**Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples**

**2017 Third Quarter Report (April 1 – June 30, 2017)**

**Submitted by Paula Palmer**

During this quarter, I presented Toward Right Relationship (TRR) workshops in Colorado, Maine, Massachusetts, and Alaska, and also trained others to facilitate the workshops. I worked to develop collaborative relationships and funding from Colorado-based organizations, and I met with Alaska Natives in Nome to help them develop a program modeled on the TRR workshop format. Specific activities during this quarter, as they address the 2017 approved work plan and budget, are as follows:

**Objectives and Accomplishments, Third 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 for worship and spiritual discernment. This quarter we contemplated the new initiatives that are developing as Way opens (see #8 below). The committee helps me discern the difference between spirit-led movement into new areas of ministry, versus feeling obligated to say “yes” to every invitation that emerges from the work. I am enormously grateful for their loving guidance.

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

During this quarter I developed a proposal to submit to the Boulder-based organization, Philanthropiece. Jerilyn DeCoteau and I met three times with Philanthropiece staffer Jake Matlak to discuss our ideas. Although Philanthropiece has taken on major new commitments to support work on Immigrant rights, Jake still believes the organization will want to support our Boulder-area initiatives. He expects that funding this year will be minimal, with more potential next year. Jake would also like to offer some of his time as an in-kind contribution, although he hasn’t been able to commit actual hours yet.

I also developed a Background Paper which Jerilyn and I shared with staff of Colorado Humanities at a May meeting. They expressed great interest in the idea of collaborating to present our workshops throughout the state and at community colleges. They no longer give grants, but they often receive grants and then subcontract with organizations like ours to carry out the program work. They are currently developing a 5-year strategic plan. After our meeting, their Director of Programs, Josephine Jones, participated in a TRR workshop at the UCC Church in Greeley. She was very impressed and said we are doing just the kind of work they have been envisioning. She recommended that the Colorado Humanities board include TRR in their strategic plan which will be finalized in September. If approved and funded, our collaboration would start in fall of 2018 at the earliest. Although this is pretty far off, Jerilyn and I are enthusiastic about the potential to take our workshops into communities like Pueblo, Trinidad, Lamar, Grand Junction, etc. A caution: about half of Colorado Humanities’ funding comes from the National Endowment for the Humanities, which is under fire by the Trump administration.

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 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 third quarter, we presented seven TRR workshops in Colorado (Mountain View Methodist, Boulder; UCC Church, Greeley), Maine (sponsored by Maine-Wabanaki REACH), Boston MA (Beacon Hill Friends House), Missouri (William Jewel College), and Alaska (Nome Community Center and Anchorage Quakers and Unitarians). Evaluations continue to be very positive. For example, these comments were written on evaluation sheets at the Mountain View Methodist Church workshop, April 30:

*The workshop nourished a seed to keep growing my traditional knowledge, and to reach out to educate and heal our people (from a Native Hawaiian participant)*

*The whole experience was profound and wonderful. Each part mattered. Thank you!*

*I want to reach out to form respectful practical relationships to work together with Native Americans*

*The participatory learning exercise was excellent: respectful, factual, emotional.*

*This was the best methodology, an invitation to actively be part of a new paradigm, having dialogue on what really matters.*

*I never heard this history in so much depth before and I learned a lot. (from a Navajo/Tewa youth)*

*For me, reading one of the parts was very powerful. I want to get more involved on the boarding school issues.*

*Thank you for giving space for each person to share what was important for them. The sharing was very moving.*

*I’m not sure yet where this will take me, but it is food for thought.*

*I have not paid attention to the Native American situation before, but this was a wonderful, powerful, and very effective stimulus. I want to do more reading to be comfortable speaking up on these issues.*

We continue to receive invitations to present workshops as the ministry spreads by word-of-mouth.

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.

On June 1, I conducted a training with six people by conference call. This brings the total of facilitators trained during this fiscal year to 26.

1. 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. Several trained facilitators say they don’t “do” Facebook, so I’m wondering if it would be better to create an email Listserv?

1. 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.

While I 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? This is the new research I am embarking on (see #8 below).

1. 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. This quarter I also sent White’s Institute an article about the Boarding School Healing Coalition’s request through the Freedom of Information Act for information about all Native children who attended Indian boarding schools, including those who never returned to their communities.

1. 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.

In Maine, I interviewed Denise Altvater (Passamaquody), who played an important role in the Maine-Wabanaki Truth and Reconciliation Commission. The interview was filmed and portions may be appropriate for the new webpage. I continued to collect references and resources, but have not yet had time to delve into them thoroughly.

1. 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.

Jerilyn DeCoteau and I continue to meet with the City’s ad hoc Indigenous Peoples Day working group and with the “Two Rivers Working Group.” Both groups of Boulder-area citizens are developing plans and projects to help the City implement the 2016 Indigenous Peoples Day Resolution. The Boulder work is important in itself, and we also see it as a pilot project, testing the effectiveness of the “Two Rivers” film as a catalyst for communities to take actions toward right relationship with Native peoples.

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.

My proposal to conduct a 3-day workshop on Right Relationship with Native Peoples at the Ben Lomond Center in California, was accepted. The workshop is scheduled for April 13-15, 2018.

I was invited to participate in planning and coordinating a 4-day conference on Indigenous issues (the precise focus is yet to be determined) at Pendle Hill, scheduled for May 3-6, 2018.

I continue to labor with two other Friends and Jamie Bissonette (Abanaki) to create an Indigenous Issues working group under the auspices of FGC’s Committee on Nurturing Ministries.

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

During this quarter, we presented TRR workshops at Methodist, Unitarian, and UCC churches. I also worked with Boulder’s Unitarian Universalist Church, Showing Up for Racial Justice, and the Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center to host a very well-received presentation by Debby Irving (author of Waking Up White and Finding Myself in the Story of Race) and Rev. Dr. Dawn Riley Duval (Racial Justice Program Director, Interfaith Alliance of Colorado) on June 9.

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.

I met with Brett Shelton (Oglala Sioux) who staffs the Indigenous Peacemaking Initiative. I continued to collaborate closely with the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition.

1. 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) 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.

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

I received an invitation from the executive director of the Nome Community Center in Nome, Alaska, to offer the TRR workshop there as a potential model for development of a new version that would be specific to the history of Alaska Natives. She is looking for ways to educate and orient health and human services professionals who come to the Nome region, usually on 2-year contracts, with no background in Alaska Native history, culture, and health or social issues. In late June, I traveled to Nome, met with the Center’s staff and board, and presented a workshop that was attended by social service providers and Alaska Native community members (45 people in all). Many people responded positively to the idea of developing a similar workshop specifically for Alaska, whose history and Native peoples are very different from the history and peoples of the Lower 48. We agreed that any step in the direction of developing an Alaska version of the workshop should be under the direction of Alaska Natives. They could do this on their own or invite me to work with them.

In Anchorage, I met with the executive director and staff of First Alaskans Institute, which does very effective decolonizing work throughout the state. They offer workshops in Native communities and in non-Native communities, and they advocate for legislation and policy at state and federal levels. I also presented a workshop hosted by Anchorage Friends and the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship. Jim LaBelle, an Alaska Native retired professor, read the part of the Native American and shared his experience of 10 years as a student in the Alaska boarding schools. His mother was a Native Quaker from Kotzebue, a village in the Arctic Circle where Quakers founded a mission and operated a boarding school in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Jim is also a board member of the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition.

I was hosted in Anchorage by Terry and Taylor Brelsford. Taylor is clerk of the Alaska Friends Conference. He and Terry took me to visit the Alaska Native Heritage Center and the Smithsonian exhibit of Alaska Native history and culture which is housed in the Anchorage Art Museum. I am in awe of the people who have lived in such a life-threatening environment for so many centuries, skillfully making use of everything in their environment for their survival and cultural and spiritual enrichment.

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 and reports have occurred on schedule.

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| **Toward Right Relationship Project** | | | |  |
| **Summary Report — FY 2017 Q3** | | | |  |
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| **Summary of Program Activities** | | | |  |
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|  | **Planned** | **Actual YTD** |  |  |
| Workshops delivered | 25 | 22 |  | |
| Facilitators trained | 10 | 26 |  | |
| Presentations to Quaker organizations | unspecified | 12 |  | |
| Grant proposals submitted | unspecified | 4 |  | |
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| |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | **Statement of Financial Activities** | | | |  | |  |  |  | **Over (Under)** |  | |  | **Actual FY17** | **Budget FY17** | **Budget** | **% of Budget** | | Beginning Balance, 10/1/16 | 6,740 | 6,740 |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  | | Income |  |  |  |  | | Individual donations | 11,246 | 21,200 | (9,954) | 53.05% | | Crowdsourcing | 0 | 0 | 0 |  | | Workshop host organization donations | 8,378 | 10,000 | (1,622) | 83.78% | | Boulder Meeting donations | 300 | 800 | (500) | 37.50% | | Grants | 16,130 | 25,750 | (9,620) | 62.64% | | Total Income | 36,054 | 57,750 | (21,696) | 62.43% | |  |  |  |  |  | | Expenses |  |  |  |  | | Project Director Compensation\* | 32,536 | 50,000 | (17,464) | 65.07% | | Consultants | 750 | 2,000 | (1,250) | 37.50% | | Conference fees | 0 | 1,500 | (1,500) | 0.00% | | Supplies, printing, postage, other | 1,436 | 1,500 | (64) | 95.76% | | Travel | 659 | 2,750 | (2,091) | 23.96% | | Total Expenses | 35,381 | 57,750 | (22,369) | 61.27% | |  |  |  |  |  | | Net Operating Income | 673 | 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 |  | 6,740 |  |  | | \*Director’s compensation was $800 less in October because two donation checks were mistakenly made out to me, rather than to Boulder Meeting. I deposited the checks in my personal account and will pay taxes for this income directly. Compensation for June 2017 is not included in these figures because the check was no written until July 1. I have asked the meeting’s Treasurer to begin issuing the checks on the last day of the month so that the quarterly reports include all payments for the quarter. |  |  |  |  | |  |  |  |  |  | | | | |  |
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