



## Keeping on with the Work of Reconciliation

Mark Plummer

Aboriginal history month has come and gone with many events across the greater Toronto area. It is time to pause and reflect. This year the Aboriginal Issues Working Group has a closer collaboration with our neighbours who are part of the Indigenous Justice Coalition which meets regularly at Redeemer. There is also continued support and collaboration with Toronto Council Fire Cultural Centre.

In June we welcomed the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth, Irwin Elman, and Laura Arndt, the founder of the Feathers of Hope conference. The reports and open-heartedness of our speakers were received with thanks. Please see a full report on the evening elsewhere in the newsletter.

Our first *Travel for Learning* event was the excellent trip to Curve Lake and the Canoe Museum with Trinity St Paul's United Church. Darlene, from Trinity St Paul's, organized a meeting with two elders at the community church and this was a gift. We also enjoyed our other adventure in July—camping at Stony Point and Kettle Lake Reserve.

The working group continues to publish the *Weekly Indigenous News Digest* that includes upcoming events across the city and beyond that may be of interest. Highlights are also published on the Redeemer website. The group is working on an updated reading list that will be ready in August.

In the fall there are plans for upcoming events: the Kairos blanket exercise; another Circle and supper with our AIWG counsellors, Mike, Murray & Kim; a book club to study and discuss *Wrongs to Rights*, a collection of essays on the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Lastly, our *Travel for Learning* program will join with the neighbourhood churches in a day trip to Six Nations, the Mohawk Institute and the Woodlands Cultural Centre on Sunday, October 2. Bishop Mark McDonald has offered to lead us in an Indigenous liturgy in God's cathedral, the out of doors at Six Nations. Details will be available soon.

If you are interested in the work of the group and want to become involved, you can join one of the small groups to assist in organizing any of these events. The time commitment is six months. Please contact Pamela Thomson or Mark Plummer at [aiwg.redeemer@gmail.com](mailto:aiwg.redeemer@gmail.com) with your interest.

Thank you to all those who have contributed to make the spring and summer events such a success helping to create cross-cultural opportunities for dialogue.

Miigwech, Nya"weh. Inishic (Thanks be to God) 