**Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples**

**2017 Second Quarter Report (January 1 – March 31, 2017)**

**Submitted by Paula Palmer**

During this quarter, I continued to present Toward Right Relationship workshops, train others to facilitate the workshops, and develop collaborative relationships with Native American, faith-based, and other organizations. Specific activities during this quarter, as they address the 2017 approved work plan and budget, are as follows:

**Objectives and Accomplishments, Second 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, feeling so 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 ministry. I also continued to meet weekly, by phone, with Linda Jenkins, for our meditations on Jesus’ feet: where are Jesus’ feet going and how can we follow through our ministry? I began meeting every other week, also by phone, with Gretchen Reinhardt and Kitty Ufford-Chase, to support each other in our ministries.

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

I received a Pastoral Study grant of $14,800 from the Louisville Institute 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. In January I participated in a 3-day consultation with all the Louisville Institute 2017 grantees at the Louisville Seminary in Kentucky. The grant funds were deposited into the Boulder Meeting’s TRR Restricted Fund in February.

At the half-year mark, project income is $30,669, which is 53 percent of budget, and project expenses are $26,759, which is 46 percent of budget.

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 second quarter, we presented five TRR workshops with adults and one with middle school children (Horizons School in Boulder, in collaboration with the YWCA’s Reading to End Racism Program). Three of the adult workshops were in Colorado (at Naropa University, Boulder’s United Methodist Church on Martin Luther King Day, and at an Episcopal Church in Denver). Trained facilitators presented a workshop at Hamilton College in New York and at a Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Topeka KS. Evaluations continue to be very positive. For example, these comments were written on evaluation sheets at the Martin Luther King Day workshop:

*“It made me more aware of the hardships and oppression Native people have faced.”*

*“I want to give time and/or money to supporting indigenous rights. This has given me a desire to learn more.”*

*“This gave me more of a foundation to make changes in the way I act daily.”*

*“I appreciate the list of resources.”*

*“The music takes us to a place of unity.”*

*“I hope to be of more assistance to Native causes and heal any greed or selfishness within myself.”*

*“This workshop is much needed in the schools.’*

*“I was shocked at the depth of injustice over so many years and how it persists today.”*

*“It reminded me of all the violence in history and that we have to take care of peace. I’m worried that this could happen again, maybe under our noses.”*

*“It helped me resolve to be courageous… to speak truth to power, no matter the outcome. Indigenous people are a model of courage and perseverance. This was excellent.”*

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 January 28, I conducted a training with 13 people by conference call and an on-site training in Boulder with 7 people.

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.

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.

During this quarter, I gave a slide presentation at Mountain View Meeting in Denver. I finalized my chapter, “The Quaker Indian Boarding Schools: Facing our History and Ourselves,” for a publication of papers that were originally presented at the November 2016 conference on Quakers, First Nations, and American Indians.

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.

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.

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. I met with Brett Shelton who staffs the Indigenous Peacemaking Initiative, which is housed at the National Indian Law Library in Boulder and began exploring the IPI’s website and library resources.

In collaboration with the meeting’s Indigenous Peoples Concerns committee, Jerilyn DeCoteau and I showed the film, “Two Rivers,” on January 15. This was our third screening of the film in Boulder. We facilitated a discussion among the 60-or-so attenders, focusing on how the film can inspire us to work toward right relationship with Native peoples in the Boulder Valley. Fourteen people indicated interest in forming a Two Rivers Working Group. This group met twice in March. Discussion focused primarily on these ideas that emerged from the January 15 film showing:

1. Improve teaching of Native history and culture in Boulder Valley schools
2. Form dialogue groups (with Native and non-Native members)
3. Form study groups (non-Natives self-educating, focus on Boulder/Colorado history and current issues among Native residents)
4. Participate in Native-organized events (e.g., Denver Powwow, Sand Creek Massacre Spiritual Healing Run, CU Native American Studies events, Denver Indigenous Film Festival, etc)
5. Visit, build relationships with Arapaho and Cheyenne peoples in WY, MT, OK
6. Encourage City/County to acknowledge and apologize to Arapaho and Cheyenne peoples
7. Encourage City/County to return land to Arapaho and Cheyenne peoples

Jerilyn and I are considering whether to formalize a second workshop as a follow-up to the TRR workshop, which will use the Two Rivers film and our discussion questions as a way for groups to focus on possible actions in their own communities.

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 and I both continue to meet with the City’s ad hoc Indigenous Peoples Day working group. It appears that City staff may not continue to convene our committee, but we want to remain active on our own to develop plans for the 2017 IP Day and to work with the City to carry out all the articles of the Indigenous Peoples Day resolution.

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.

During this quarter, I gave a slide presentation on the Quaker Indian boarding schools at Mountain View meeting in Denver. At the invitation of Friends General Conference, I joined about 12 other Friends in the US and Canada to develop content for a segment of FGC’s Spiritual Deepening curriculum that will focus on Right Relationship with Native peoples. (see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=28vACzlHsJY&feature=youtu.be>) Our initial conference calls revealed some significant differences in perspective among us. Two other Friends and I suggested that we put this group’s work on “pause” while we labor over the underlying concerns. Primary among these concerns is the fact that FGC has no staff who are involved or experienced in work on Indigenous peoples issues. The three of us therefore proposed that FGC establish a Working Group on Indigenous Peoples Issues, under the auspices of the Committee Nurturing Ministries (CNM). This request is pending consideration by CNM, and our Spiritual Deepening group is effectively on “pause.”

I learned during this quarter that two out of the three Native American staff in AFSC programs are being laid off and their programs are being laid down. Jeff Smith at the Seattle AFSC office and Jamie Bissonette in a Maine AFSC office are being laid off. The only remaining Indigenous staff person in AFSC is Denise Altvater, whose Quaker support committee in Maine raised enough money to continue her employment. During the last decade AFSC also laid down two full time staff positions dedicated to Native American issues (Gerald One Feather on Pine Ridge and Ed Nakawatese who worked in the AFSC office in Philadelphia). Just when Indigenous issues are being lifted up nationally because of the Standing Rock Water Protectors and the movement to create Indigenous Peoples Days, AFSC is retreating from work on Native issues. This is dismaying to me. In my view, this makes it all the more important for FGC to establish an Indigenous Peoples Concerns Working Group. Otherwise Friends’ only connection with Native peoples is through the legislative work at FCNL and Canadian Friends Service Committee.

I was invited to submit a proposal to offer a 3-day workshop on Right Relationship with Native Peoples at the Ben Lomond Center in California. I submitted the proposal in March.

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 a Unitarian church in Topeka KS and at an Episcopal church in Denver. I met with the executive director of the Colorado Interfaith Alliance in Denver and discussed possible collaborations. They are very active in anti-racism work broadly, but they do not have connections with the Native community. Nancy Peters, a TRR facilitator in Denver, will coordinate with them.

As a follow-up to a workshop I attended at last year’s White Privilege Conference, I am coordinating inter-faith efforts to host a program in Boulder by Debby Irving, author of Waking Up White. At the request of Boulder Meeting’s Peace and Social Justice and Indigenous Peoples Concerns Committees, Boulder Meeting agreed to co-sponsor Debby’s talk at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Boulder 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 work with Alaska Natives to develop a version of the TRR workshop specific to the history of Alaska Natives. They want to use it 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. We tentatively scheduled a trip to Nome for late June. I began contacting Alaska Friends to see whether I might be able to meet with them in Anchorage. I’m eager to see how Way opens in this new direction.

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 Q2** |  |
|  |  |  |
| **Summary of Program Activities** |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  | **Planned** | **Actual YTD** |  |  |
| Workshops delivered | 25 | 15 |  |
| Facilitators trained | 10 | 20 |  |
| Presentations to Quaker organizations | unspecified | 8 |  |
| Grant proposals submitted | unspecified | 2 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **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 | 9,834 | 21,200 | (11,366) | 46.39% |
| Crowdsourcing | 0 | 0 | 0  |  |
| Workshop host organization donations | 4,405 | 10,000 | (5,595) | 44.05% |
| Boulder Meeting donations | 300 | 800 | (500) | 37.50% |
| Grants | 16,130 | 25,750 | (9,620) | 62.64% |
| Total Income | 30,669 | 57,750 | (27,081) | 53.11% |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Expenses |  |  |  |  |
| Project Director Compensation | 24,202 | 50,000 | (25,798) | 48.40% |
| Consultants | 750 | 2,000 | (1,250) | 37.50% |
| Conference fees | 0 | 1,500 | (1,500) | 0.00% |
| Supplies, printing, postage, other | 1,275 | 1,500 | (225) | 85.01% |
| Travel | 531 | 2,750 | (2,219) | 19.33% |
| Total Expenses | 26,759 | 57,750 | (30,991) | 46.34% |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Net Operating Income | 3,911 | 0 |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Fund Balance, 12/31/16 | 5,889 |  |  |  |
| Fund Balance, 3/31/17 | 10,651 |  |  |  |
| 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.