**Quarterly Report, October 1 – December 31, 2013**

**Toward Right Relationship Project**

**Boulder Friends Meeting**

Submitted by project director Paula Palmer

January 1, 2014

During this quarter, the Boulder meeting established two committees to oversee and support the Toward Right Relationship project:

**Oversight Committee**

The Oversight Committee members are Bob Atchley (representing Finance Committee), Gale Toko-Ross (associate clerk), and Claire Sheridan (representing the Indigenous Peoples Concerns committee). The Oversight Committee drafted a one-year renewable contract between the Boulder Friends Meeting and project director Paula Palmer, which was signed by the meeting’s treasurer, Mary Downton, and Paula. The contract specifies the overall goals of the Toward Right Relationship project and the activities planned for the 2014 fiscal year with a budget of $52,300. The Oversight Committee asked Paula to submit monthly expense records and quarterly program reports. Treasurer Mary Downton and bookkeeper Toby Gallegos created templates for recording project expenses and income. These processes have been working smoothly to date.

**Care Committee**

The meeting established a Care Committee for Paula, as recommended by the Oversight and Membership committee. Committee members include Janet Kilby (convener, representing Oversight and Membership), DeAnne Butterfield, Steve Clark, and Judy Huston. The Care Committee has been meeting monthly, centering in worship, hearing project updates from Paula, and then offering queries and guidance in a worship sharing format. The committee has reviewed a number of articles about processes for providing spiritual support, including FGC's “Responsibilities for Anchor Committees” and Robert Griswold’s “The Quaker Pilgrim’s Progress: Seven Key Words Plus One.” The committee and Paula together continue to seek divine guidance as they refine the role of the committee in meeting Paula’s spiritual needs and furthering the goals of the TRR project. We understand this as a spiritual quest that offers avenues for spiritual growth for all of us, and we hope that this will extend to the meeting membership as a whole.

One specific role of the Care Committee has been to contact organizers of workshop presentations and ask them to identify a person in their congregation who will hold Paula and the workshop in the Light as the workshop is being presented. In Bellingham and Olympia WA, these people met with Paula in worship for 15 minutes before the workshop presentations, which was very helpful for centering and grounding the work in Spirit. Their prayerful presence throughout the workshop provided a spiritual container for the experience, keeping it in a spiritual framework. I think this is very helpful to all the participants. The Care Committee will continue to provide for this at each workshop venue.

**Indigenous Peoples Concerns Committee**

The Indigenous Peoples Concerns committee, which meets monthly, hears Paula’s reports, offers programmatic guidance, and provides volunteer help at all the local workshop presentations. For example, IPC members read parts of the script, help set up the venue, collect donations, hand out workshop materials, and help promote the workshop in any ways they can. Several IPC committee members are preparing to be able to offer the workshop on their own (for example at IMYM’s 2014 Gathering).

**Workshop Presentations**

During this quarter (October 1 – December 31, 2013), we presented the workshop, *“Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: Toward Right Relationship with America’s Native Peoples*,” 10 times to a total of 334 participants in three states (Washington, Oregon and Colorado). Three of these presentations were at Unitarian Universalist churches; three were at Friends meetings, one was at the Seattle office of the AFSC, one was at a high school, and two were at community colleges. In each setting, follow-up activities are ongoing. For example, in Seattle the Mennonites and the Quakers are drafting statements repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery and supporting implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Bellingham WA churches formed a study group of Native and non-Native people. In Olympia WA and Salt Lake City, workshop participants are facilitating the workshop on their own now in other local venues.

Please see the attached letter of appreciation, written by the organizer of the Bellingham WA workshops at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship there, which includes a page of quotes from participants’ evaluation forms.

I spend a great deal of my time corresponding with people who have experienced or heard about the workshop and want to offer it in other venues. During this quarter I have been able to schedule 15 presentations for 2014. These will be at Lutheran, Quaker, and Unitarian churches, at Inter-Mountain and Southeastern Yearly Meetings, at the FGC Gathering, and at three colleges. Please see the attached Excel spreadsheet which lists all the workshop presentations given in 2013 and scheduled so far in 2014. In the coming months we expect to add more presentations to the 2014 calendar.

**Wider Quaker Connections**

During this quarter I wrote an article which will be published in the February issue of Western Friend under the title, “Healing Our Nation’s Oldest Wounds.” AFSC and FCNL have both publicized the workshop through their online networks. We will offer the workshop at IMYM and at a conference of the Friends Association on Higher Education (FAHE) in June and at the Friends General Conference Gathering in July.

**Collaborations**

A volunteer with the Boulder YWCA’s Reading to End Racism project participated in one of the Boulder workshops and asked if I would develop a version of the workshop for middle school students. I have wanted to develop a program for this age group, and the RER project offers a perfect way to bring such a program into the Boulder Valley schools. I will be working with a Native American volunteer for RER, Jerilyn DeCoteau, to develop this program. Jerilyn also participated in a Boulder workshop and wants to help promote it for adults as well as young people.

Three staff members of the Native American Rights Fund (Ray Ramirez, Brett Shelton, and Don Wharton) have participated in the workshop and have been very supportive of it. They offered to serve as references when we seek funding, and they suggested some potential funding sources.

**Fund Raising**

At some, but not all, of the workshop presentations we ask participants for voluntary donations. This has worked well to cover my direct travel expenses for out-of-state presentations, but we are challenged to raise much more money to meet the TRR project’s annual budget of $52,300.

I received a $3,000 grant from the Lyman Fund, a Quaker foundation, to help me follow my leading for doing this work. I will ask for an additional $2,000 from the Lyman Fund during their next funding cycle. I submitted a proposal for $4,000 to the RESIST Foundation (no reply from them yet). I also sent letters to 50 members and attenders of the Boulder meeting, asking them to consider giving an end-of-year donation to the TRR project. During the next quarter I will make a concerted effort to seek foundation funding for the project.

**Financial Report**

Toby Gallegos prepared this report of income and expenses for this quarter:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Toward Right Relationship Fund | | | | |
| Boulder Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends | | | | |
| October - December 2013 | | | | |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Donations | |  |  | $8,834.32 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Expenses | |  |  |  |
| Project Director Compensation | | | | $7,500.00 |
| Meetings & Conference Fees | | | | 20.00 |
| Supplies, Copies, Postage, Other | | | | 190.43 |
| Travel |  |  |  | 162.97 |
|  |  |  |  | $7,873.40 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Net Income (Loss) | | |  | $960.92 |

At the end of the Oct-Dec 2013 quarter, the TRR Project fund balance is $16,130.42. Expected expenditures average around $4,000/month. At this rate of expenditure, the fund would be depleted by the end of April 2014. Hence the need for fund raising!

For me, doing this work within our meeting is a profound experience of collective discernment, trusting in the Spirit, and holding a Light for truth and justice in the world. I hope members of the meeting share a sense of the challenge and the joy in this work that our community has undertaken. Lucretia Mott’s words to the Abington Peace Meeting in 1869 resonate today: ***“I wonder, with the profession we Friends have made of care for the Indians, have we been active enough in our labor?”***