December 2018

Dear Friends,

In this time of endings and new beginnings, we’d like to share what we’re most excited about embarking on in the new year, and ask you to consider supporting our work “Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples” with a tax-deductible contribution.

During 2018, sixteen Native and non-Native TRR facilitators – from the East Coast to the West and in between – continued presenting “Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples” workshops, hosted by colleges, churches, and community organizations. We trained over 30 new facilitators who will carry the work into their own circles. If you’d like to host a workshop for adults or middle/high school students, please email Paula at paulaRpalmer@gmail.com.

As a follow-up to the TRR workshops, we enjoy facilitating discussions of the documentary film, “Two Rivers.” It provides a positive model for local communities as they consider how they can begin to take steps toward dialogue, justice and healing with Native peoples. You can order the film here, and if you’d like to use our discussion guide, email paulaRpalmer@gmail.com.

Here in the Boulder Valley, our screenings and discussions of “Two Rivers” led to the formation of a group called Right Relationship Boulder. This October, we hosted and welcomed more than 100 Arapaho people back to their Boulder Valley homeland to celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day. Now we’re working with City and County officials to return land to the Arapaho and other Indigenous nations who share history here, and we are developing other projects in collaboration with Native peoples of the area. To learn more, visit Right Relationship Boulder’s Facebook page!

Nationwide, as we encourage churches, schools, universities, and cities to learn about Native peoples – past and present – in their regions, we also urge non-Native individuals to look into their family settler stories and see how they intersect with the Native populations who were displaced by European settlement. In a recent talk, Paula explored ways Native and non-Native people can connect through the land, lifting up painful truths, acknowledging responsibilities, and sharing gratitude. If you’d like to explore relationships through the land, listen to an audio recording here: http://www.pbuuc.org/OoS/2018-11-4_Service/2018-11-4-Sermon.mp3 or read it online here.

In October, Jerilyn completed her term on the board of the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition with a national conference at the site of the Carlisle Indian Boarding School. Paula continues giving slide presentations about the role Quakers played in the forced assimilation of Native children. See an interview with Jerilyn and Paula’s slide presentation here.
In the coming year, we will keep doing all the above – with ever growing numbers of people participating – and we hope to complete a new project: We want to create a website that posts positive examples of families, schools, universities, cities, and churches that are taking significant steps toward right relationship. We want to lift up communities that are returning land to Native peoples, amplifying Native voices, acknowledging Native history and presence, and decolonizing education. We think this new website will inspire and motivate others to take similar actions.

To help us accomplish all this, please consider making a tax-deductible donation, now or whenever the time is right.

By check: Make your check out to Boulder Friends Meeting. On the memo line, write: Right Relationship. Mail your check to Boulder Friends Meeting, PO Box 4363, Boulder CO 80306.

Online: Visit www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-right-relationship to make a secure online donation (be sure to write “Right Relationship” in the “purpose” box).

With warm greetings and good wishes,

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Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples
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