relationship) This youth program is an exciting new growing edge in the TRR project. |
| **Wider Quaker Connections**  **FCNL**: After participating in a workshop, General Secretary Diane Randall said she would like me to present the workshop to FCNL staff in Washington DC.  **AFSC**: Kaye Edwards and I presented a program about Indian Boarding Schools as part of AFSC’s afternoon programs at the FGC Gathering. We attended a presentation on the Doctrine of Christian Discovery by Jamie Bissonette (Abenaki tribe), who is on the staff of the AFSC office in Maine.  **Quaker Earthcare Witness**: Kaye Edwards and I presented the TRR workshop as part of the QEW afternoon program at the FGC Gathering.  **Quaker Institute for the Future**: I gave a presentation at QIF’s summer seminar at Friends Center in Philadelphia, focusing on Walter Echo-Hawk’s prescription for national healing from the twin wounds of colonization: genocide and slavery.  **Friends Council on Education**: I met with outgoing general secretary Irene McHenry (she read one of the parts in the workshop script when we presented it at the FGC Gathering) and with staffer Deborra Pancoe. They invited me to send them descriptions and materials for “Re-Discovering America: Understanding Colonization” so that they can post them on the FCE website and recommend them to teachers at Friends schools. We discussed the possibility of offering training for teachers at Friends schools.  **Friends Association for Higher Education:** Donald Smith and Abigail Adams, who co-edit Quaker Higher Education, invited me to submit an article for the Fall 2014 issue. Abigail is working to arrange an invitation from her university in Connecticut to present the workshop there in the Fall.  **Yearly Meetings:** Friends in Pacific Yearly Meeting, Southeastern Yearly Meeting, and South Central Yearly meeting have inquired whether I could give workshops presentations at their 2015 gatherings.  **Pendle Hill**: I will present the workshop at Pendle Hill on November 3.  **FGC**: I met with Vanessa Julye (FGC staff, Ministry on Racism) and Jean-Marie Barch (clerk, FGC Committee on Nurturing Ministries) to begin exploring possibilities for offering the TRR workshop through FGC channels.  **Other Collaborations**  **Unitarian Universalists:** I met with Kierstin Homblette, regional coordinator of UU social action programs, who participated in the workshop hosted by Denver Justice and Peace Committee. She said she will publish an article about the TRR workshop on her blog and circulate it to regional UU churches. Rev. Sarah Oglesby is working with Kierstin on this outreach. I will present the workshop on July 25 at a UU mountain camp in Utah.  **Looking Ahead**  In July, I’ll present the workshop with UUs in Utah, and in August Jerilyn DeCoteau and I will train Reading to End Racism volunteers to present “Re-Discovering America: Understanding Colonization” in Boulder Valley Schools. I will be doing lots of follow-up with the people who participated in all the June workshops and with Quaker organizations. In August and September I will focus on fund raising, develop a work plan and budget for FY 2015, and prepare for a trip to the Northeast in late October and early November. I have been invited to give Oct/Nov workshops and facilitator/teacher trainings in Maine, Connecticut, Vermont, New York, and Pennsylvania, so I will be working on arrangements for those.  **Financial Report**  The TRR Fund balance on June 30, 2014 is $14,375.08. This includes $10,000 that the Meeting designated to the TRR project from the 2014 budget surplus funds at the May meeting for worship with a concern for business. We are enormously grateful for this support!  Thanks to financial and in-kind donations (frequent flyer miles, airline vouchers, housing, ground transportation, etc.), the TRR Oversight Committee and I feel confident that we will complete the project’s first year “in the black.”  **FY 2014 totals, 3 Quarters (October 1, 2013 – June 30, 2014):**  **Income**  Workshops $ 6,124.00  Individual donations $ 9,450.82  Boulder Meeting $10,900.00  Grants 0.00\*  **TOTAL INCOME FY 2014 (3 Qtrs.) $26,474.82**  \*I was awarded a personal grant of $3,000 from the Lyman Fund. This grant does not show on the Meeting’s books, but it reduced expenditures for my compensation by $3,000 in October 2013.  **TOTAL EXPENSES FY 2014 (3 Qtrs.) $27,269.24**  Fund Balance forwarded from FY 2013 **$15,169.50**  Total TRR Project Income, FY 2013 + 2014 **$42,788.82**  Total TRR Project Expenses, FY 2013+2014 **$28,413.74**  **Fund Balance, June 30, 2014 $14,375.08**  **One-year budget, FY 2014 (Oct 1, 2013 – Sept 30, 2014) = $52,300.00**  **Projected actual expenditures, FY 2014 = $45,027.00\***  \*Savings are in travel expenses (thanks to donated airline vouchers and FF miles) and the $3,000 Lyman grant.   |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | |  |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  | |
|  |