

New Leaf Learning Centre - *Unsettling the Word* Book Club

Feb 18, 2021

Sylvia McAdam gave us all some homework in response to what she shared. We didn't get a chance for everyone to share their response, so if you would be willing to share in this document, we would like to encourage each other.

What is your response? What one thing (at least) are you doing to work together with the nations around you?

Share your thoughts, feel free to share your name and your context if you like, or to be anonymous.

If you would like to ask for support or resources, do that as well. If you have resources to share give web links or contact information so others can access those resources.

Thanks!

Amy Bratton - Treaty 6 - Saskatoon

I'm going to do more research into the funding and lack of funding here in Saskatchewan and learn where I can advocate for generous funding for the communities living on reserve (and off).

Jared Siebert - Treaty 6 - Saskatoon

I'm planning on talking with leaders in my denomination adding repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery to our membership process. That way more people wrestle with the concept and its interplay with their Christian practice.

Lynda MacGibbon, Treaty 13, Toronto

I so appreciated Sylvie's words and stories and wisdom -- and that she had questions for us to consider was so helpful. Some months ago my organization (InterVarsity) initiated a practice of giving land acknowledgements at the beginning of our all-staff zoom calls. I am planning on giving a bit more history/perspective on our next call based on some of the things I have learned as I've listened to Sylvie and to Cheryl. I am also beginning to do more research to fully understand the history of the lands our camps are on. I know some of it, but not enough.

Lisa Bickle - Treaty 18 - Oro-Medonte, near Barrie, ON

Sylvie's sharing of events and traditions was powerful. I am planning to share these things with family and friends in the spirit of knowledge bringing compassion, understanding and change. I hear ignorance and judgement around me sometimes, and any judgements about the CoVid vaccine prioritizing of Indigenous people is an opportunity to present some of this history of gross injustice. I also look forward to using these lessons as a springboard to conversation with an indigenous friend of mine.

Wes Goertzen - Treaty 1&2 - Boissevain, MB - pastor

We started verbal land acknowledgments in Sunday services (with some pushback.)

Previously, it had been in the bulletin. And, in a sorta opt-in space, we have another book discussion (*Wrongs to Rights*) that I hope to get started after Easter in person. When we can meet in person, a friend is planning to invite an Indigenous educator out who has expressed interest in a conversation and collaboration.

As part of my own work, I'm going to walk the land more. And, seek out again the stories of this land. I understand the land we're on and the Turtle Mtns, especially, were contested sites and I'd like to know more about the interactions between the Dakota and ? during the time of white settlement. Who was the land was promised to in Treaty? Who was left out? And, what exactly became of those promises. The stories are so complicated to keep straight, but also heart wrenching and wonderfully interesting. I live so shallowly upon the land.

One thing I finally took to heart, was McAdam's admonition that we do our own work on our settler selves prior to (or, at least, simultaneous to??) any sort of reconciliation work or service. That heart work needs doing and I'm working at the best means to communicate the urgency of that need and the attitude and the means by which said work can be done. I'm finding the communication piece super tricky. Its not so much I'd like not to offend, as I'd like to speak/act in ways that bring down the walls of hostility/defensiveness. I can't help but think that this is where God is leading us and this (mostly) unaddressed and (mostly) unowned/acknowledged evil has been holding us back. This opportunity for repentance and, maybe, making of friends could be really, really beautiful, true and good--and missing the opportunity will continue to be very, very costly.