

**Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples  
2017 First Quarter Report (October 1 – December 31, 2016)  
Submitted by Paula Palmer**

During this quarter, I continued to present Toward Right Relationship workshops, train others to facilitate the workshops, give slide presentations and publish articles about the Quaker Indian Boarding Schools, and develop collaborative relationships with Native American, faith-based, and other organizations. I began attending to a new leading to learn about Native American practices for peacemaking (similar, perhaps, to restorative justice or truth and reconciliation processes). Specific activities related to the 2017 approved work plan and budget are as follows:

**Objectives and Accomplishments, First Quarter 2017:**

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 continued to meet monthly with my Spiritual Care Committee. I began setting aside time each morning for a daily spiritual practice of sitting in silent worship, something that has been challenging for me to do on a daily basis. My practice varies now between silent worship and worshipful reading (Marcelle Martin's "Our Life is Love," Pendle Hill pamphlets, and other books). I continue to have weekly prayer/support conversations with Friend Linda Jenkins by phone and occasional calls for spiritual guidance with Friend Elaine Emily. Elaine lightened my load as I prepared for my 3-week trip on the East Coast by eldering me in the spirit of early Quaker elders who made sure that Friends traveling in ministry had "lay bys" – days of rest. I enjoyed several lovely lay bys in Philadelphia and Washington DC between talks and workshops, but even on those days I spent some time on my computer. What would it be like to practice a Sabbath free of technology?

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

I learned that the Louisville Institute will award me a second Pastoral Study Grant of just under \$15,000 to research Native American peacemaking practices and to encourage faith and civic communities to enter into dialogue and peacemaking with Native peoples. The term of the grant is January through November 2017. The funds will be deposited into the Boulder Meeting's TRR Restricted Fund in February 2017.

The project received two grants from the City of Boulder to present TRR workshops on Indigenous Peoples Day (Oct 19) and Martin Luther King Day (Jan 16, 2017). We also received \$7,935 from individuals; \$2,990 from workshop host organizations; and \$300 from Boulder Meeting's Peace and Social Justice Committee. Income this quarter is 22 percent of the year's budget.

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 the first quarter, we presented 9 TRR workshops: 4 in Colorado and others in MD, PA, TN, and NJ. Four workshops were hosted by civic and secular organizations, 2 by Quaker organizations, 1 Native American organization, 1 college, and 1 Methodist church. Six were facilitated by Paula and 3 by other trained TRR facilitators. Evaluations continue to be very positive, and we continue to receive invitations to present workshops as the ministry spreads by word-of-mouth. Oliver Grin, a member of the Indigenous Peoples Concerns committee, has taken on the task of record-keeping and email communications with people who attend the workshops and say they want to be involved in various ways. Oliver's help is fabulous!

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.

No trainings were held during this quarter.

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

This is something that needs to be done, and I never get around to doing it. I realize that my leadings take me in other directions. I continue to hope that one of the trained facilitators will volunteer to do this.

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.

During this quarter, I gave 6 slide presentations: at the international Conference on Quakers, First Nations, and American Indians, at Pendle Hill and the Baltimore American Indian Center, and at Friends meetings in Adelphi MD, Washington DC and Nashville TN. My article, "The Quaker Indian Boarding Schools: Facing our History and Ourselves," was published in the October issue of Friends Journal and generated some positive letters in response. The paper I delivered at the international conference was selected for publication.

During the summer of 2016, film makers Army Armstrong and Cec Girz filmed my slide presentation as well as an interview with Jerilyn DeCoteau, chair of the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition. They created a video which is posted on Vimeo at <https://vimeo.com/192219802/376f2f1ddb>. The video includes the interview with Jerilyn

DeCoteau, my slide presentation, and queries for worship sharing or discussion. Links to the video are posted on the Boulder Meeting's website, [www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-right-relationship](http://www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-right-relationship) and [www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-boarding-school-research](http://www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-boarding-school-research).

The Indigenous Peoples Concerns Committee used funds in its Education and Outreach budget to pay for production of 100 DVDs and mail them to Quaker organizations, yearly meetings, monthly meetings within IMYM, Quaker colleges and libraries, and interested individuals. We are still in the process of identifying addresses and mailing the DVDs.

We are deeply grateful to Army and Cec for donating their time and skills to create this video. Jane Westberg and Jerilyn DeCoteau also contributed by reading the direct quotations of Quakers and Native people in the presentation. The Indigenous Peoples Concerns committee paid for duplication of the DVDs and they also put the DVD mailing together. IPC hosted a related talk about Historical and Multigenerational Trauma by Elicia Goodsoldier for the Boulder Meeting's Oct. 23 Program Hour.

While I will continue to give my slide presentation on the Quaker Indian Boarding Schools when invited to do so, my attention is shifting now to the question that always comes up in response to my presentation and to the TRR workshops: knowing what we know now about the harm that was done to Native peoples, what should we do?

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 a letter 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 ([www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-healingsteps](http://www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-healingsteps)) 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.

During this quarter I was awarded a grant of \$14,800 from the Louisville Institute to conduct research on Native American processes for peacemaking, develop a website to share

information about these and other recommended processes, and develop a workshop format to help faith communities and other communities take steps toward honest dialogue and reconciliation with Native peoples. Work on this will begin during the second quarter of FY 2017, in collaboration with the Indigenous Peacemaking Institute, which is housed at the National Indian Law Library in Boulder.

My first effort in this direction was showing the film, "Two Rivers," on Oct. 10 as part of Boulder's celebration of the first annual Indigenous Peoples Day and again on Dec. 4 as a fund raiser for the Standing Rock Water Protectors. The documentary film tells the story of a very moving reconciliation process in Twisp, WA, that began with conversations between Native and non-Native neighbors, over coffee. I think the film can motivate and inspire other communities to enter into dialogue with the intention of pursuing right relationship with Native peoples. I will continue to show it and recommend it to groups that want to take conscientious steps toward right relationship.

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.

As part of an ad hoc committee convened by the City of Boulder, I worked with a group of Native and non-Native people to organize the inaugural celebration of Indigenous Peoples Day. We had a full schedule of events on Oct 9 and 10, including an official reading of the City Council's Resolution to create indigenous Peoples Day, presentations by Native people and organizations in Boulder, a welcoming and ceremony offered by the Northern Arapaho, Native dancers, artists and vendors, the "Two Rivers" film, and the Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples workshop. The ad hoc committee intends to continue to meet to help the City carry out all the articles of the Resolution.

The City of Lafayette also declared Indigenous Peoples Day, and I have helped the mayor pro-tem, Gustavo Reyna, make contact with the Northern Arapaho tribe. He hopes to establish an official relationship with the Northern and Southern Arapaho. Gustavo identifies as Maya; he was born in Guatemala.

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.

During this quarter, I gave presentations or workshops at one Quaker college (Haverford), at Pendle Hill, and at 5 Quaker meetings (Radnor, Nashville, Adelphi, Washington DC, Boulder). I published an article in the largest-circulation Quaker publication (Friends Journal), and I had meetings with Ruth Flower at FCNL, Jamie Bissonette (Wabanaki) at AFSC Maine, and

members of the Indian Committees of Philadelphia, Baltimore, and New York Yearly Meetings.

Most exciting for me was receiving an invitation from Friends General Conference to participate in a process of creating the curriculum for FGC's new Spiritual Deepening program. Beginning in January, I will collaborate in a process of developing a segment on Right Relationship with Native Peoples, which will be one of four segments that together form the section on Creating the Beloved Community. To be asked to work with nationwide FGC Friends on this project is an honor, and I am very grateful for the opportunity. See this short video about FGC's Spiritual Deepening program and its online resources:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=28vACzIHsJY&feature=youtu.be>

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

During this quarter, I presented a TRR workshop hosted by First United Methodist Church in Boulder. FUMC also agreed to host the TRR workshop as part of the City's MLK Day celebration January 16, 2017. I gave a sermon at Bull Run Unitarian Universalist Church in Manassas VA on Nov. 20. The Presbyterian Louisville Institute awarded me a research grant for 2017 to learn about Native American processes for peacemaking (what we might also call truth and reconciliation or restorative justice). I joined email lists for Rev. William Barber's Moral Mondays.

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 presented a TRR workshop hosted by United South and Eastern Tribes (Nashville TN) and gave a slide presentation on the Quaker Indian Boarding Schools at the Baltimore American Indian Center (this was a keynote speech for the opening of their museum's exhibit on the Indian boarding schools). I had preliminary conversations with Brett Shelton who staffs the Indigenous Peacemaking Initiative. I continued to collaborate closely with the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition.

13. Continue to develop and maintain three TRR websites ([www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-right-relationship](http://www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-right-relationship); [www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-boarding-school-research](http://www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-boarding-school-research); [www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-healingsteps](http://www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-healingsteps)) and enhance TRR's presence on Facebook and perhaps other social media.

This work is ongoing, greatly aided by Dave Lohman who does the technical work.

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

During this quarter I laid the groundwork for research on Native American peacemaking that will begin early in 2017.

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 and reports have occurred on schedule.

**2017 First Quarter Financial Report** (prepared by Toby Gallegos) is on the next page.

<b>Toward Right Relationship Project</b>				
<b>Summary Report — FY 2017 Q1</b>				
<b>Summary of Program Activities</b>				
	<b>Planned</b>	<b>Actual YTD</b>		
Workshops delivered	25	9		
Facilitators trained	10	0		
Presentations to Quaker organizations	unspecified	7		
Grant proposals submitted	unspecified	2		
<b>Statement of Financial Activities</b>				
			<b>Over (Under)</b>	
	<b>Actual FY17</b>	<b>Budget FY17</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>% of Budget</b>
Beginning Balance, 10/1/16	6,740	6,740		

Income				
Individual donations	7,935	21,200	(13,265)	37.43%
Crowdsourcing	0	0	0	
Workshop host organization donations	2,990	10,000	(7,010)	29.90%
Boulder Meeting donations	300	800	(500)	37.50%
Grants	1,330	25,750	(24,420)	5.17%
Total Income	12,555	57,750	(45,195)	21.74%
Expenses				
Project Director Compensation*	11,701	50,000	(38,299)	23.40%
Consultants	500	2,000	(1,500)	25.00%
Conference fees	0	1,500	(1,500)	0.00%
Supplies, printing, postage, other	1,149	1,500	(351)	76.62%
Travel	56	2,750	(2,694)	2.02%
Total Expenses	13,406	57,750	(44,344)	23.21%
Net Operating Income	-851	0		
Fund Balance, 12/31/16	5,889			
Fund Balance, 3/31/17				
Fund Balance, 6/30/17				
Fund Balance, 9/30/17		6,740		

\* Director's compensation was \$800 less in October because two donation checks were mistakenly made out to her, rather than to Boulder Meeting. She deposited the checks in her personal account and will pay taxes for this income directly.