**Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples**

**Boulder Friends Meeting**

2018 First Quarter Report, October-December 2017

Submitted by Paula Palmer

This report describes work completed this quarter corresponding to the objectives listed in the approved FY 2018 Project Description and Work Plan.

**Objectives**

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.

As always, I met monthly with my Spiritual Care Committee, for worship and discernment. We labored together over an invitation from Friends General Conference to give a TED-type talk as a plenary presentation during the 2018 FGC Gathering in Toledo OH. The invitation seemed to us to over-emphasize “performance.” Also, FGC only offered to cover expenses at the Gathering, not travel expenses or an honorarium. Two members of the Spiritual Care Committee joined me in a conference call with the FGC planners and together we raised the issues of concern to us. FGC changed their emphasis from TED-type performance and publicized the talk as a Quaker Truth Talk, which feels more appropriate. They also offered $300 toward travel expenses, so I agreed to give the talk. Other Quaker Truth talks will be given by the director of the Quaker UN Office and a young Puerto Rican Friend. I am grateful and honored for the opportunity to carry my ministry to Friends at the Gathering.

I also continued to meet weekly for “prayerful listening” by phone with Friend Linda Jenkins in Boston. We have been following a practice I learned during FGC’s 8-week Spiritual Deepening webinar-course which I also completed during this quarter. I also continued to meet by phone monthly with Gretchen Reinhardt and Kitty Ufford-Chase for peer ministry and mutual support.

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

Income this quarter was $17,747 (28% of annual budget); expenses were $13,517 (21% of annual 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 this quarter, we presented nine workshops in six states (CO, PA, NY, CA, FL, OK) and Canada.

1. Train, certify, and coach at least 10 people to present the Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples workshops on their own as part of the TRR Facilitators’ Network.

During this quarter, I trained eight people in five states to facilitate the TRR workshops.

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

No progress on this during the quarter.

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.

My paper on the Quaker Indian Boarding Schools was accepted for publication with other selected papers from the 2016 conference on Quakers and Native Peoples. FGC invited me to speak about the Quaker Indian Boarding Schools as a “Quaker Truth Talk” at the 2018 FGC Gathering in Toledo OH.

1. Research, develop, and post a new webpage that offers positive models and examples of steps toward right relationship with Native peoples, including 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.

I am gathering content for this website. This quarter I recorded an interview with Brett Shelton, who coordinates the Indigenous Peacemaking Initiative, and Judge Tim Connors who uses Native peacemaking circles in his court in Ann Arbor MI.

1. Assist the City of Boulder in implementing its 2016 Indigenous Peoples Day Resolution, which calls for educating the populace about the Native peoples of the Boulder Valley, past and present. Help the City take steps toward truth, reconciliation, and healing between the City and the Arapaho people, whose homeland is the Boulder Valley.

With Ava Hamilton (Arapaho) and Jerilyn DeCoteau (Turtle Mountain Chippewa), I traveled to Oklahoma to meet with the Southern Arapaho tribe and to Wyoming to meet with the Northern Arapaho tribe. Our purpose was to ask how the Arapaho people would like to relate to the land and current population of the Boulder Valley, their homeland. We were very warmly welcomed by tribal elders, traditional chiefs, and staff of the education/language program departments. All said very clearly that they consider Boulder their home and that they would like to develop a relationship with the people of Boulder. They also would like to have land here where they can pray, honor their ancestors, camp, have a sweat lodge, and harvest plants that they use for medicine and crafts. We delivered full reports to Boulder’s City Council, the Human Relations Commission, City Open Space and Mountain Parks, and Boulder Valley School District. These reports are posted at www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-right-relationship.

I am facilitating meetings of a group of Boulder citizens, now called Right Relationship Boulder (formerly Two Rivers), who are collaborating with City and County staff to develop people-to-people relationships between Boulder and the Arapaho tribes. This work consumed a major portion of my time during this quarter.

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.

Four of the nine TRR workshops this quarter were presented at Friends Meetings (Berkeley CA, Brooklyn NY, Southeastern Yearly Meeting, and Coldstream, Ontario, Canada). One of the eight people trained as facilitators is a Friend (in Boston MA).

1. Develop partnerships with other faith communities and civic organizations to carry the Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples ministry nationwide.

We presented one TRR workshop at a Methodist church (Boulder) and one screening of the film “Two Rivers” followed by discussion at a Congregational church (Boulder). Members of a number of denominations and civic organizations (for example, Mountain Forum for Peace) are actively participating in Right Relationship Boulder.

We presented two programs, funded by the City’s Human Relations Commission, during the City’s official celebration of Indigenous Peoples Day in October.

We have developed very strong collaborative relationships with Boulder’s Human Relations Commission, the City’s Open Space Department, Boulder Valley School District, Philanthropiece Foundation, Mountain Forum for Peace, and the Museum of Boulder.

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.

Our work with Right Relationship Boulder is toward healing the wounds of forced removal of the Arapaho people from the Boulder Valley and the tragedy of the Sand Creek Massacre where many of their ancestors died. We are encouraged with the initial responses of the Northern and Southern Arapaho tribes to our Right Relationship Boulder outreach.

1. Continue to develop and maintain the TRR websites ([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)); and consider ways of enhancing TRR’s presence on Facebook and perhaps other social media.

Dave Lohman continues to update the TRR webpages. We created a Facebook page for Right Relationship Boulder, and we also have a Facebook page for the Toward Right Relationship Project.

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

Nothing new this quarter.

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 reporting have taken place as scheduled.