

Toronto Conference Living Into Right Relations Circle  
Notes  
May 15, 2018  
Georgina Island United Church, Georgina Island

Present: Bea Arnill, Anna Bassila, Wendy Brown, Debbie Cauch-McIntosh, Joan Chaboyer, Delores Charles, Bonnie Collacutt, Dave Collacutt, Jeffrey Dale, Robert Hockley, Ren Ito, Lynn Lawrence, Gloria McCavery, Brian McIntosh, Elizabeth McLean, John McLean, Betty Lou McNabb, Jody Maltby, Barbara Martin, Lynn May, George Moore, Linda Parsons, Brandon Stiles.

Regrets: Maya Brathwaite, Dave Gordon, James Ravenscroft

### **Gathering**

The Living Into Right Relations Circle gathered at 10:00 a.m. in the Community Centre on Georgina Island. At 10:30 a.m., Linda Parsons welcomed everyone and asked Delores Charles to offer a prayer. Delores also offered a smudging ceremony.

Brian McIntosh chaired the business portion of the meeting.

### **Educational Events Plans for 2018**

#### a) Georgina Island Workshop on Wampum Belt Teachings

Betty Lou McNabb reported that the workshop will be held on Saturday June 23, 2018. Brian Charles will be coming with his wampum belts. We are not able to meet in the Community Centre at Georgina Island, because the community will be voting on whether to accept the compensation that the government is offering under the Williams Treaty. We are working on another venue for the same day because that is when Brian will be available. We'll let folks know when we have a location. We are hoping to have Andy Big Canoe with us but that will be dependent on his health and availability. This event is open to anyone who wants to come.

Delores explained why the community on Georgina Island will be voting on the Williams Treaty and whether to accept what is being offered by the government as compensation. This has been in the courts for a long time and Indigenous Peoples need to decide what to do. It is a yes or no vote for Indigenous Peoples, not a negotiation. It's sad because the community will never get back what has been taken from them.

b) Christian Island Workshop in the fall

Robert Hockley shared that he thinks there will be an event in the fall. He has a couple of people from the community who may be willing to be involved. James Ravenscroft is the lead on the event and was not able to be with us today. When a date is set, staff will help with publicity, registration, and other support as needed.

Two resources were lifted up:

Indigenous Healing Exploring Traditional Paths – Rupert Ross  
We were not the Savages - Daniel N. Paul

It would be helpful to have a resource list that is updated regularly.

We are encouraged to call movie theatres and ask them to keep the movie “Crazy Horse” for more than one day so that more people will be able to see it. Also if we encourage people to attend, the theatres will see the value in keeping the film for longer. It was also suggested that churches might pursue licensing the movie to be seen in churches.

On June 9, Living Waters Presbytery is gathering youth together for a right relations event. One of the speakers is Brandon Dumont who will talk about what it is like to be Mohawk and queer.

Brian encouraged people to look up the Pow Wow schedule for the summer.

c) Jim Dumont Workshop in 2019

Linda and Brian will follow up with Wayne King to see where we are at with this idea. Ren Ito reminded us of the option to learn about events that are already scheduled and encouraging our folks to attend them. This might be easier than getting Jim to come to us, and would move us out of our comfort zone while also honouring Jim’s commitment to focusing primarily on working with Indigenous Peoples.

**Restoration of Identity Working Group**

Brian reported that the partnership that we have had with Council Fire is facing uncertainty because Council Fire is having challenges.

## **Proposals to General Council**

Brian will be available at the Toronto Conference Annual Meeting to speak to the LIRR proposal. Ren and Betty Lou will speak to the proposal that the Kairos Blanket Exercise, or an alternative learning experience, be mandatory for all ministry personnel and potential ministry personnel.

## **York Region Water Treatment Plant – update**

Betty Lou welcomed Brandon Stiles to the circle. Brandon shared an update on the water petition that was initiated by the community on Georgina Island. Brandon provided additional copies of the petition for those who have not yet signed.

To date 33,594 people have signed the petition online, which doesn't include the hard copy petitions being collected. This demonstrates that a number of allies in the region are also concerned about the water. There is currently no finite deadline for the petitions, as long as Georgina Island is opposing this sewage plant they want signatures.

The community is trying to ramp up awareness through an event to share concerns from Indigenous perspective. It is still in planning stages but when a date is set we will receive invitation. They are also trying to get Traditional Ecological Knowledge recognized as a valuable tool in decision-making.

If we wish to write letters of support to politicians we are asked to please provide them first to the Band for review to ensure they are strong and correct.

## **Transition to New Region and LIRR as Priority**

Brian McIntosh and Bryan Ransom did write to Jody Maltby to share the concern that LIRR remain a priority in the new structure; that it be adequately funded and involved in the decision-making body of the new region. Jody reported that this would be shared with the Regional Transition Commission.

## **Conference Right Relations Fund for 2018**

### **a) Harmony Project Grant Application - \$2,000**

Brian reported on the opportunity to have a wonderful baritone soloist participate in the project in a key way. The Project asked for an additional grant of \$2,000 and it was approved.

## b) Restoration of Identity Legacy Project Grant Application

Brian reported on the Healing Garden and the Restoration project that is going to be erected in the corner of Nathan Phillips Square. This is a major project in response to TRC Call 82 which calls for a monument in the capital city of each of the provinces. Council Fire worked with an Aboriginal artist to come up with design for the garden and monument. The site is approved and the city and the province have committed funds to the project and both might commit more. Originally it was hoped it would be unveiled in October, but the project probably won't be finished until 2020.

There is a plan for a major three day ceremony in Nathan Phillips Square on October 9 – 11, 2018 with the Indigenous Nations in Ontario represented. The event will feature workshops by Indigenous Elders. Youth are significantly involved as are survivors of Residential Schools. More information will be shared.

We are asking the Conference for a significant gift to this project, equal to the gift to the Anishnawbe Health Centre. We are also asking for permission to distribute a second letter which will go to churches and others in the Conference for support. Brian is also in conversation with TUCC about making a donation. There was agreement that the letters should be sent to Toronto Conference. This will be considered by the Executive in June.

### **The Reconcilers**

George Moore shared about regional gatherings in Living Waters Presbytery to discuss networks and clusters in the new regions. Out of this has come a healing and reconciliation group called “The Reconcilers” who will meet mostly through online meetings. The Circle discussed how we might connect with this group. Members of the Circle are invited to give permission to share contact information with The Reconcilers so that we will be kept informed of their meetings. Through George, LIRR dates will be shared with The Reconcilers. If you would like your email address shared with The Reconcilers please send an email to Linda Gray at [lgray@united-church.ca](mailto:lgray@united-church.ca) and she will share an email with George. Reconcilers can also send an email and ask to join the LIRR.

The meeting ended at 2:00 p.m. ish

**Next Gathering:** The Circle will gather in September 2018. Date to be determined.