

Ideas for Life-long Learning

In response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) 94 Calls to Action (June 2015), various institutions, organizations and coalitions have been offering conferences for the purpose of understanding and implementing reconciliation.

For example, in my area in recent months:

- The University of Manitoba helped host a Reconciliation Canada conference
- The University of Winnipeg helped host a Pathways to Reconciliation conference
- KAIROS Regional Meeting hosted two panels; one on *Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women*, and one on *Indigenous Education*.

Such conferences are a good way to hear a variety of perspectives on history and issues, and offer the opportunity to meet leaders from Indigenous communities, schools, government, business, faith groups and not-for-profits.

It is valuable for members of the ELCIC Continuing Education Plan (CEP) to keep in mind that fees and travel for such conferences may qualify as CEP expenses. Even when the registration fees are low, CEP Members may wish to use funds to help make travel affordable. When the registration fees are high, CEP funds may make the experience affordable.

The 2015 ELCIC National Convention passed a motion repudiating the doctrine of discovery, and committing this church to:

- Encourage all members and congregations to reflect upon our own national and church history, and seek greater understanding of the issues facing Indigenous peoples.
- Walk with Indigenous peoples in their ongoing efforts to exercise their inherent sovereignty and fundamental human rights and renew our commitment to truth, reconciliation and equity.

As such, all ELCIC employers have been challenged to make the important work reconciliation between Indigenous and non-indigenous peoples part of their ministry context.

Keep an eye out for conferences that may be happening in your area. A deeper understanding of reconciliation issues will develop skills for more effective ministry.

Submitted by

Rev. Paul Gehrs

Assistant to the Bishop, Justice and Leadership

pgehrs@elcic.ca