

Faith Mennonite Church Repair Team
Wednesday, January 19, 2022
Meeting Notes

WELCOME

Land Acknowledgement

We gather today on the traditional territory of the Dakota who are still here today.

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 68:6,9b,12

Prayer

Circle check-in: Why are you here?

Kristi Z, Dick W, Andi K, Dan L, Leslie M, Roberta M, Hermann W, Susan W, Karen W, Patricia E, Phil S.

OVERVIEW

Encouragement to go to the Coalition website: <https://dofdmenno.org/>

- **What is the Doctrine of Discovery?**

The Doctrine of Discovery is enshrined in both church and state. It is a legal doctrine that is practiced in international law and policy, and well as the domestic legal systems of countries around the globe. The Doctrine of Discovery is also a Christian doctrine dating to the 15th century. It is still practiced by Christian traditions around the globe, systematically dispossessing Indigenous Peoples of their ancestral lands and human rights.

- **The Dismantling DoD Coalition:**

The Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery Coalition is a group of Anabaptist leaders who work together to mobilize church communities to dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery. We proclaim an Anabaptist spirit of discipleship rooted in the call to love of neighbor, seeking right relationship and reconciliation through active non-violence. We believe that it is now the church's responsibility to undo the Doctrine of Discovery in the name of Christ. We call on the Church to address the extinction, extraction and enslavement done "in the name of Christ" on Indigenous lands.

- **Repair Network of Congregations and Communities**

The purpose of the Repair Network is to support Mennonite communities in education, solidarity and reparative action alongside Indigenous peoples. We also believe this network has the potential for healing for white settlers and Christians as we seek to undo internalized superiority. This is not just a mental exercise, but a heart and body experience of inner work, transformation and repentance for Christians and for settlers as we grieve the devastation caused by church-sponsored colonization and white supremacy and seek to end the harm.

- **Becoming a Repair Congregation**

1. Education & Lament
2. Organizing a committee or team
3. Truth Telling: land acknowledgment, public signage & memorials
4. Restitution in the Budget: to Indigenous communities and the coalition
5. Responding to Calls for Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples
6. Connecting the work of repair with Creation Care
7. Commit to Being Contagious

CIRCLE CONVERSATION ABOUT NEXT STEPS

Input from participants:

- Put ongoing financial restitution into the church budget
- Discuss list of different organizations and causes to support * (note at the end with links)
- Truth-telling, education, telling others.
- Really asking and learning from Native People what it is that they want us to do.
- Putting signage on the church building that acknowledges that we are on Dakota land. Land acknowledgement on our letterhead, at the beginning of worship services, our "branding"

- Doing our homework, finding opportunities to learn and integrate outside the comfort zone...
- Compiling a list of good resources to share
- Going where we are wanted
- Engaging in Lament
- Educate our selves (e.g. "Blood Memory" movie about Adoption of Indian Children)
- Advocate at local, state and national levels
- Continue to participate in volunteer workdays with Dr. Waz, Makoce Ikikcupi, as well as connecting with organizations in the Twin Cities
- Group outing to a powwow
- Look at Community of St. Martin's land acknowledgement

ADMINISTRATIVE TASKS AND ROLE

We are in the introductory stages of developing as a repair congregation. Kristi Zabriskie is willing to serve in the role of Convener/Moderator for the time being. She sees this as shared work and invites the committee as a whole and as individual participants to step up for administrative tasks. At a future meeting we will consider the following: name of the committee, purpose statement, roles, scheduling, church website info, note-taking, communication with the council and congregation, liaisons with non-church organizations,...

Future Events

- Twin Cities Reflection Hour with John Stoesz (via ZOOM) Tuesday at 7 PM on February 15
- Next Faith Repair Team Meeting (Kristi will schedule a date between Feb. 15 and March 1)
- Volunteer work day with Makoce Ikikupi TBD (To be determined)
- Repair Congregations and Communities Quarterly Calls
 - Tuesday, **March 1st**, 4-6 p.m. PT/ 7-9 p.m. ET with Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs and Pastor Carol Rose about including restitution in the church budget
 - Thursday, **June 2nd**, 4-6 p.m. PT/ 7-9 p.m. ET
 - Friday, **July 22 - Sunday, July 24**: Coalition Annual Gathering in Albuquerque, NM

Closing Reading

Inspiration for the Repair Network:

"Borrowing definitions from Janna Thompson's book *Taking Responsibility for the Past*, 'Reparative justice concerns itself with what ought to be done in reparation for injustice, and the obligation of the wrong-doers, or their descendants or successors, for making this repair. It is distinct from retributive justice, which focuses on the punishment of wrong-doers...' **However, rather than focusing on reparation as the end goal (it is assumed that reparations will eventually occur), healing of both Indigenous Peoples and the perpetrators is the end goal.** This may be deemed as a combined legalistic and theological approach. It is legalistic because it is concerned with rights, obligations, restoration, and compensation as is generally associated with the Reparations Movement, and it is also a theological approach to wrongdoing because '[i]t is concerned with apology, forgiveness, contrition, atonement and reconciliation.' Both are components of a long-term, peaceful end goal..."

- Waziyatawin, "Relieving our Suffering," in *For Indigenous Eyes Only* (2005), 195

*Some of the organizations with which we might get more involved:

Makoce Ikikcupi, <https://makoceikikcupi.com/>

Healing Minnesota Stories, <http://www.mnchurches.org/what-we-do/healing-minnesota-stories>

Dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery Coalition, <https://dofdmnno.org/>

First Nations Kitchen, <https://firstnationskitchen.org/>

MN Indian Women's Resource Center, <https://www.miwrc.org/>

Lower Phalen Creek Project, <https://www.lowerphalencreek.org/>

National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition, <https://boardingschoolhealing.org/>

Minneapolis American Indian Center, <http://www.maicnet.org/>