

**Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples
FY 2017 Annual Report
October 1, 2016 – September 30, 2017
Submitted November 9, 2017 by Paula Palmer**

I. 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 faith 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; 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.

I am grateful, too, for the interest, collaboration, and commitment of a growing number of Quakers and Quaker organizations throughout the U.S. and Canada, and for opportunities to collaborate with other faith communities, schools, colleges, and civic organizations.

During this fiscal year, the Toward Right Relationship project has been supported by grants from the Louisville Institute (Pastoral Study Project), the City of Boulder's Human Relations Commission (Indigenous Peoples Day and Martin Luther King Day celebrations), the City of Lafayette (Cultural Arts Commission), the Philanthropiece Foundation, the Mountain Forum for Peace, and by the many churches, colleges, and civic organizations that have hosted Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples workshops.

Jerilyn DeCoteau (Turtle Mountain Chippewa) continues to be a very valuable partner in our work. 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. Together this year we founded and coordinate the Two Rivers Working Group in Boulder, which is helping the City implement the 2016 Indigenous Peoples Day Resolution. Jerilyn's 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, Brett Shelton (Lakota Sioux), Elicia Goodsoldier (Navajo/Spirit Lake Dakota), Don Wharton (NARF), Christine McCleave (Ojibwa, executive officer of National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition), Linda Jenkins, Guthrie Miller, Sandra Boone Murphy, Penni Burrell, John Meyer (Pendle Hill), Elaine Bishop (Canada Yearly Meeting), Jennifer Preston (Canadian Friends Service Committee), and Elaine Emily.

Finally, thanks to the many families who provided lodging, meals, and ground transportation as I presented workshops and talks around the country: thank you, Friends.

II. 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). 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:

We very much appreciated Paula's ministry among us here in Maine as part of a Decolonizing Faith project in our state. It was also wonderful to connect with her, to share ideas, to plan on staying in contact about the work. With loving greetings,

--Maggie Edmondson, Winthrop Center Friends Church, NEYM

Paula presented her workshop, "Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples," as part of the series "Working for Racial Justice Today" at Beacon Hill Friends House, a Quaker Center and Intentional Community in Boston, Massachusetts, on land that belonged to the Algonquian people, specifically the Massachusett tribe.

Paula's workshop moved us deeply, and many f/Friends told us how their hearts and minds were changed. Paula's ministry is truly a blessing for all who encounter her work, and we are so grateful to Boulder Friends for supporting her ministry. It's beautiful to see the fruit of a ministry supported by the meeting. In faith and friendship,

--Holly, Baldwin, Director, Beacon Hill Friends House, April 23, 2017

Friends, what a wonderful visit in ministry we shared with Paula Palmer. Our event on the Doctrine of Discovery, convened with the Unitarian Fellowship, was very well received. Participants were thankful for the information and insight as well as the powerful call to new relations with Alaska Native peoples.

Thanks very much for your part in launching Friend Paula on this exceptional path of service!

--Taylor Brelsford, Anchorage Monthly Meeting

III. 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 2017 quarterly reports.

1. *Discern, through prayer, worship, and consultation with my Spiritual Care Committee and other seasoned Friends, how to faithfully serve in the ministry of building right relationship with Native peoples.*

I continue to meet monthly with my Spiritual Care Committee, feeling deeply grateful for their loving Friendship. We begin our meetings in worship, followed by their query, "How does the Spirit/Truth prosper in thee?" This question always takes us to the heart of the spiritual joys and challenges that accompany my Toward Right Relationship ministry. I also continue to meet weekly, by phone, with Linda Jenkins, for our meditations on Jesus' feet: if we follow in Jesus' footsteps, where would they lead us today? I also meet monthly by phone with Friends Gretchen Reinhardt and Kitty Ufford-Chase, to support each other in our ministries. In July, Elaine Emily (Berkeley Meeting) began serving as my elder as I prepare to offer a series of workshops next year at Pendle Hill and the Ben Lomond Quaker Center. It is deeply humbling, challenging, and rewarding to engage in prayerful discernment with such seasoned Friends on a regular basis.

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

We raised \$51,683 and spent \$52,416. Both figures are 10% under budget. See details in the Financial Report below.

3. *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 25 times, hosted by faith communities, educational institutions, and Native organizations around the country. Note: These presentations will be given by Paula and by other TRR workshop facilitators who are trained and certified.*

During this fiscal year, trained TRR workshop facilitators and I presented a total of 27 TRR workshops around the country. A total of 1,032 people participated in TRR workshops this year.

4. *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.*

This year, 31 people from around the country completed training to facilitate the Toward Right Relationship workshops.

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

Facilitators frequently email or phone me with questions that arise from their experience facilitating workshops. I spend quite a bit of time discussing issues with them and offering suggestions. As more facilitators are trained, this becomes a greater time commitment for me. I am looking for a volunteer facilitator to coordinate correspondence among facilitators so that they can engage in more horizontal sharing of ideas and suggestions.

6. *Report findings of research on the Quaker Indian Boarding Schools through slide presentations, a film of the slide presentation, the TRR webpage, articles, pamphlets and academic papers.*

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. I presented a paper at the Nov. 10-12, 2016 conference on Quakers, First Nations, and American Indians, sponsored by Haverford and Swarthmore colleges and the University of Pennsylvania. My paper was selected for publication in a collection of papers from the conference. 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 at Mountain View Meeting in Denver and in Bangor, ME at the invitation of Maine-Wabanaki REACH. My slide presentation along with a 10-minute interview with Jerilyn DeCoteau, chair of the board of the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition, is available as a DVD and also posted online here: <https://vimeo.com/192219802/376f2f1ddb>.

7. *Collaborate as needed with the Native American Rights Fund and the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition to report the recorded deaths of Native children at Quaker Indian Boarding Schools and their burials, and inform Friends of our obligation to comply with the requirements of the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.*

My concern about this arose from an article posted online that listed the gravesites of 13 Native American children who died while they were attending the Quaker-operated White's Institute in Wabash, IN. I consulted with NARF and the Boarding School Healing Coalition, and then sent letters, six months apart, to the director of White's Residential and Family Services, the organization that was founded as White's Institute, and their Quaker board member. To date, I have received no reply. I turned the information over to NARF with the understanding that they will consult with the tribes and leave any further inquiry to their discretion.

8. *Research, develop, and post a new webpage offering resources to encourage Friends and others to consider appropriate actions or processes for acknowledgement, apology, atonement, truth and reconciliation, restorative justice, and community healing. Gather and post information about Native approaches to these processes. Consider designing a workshop where participants would create plans for carrying out such actions and processes.*

Funded in part by a grant from the Louisville Institute, this year I began conducting research on exemplary processes for truth and reconciliation, restorative justice, peacemaking, and healing from conflict and injustice. I am building a file of films, articles, guides, and interviews that will eventually be posted on a new website. The Indigenous Peacemaking Initiative, based at the Native American Rights Fund, is a valuable resource for information on traditional Native peacemaking processes and how they are being used to resolve conflict among Native people today. I recorded interviews with IPI's director, Brett Shelton (Lakota Sioux), and Judge Timothy Connors who has adopted Indigenous peacemaking circles for use in his Ann Arbor MI courtroom. On the new website (under development) I will post these and other interviews with Native American leaders who are willing to offer guidance to churches, communities, and individuals who want to repair relationships with Native peoples. My goal is to offer specific suggestions and models to people, organizations, and institutions who ask sincerely, "What can we do, and how can we do it in a good way?"

9. *Help organize activities to commemorate Indigenous Peoples Day in Boulder, annually on the second Monday of October, and take steps toward truth, reconciliation, and healing between the City and the Arapaho people, whose homeland is the Boulder Valley.*

During this year, I collaborated with Native Americans in the Boulder Valley to plan and present four programs for 2017 Indigenous Peoples Day celebrations in Boulder and Lafayette. Jerilyn DeCoteau (Turtle Mountain Chippewa) and I founded and coordinate the Two Rivers Working Group in Boulder, which is collaborating with the City of Boulder, the Museum of Boulder, and the Boulder Valley School District to educate all our citizens about the history and presence of Native peoples in the Boulder Valley. The Two Rivers Working Group received a grant from Boulder's Human Relations Commission to reach out to the Southern and Northern Arapaho tribes, whose homeland is the Boulder Valley. The grant will support trips to visit the Southern Arapaho in Oklahoma and the Northern Arapaho in Wyoming. Jerilyn, Ava Hamilton (Arapaho) and I will make these trips in November 2017.

10. *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. This year, I presented workshops or talks at monthly meetings in Philadelphia, Denver, Boston, and Anchorage. I am serving on a planning committee for a 4-day conference on Quakers and Native Peoples at Pendle Hill (scheduled for May 3-6, 2018). I am also working with California Friends to develop a workshop script specific to California history and Native populations.

Towards the end of the fiscal year, I was contacted by the plenary planning committee for the 2018 FGC Gathering; they said I am being considered as a plenary speaker for next year's Gathering. The theme of the 2018 Gathering will be "The Power of Truth." The topic they suggested for me is exploring the way forward toward truth and reconciliation with Native peoples, given the history of the Quaker Indian Boarding Schools. Their plenary speaker selections will be finalized in November.

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

During the year, we facilitated eight workshops with Unitarian, Presbyterian, Methodist, United Church of Christ, Episcopal, and Interfaith groups in Washington DC., Colorado, Kansas, Oregon, Alaska, and Maine. TRR facilitators include members of UCC, Episcopal, Methodist, Roman Catholic, Unitarian, Lutheran, Presbyterian, and Jewish faiths.

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

I accepted invitation to present my talk on the Quaker Indian Boarding Schools at the Native American Rights Fund in October 2016 and at the Baltimore American Indian Center in November 2016. I continue to work closely with the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition and the Native American Rights Fund. Jerilyn DeCoteau presented the TRR workshop at the Turtle Mountain Chippewa tribal college in July, and has been invited to present it there again in early 2018.

13. Maintain the TRR websites (www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-right-relationship and www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-boarding-school-research) and enhance TRR's presence on Facebook and perhaps other social media.

Dave Lohman (member of the Indigenous Peoples Concerns Committee) regularly posts updates on the two TRR pages on the meeting's website. Ann Cairns posts updates and articles on our Toward Right Relationship Project Facebook page. My presentation on the Quaker Indian boarding schools is posted on Vimeo at: <https://vimeo.com/192219802/376f2f1ddb>. My interview with Northern Spirit Radio is posted at <http://northernspiritradio.org/episode/toward-right-relationship-american>

[native-peoples](#), and my October 2016 Friends Journal article is posted on their website along with comments from readers.

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

This year our new efforts have been coordinating Boulder-area work with the Two Rivers Working Group, posting a Discussion Guide to accompany screenings of the “Two Rivers” film, and researching positive models and examples of steps toward right relationship with Native peoples for eventual posting on a new website.

15. *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.

(See Financial Report, prepared by Toby Gallegos, next page)

**Toward Right Relationship Project
Summary Report — FY 2017**

Summary of Program Activities

	Planned	Actual YTD
Workshops delivered	25	27
Facilitators trained	10	31
Presentations to Quaker organizations	unspecified	12
Grant proposals submitted	unspecified	5

Statement of Financial Activities

	Actual FY17	Budget FY17	Over (Under) Budget	% of Budget
Beginning Balance, 10/1/16	6,740	6,740		
Income				
Individual donations	19,589	21,200	(1,611)	92.40%
Crowdsourcing	0	0	0	
Workshop host organization donations	11,264	10,000	1,264	112.64%
Boulder Meeting donations	1,200	800	400	150.00%
Grants	19,630	25,750	(6,120)	76.23%
Total Income	<u>51,683</u>	<u>57,750</u>	<u>(6,067)</u>	<u>89.49%</u>
Expenses				
Project Director Compensation	49,204	50,000	(796)	98.41%
Contractor Compensation	930	2,000	(1,070)	46.50%
Conference fees	0	1,500	(1,500)	0.00%
Supplies, printing, postage, other	1,751	1,500	251	116.70%
Travel	531	2,750	(2,219)	19.33%
Total Expenses	<u>52,416</u>	<u>57,750</u>	<u>(5,334)</u>	<u>90.76%</u>
Net Operating Income	-733	0		
Fund Balance, 12/31/16	5,889			
Fund Balance, 3/31/17	10,651			
Fund Balance, 6/30/17	7,413			
Fund Balance, 9/30/17	6,007	6,740		