

BMC Truth And Reconciliation Working Group
Minutes: November 6, 2021

Present: Mark Cressman, Linden Gossen, Janice Klassen, Giselle Maerz, Philip Martin, Sharon Martin, Giselle Lily Hiebert Rempel, Carolyn Snider, Carolyn Strathdee

Why Are We Here?

- It's not OK to say I'm not overtly racist
- I'm here to listen and learn (stated numerous times and in numerous ways)
- I tend to feel for the underdog
- During the 60's scoop I felt we were encouraged to help these children
- I live within 6 miles of the Grand River
- I have a few connections with Indigenous culture and live within the Haldimand Tract
- What can I do?
- I feel helpless, and need to continue educating myself
- I want to continue my journey with Indigenous peoples
- Maybe we can make a difference and work towards justice that addresses the past and present
- How did we (me as an individual, the Mennonite Church and Canadians in general) miss or overlook the attempted cultural genocide of Indigenous people in Canada?

Terms Of Reference

We reviewed the terms of reference for our working group

What Do We Need?

- Look at what we already have (e.g., Calls To Action)
- Do an assessment of where we are now
- Taking action is important
- Identify people and organizations that are doing work in this area
- Hear success stories about Indigenous people
- Openness to new ways of learning, and leadings of the Spirit
- What is going on
- Find one thing...
- A vision for how we can move forward

Next Steps

1. Read or listen to at least one of the following documents:

- [TRC Calls To Action](#)
- [Introduction to Final Report \(Volume One: Summary\) of the TRC](#) (Pages 1-22)

2. Read through the November issue of "Living Into Right Relations" by Nancy Dykstra

- See if there is *one thing* that you would like to follow up on.
- Be prepared to comment on how we might share this document with people in our congregation.

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3. Research Indigenous organizations to which we might want to contribute funds from our congregational short term [Harvest Fund](#). Applications are due by December 31, 2021. Be prepared to share any of your ideas for use of this fund at our next meeting.

4. Linden is going to create a chart to help us visualize where Canada is with the 94 Calls To Action for the TRC.