

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION—HEALING THE PAST AND LOOKING FORWARD
GA Spokane, June 20, 2019

Work of Unitarian Universalists Congregations,
and Allied Organizations working with Indigenous Issues
Beth Brownfield, bethbrownf@aol.com

Olympia, WA, Unitarian Universalist Congregation

Learning Right Relations <https://learningrightrelations.org>. Learning Right Relations (LRR) is a series of classes or Gatherings, auxiliary meetings, and visits to Tribal sites aimed at addressing the historic marginalization and ongoing inequities faced by our Coast Salish neighbors. Learning Right Relations has become an interfaith action group that meets monthly and is involved year-round in activities that support the following:

Vision: The Indians of the Medicine Creek Treaty, their Coast Salish neighbors and all Indians living in our region experience respect, honor and support for their way of life.

Mission: We walk a path of learning and living to address the historic marginalization and ongoing inequities experienced by our Coast Salish neighbors; and we share the responsibility to care for this place, their homelands, where we mutually abide.

The Learning Right Relations community actively works to uplift and support our Coast Salish neighbors through a variety of projects.

- **Canoe Journey Support: Lummi Nation Blanket Project:**
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5c1091832714e59a4980fdee/t/5cc0ccf4e4966baf37e43f3c/1556139261958/Paddle+to+Lummi+Handout.Final+%281%29.pdf>
- **Acknowledgement of Tribal Territories:**
Learning Right Relations members worked with the Squaxin Island Tribe to create a formal acknowledgment and corresponding maps of Tribal lands in the Olympia area. LRR is currently working to develop acknowledgement signs to be distributed for use at peoples' homes, businesses or churches.
- **Since Time Immemorial**
Our Since Time Immemorial (STI) work group works to ensure that this exciting curriculum on Tribal sovereignty, mandated in 2015 by Governor Inslee, is being taught in K-12 schools across Washington State.
- **Addressing the egregious Doctrine of Discovery**
Learning Right Relations members are advocating for the reversal of the damaging 15 Century papal decrees, which promoted the colonization and exploitation of non-Christian land the resulting oppression and genocide of Indigenous peoples.

Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples, Boulder Colorado

The Toward Right Relationship Project (TRR) offers the following presentations to schools, universities, churches, and civic organizations throughout the United States. Native and non-Native facilitators have given these presentations in some 200 communities by request. **Contact:** Paula Palmer, Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples,

www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/ipc-right-relationship, Cell: 240-595-5993, email: paulaRpalmer@gmail.com

“Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change” <https://www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/wp-content/friends9x4Q/2018/08/Roots-of-Injustice-Seeds-of-Change-General-Flyer2.pdf>

This 2-hour experiential workshop traces the historic and ongoing impacts of the Doctrine of Discovery, the 15th-century justification for European subjugation of non-Christian peoples. Our goals to raise our level of knowledge and concern about these impacts, recognize them in ourselves and our institutions, and explore how we can begin to take actions toward right relationship with Native peoples.

“Rediscovering America: Understanding Colonization” middle and high school students <https://www.boulderfriendsmeeting.org/wp-content/friends9x4Q/2018/08/Re-Discovering-America-flyer.pdf>

Through this 1-hour program, students symbolically experience the colonization of North America as the Native peoples and the European colonists experienced it. They hear the voices of Indigenous leaders and European popes, monarchs, presidents, generals, and Western historians as the story unfolds. The exercise is followed by a response period, when students share what they learned, how they feel, and what they think about the reality of Native peoples in our society today. Supplementary materials for teachers are provided.

Port Townsend, WA: Quimper Unitarian Universalist Fellowship

Jo Blair, Barbarablair@mac.com, Chair of Native Connections Action Group, and Chinook Tribal member.

- **Native Connections Action Group:**
 - **DEEPEN RESPECT** *to increase our appreciation for the rich traditions of Native cultures, including, environmental issues, spiritual and social philosophies and the wisdom they can bring into our own lives through participating in educational events and cultural experiences when invited and appropriate.*
 - **STAND IN SOLIDARITY** *to develop connections with Native Peoples and to become aware of critical environmental issues affecting the very survival of Mother Earth and all her beings and to provide opportunities for activism to address these issues*
- **Chetzemoka Interpretive Trail** is a joint endeavor of Native Connections Action Group, Quimper Unitarian Fellowship and the Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe. Their Grand Opening is Saturday, June 29. Important historic and cultural sites selected by the Jamestown S’Kallam Tribe, are connected by a trail to increase the visibility of S’Klallam history in qátay (Port Townsend) their traditional territory. This project took several years at a cost of over \$50,000. The trail includes 15 locations of tribal, geographic and historical significance throughout Port Townsend. The Jamestown S’Kallam tribe embraced this project and did all the cultural research, creative design work and writing the stories that appear on the signs and in the booklet <http://www.ptrecyclery.org/resources/Documents/Grand%20Opening%20of%20Chetzemoka%20Trail.pdf>

The signs will educate local residents, tribal citizens and visitors as to the rich culture and long history of the S'Klallam people in Port Townsend and on the North Olympic Peninsula. The group has read books together to educate themselves on topics relevant to Native issues. They also invite speakers relevant to the topic. They have shown films, held fundraisers, attended art exhibits, and taken field trips. They promote outside events, attend commissioner's meetings when issues arise, and have stood with tribes in protest on issues that affect them.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Bismarck-Mandan, South Dakota

Rev. Karen Van Fossan (karenavanfossan@gmail.com)

As the banner at the entrance of our collective home proclaims, the Bismarck-Mandan Unitarian Universalist congregation has always been "**Standing with Standing Rock.**" As a Lakota/Dakota nation, Standing Rock has peacefully and prayerfully proclaimed that water is life and, since September 30, 2014, has asserted that the Dakota Access Pipeline would threaten Lakota/Dakota ways of life — past, present, and future. We respect these declarations by Standing Rock, as well as Standing Rock's sovereignty in making them. It is our honor to have stood with Standing Rock, our neighbor and our friend.

(Note: Rev. Van Fossen is heading to Fargo, ND to begin a PhD program in pastoral counseling in the context of decolonization in Fargo.)

- **Solidarity with Water Protectors at Sanding Rock slide show.**
https://www.bismanuu.org/solidarity_with_water_protectors_at_standing_rock. The congregation is working to bringing support to five Native Americans in prison on felony charges related to Standing Rock.(Michael "Little Feather" Giron, Red Fawn Fallis, Michael "Rattler" Markus, Dion Ortiz, and James "Angry Bird" White) Find links to their situations and work to support these prisoners https://www.bismanuu.org/social_action
- **Water Protector Legal Collective** requesting a thematic hearing on "Suppression of Indigenous Resistance to Extractive Industries in North America: Bismarck-Mandan Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Request for hearing for support of Dakota Access Reistance.pdf. <https://waterprotectorlegal.org>
- **Incarcerated Water Protectors Support** – Having been welcomed as relatives by Indigenous Water Protectors in the NoDAPL movement at Standing Rock, Unitarian Universalists passed a significant [Action of Immediate Witness](#) (AIW) at the 2018 General Assembly. The AIW pledges ongoing, tangible solidarity with Indigenous Water Protectors who have faced federal imprisonment, as well as their loved ones. In collaboration with the [NoDAPL Political Prisoners Support Committee](#) UUs are co-creating an infrastructure of support that includes prayer, letter writing, event hosting, fundraising, home stays for visiting loved ones, and amplifying the voices of political prisoners and their families. UU Water Protector Solidarity Contact: [Rev. Karen Van Fossan](#)

Unitarian Universalist Church of Whidbey Island, WA

Gary Piazzon, piazzon@comcast.net

- Raised funds for: Lummi Youth Academy, Penn Cove Water Festival, Standing Rock's Oceti Sakowin Camp, Unist'ot'en Camp, and Paddle to Lummi Tribal Canoe Journey

- Hosted Public Presentations: Featuring films and Indigenous representatives: *Dawnland*; *Pulling Together*; and workshops on the trans mountain pipeline
- Hosts Lummi Swil Kanim at an annual service
- Members, including minister Dennis Reynolds, have gone to Standing Rock, collaborated with Bismarck-Mandan UU, testified and advocated for support of Water Protectors and encouraged letter writing for Federally incarcerated Water Protectors.
- Members have demonstrated and testified on behalf of and in Solidarity with Lummi re: Cherry Point Coal Port expansion; Tseil-Waututh Nation re: trans mountain pipeline; Puyallup re: PSE's LNG facility....
- We begin our monthly *Moral Ground* series meeting with acknowledgement of whose land we are on and bring it too meetings we attend, if not already addressed by organizers.
- Dedicated an acknowledgement plaque at entrance of UUCWI sanctuary and are close to getting it incorporated as a routine component of services
- Have promoted Truth and Reconciliation and Honor Native Land initiatives widely
- Promoted and attended events: Vine Deloria Jr. symposia, Totem Pole Journey, Protect Mother Earth Conference, Global Earth Repair Conference, etc.
- Shown *Doctrine of Discovery: Unmasking the Domination Code* at UUCWI and the first Faith and Climate Action Conference in Seattle
- Promote books by: Steven Newcomb, Roxanne Dunbar Ortiz, Dina Gillo-Whitaker, Vine DeLoria Jr., etc.

First Universalist Church, Minneapolis, MN.

Kristen Mengelkoch (kmengelkoch1@msn.com)

- Over the past 3 or 4 years our work with indigenous people has flowed from our introduction to the LaPointe family, who are Lakota from the Rosebud Sioux reservation in South Dakota. They are active as a family at the *United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues* on water issues worldwide. We first met the family when the church wanted to get involved in a local movement to restore the name of Lake Calhoun back to its original name of *Mde Maka Ska* (White Earth Lake). In learning more about Calhoun, who the lake was named after, we met Lemoine LaPointe, who suggested we hold community conversations on the topic of how the lake is meaningful to us, including indigenous people, whites and others. The idea was to come to know one another and what is in our hearts before working toward any specific agenda.
- That work eventually contributed to the successful name restoration, as well as the *Indigenous Peoples' Decade of Water Summit* (being held for the 3rd year this August). . It is called *Mni Ki Wakan*, Dakota for 'water is sacred'. It is an indigenous led, youth-centered peer conference, where youth and young adults are encouraged to envision a world where water is restored, and to initiate projects toward that end. You can find out more at www.mnikiwakan.org. The church hosted the conference in their building the first year. Last year the church was also awarded a \$25,000 grant in support of this effort.
- Fundraising efforts to support the LaPointe family's trip to the UN are held yearly.
- The church sponsored a concert to raise funds for a group of youth that traveled to the Vatican last year to speak to some of the pope's staff about the ongoing fallout affecting them from the Doctrine of Discovery.

- They sponsored a showing of Sheldon Wolfchild and Steve Newcomb’s film about the Doctrine of Discovery, and they held a workshop for church members about historical trauma with Nancy Botrdeaux.
- Several members of the congregation visited Standing Rock and there was much voiced support for Standing Rock in the congregation.
- First Universalist Church rents their kitchen to the Twin Cities Sioux Chef, Sean Sherman who caters event in the area. Sean will be holding a workshop at this year’s water summit.
- The congregation typically holds a Christmas sale of Winona LaDuke’s ”Native Harvest “crafts and Native foods (wild rice, wild berry preserves, and maple syrup to support this business.

First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis, MN

Rev. Kelli Clement, kelli@firstunitarian.org

- Each year on Dec 26, FUS provides the lunch for 400+ riders, runners, and community members at the conclusion of the Dakota 38+2 Reconciliation Ride in Mankato MN. This year one of our funders was able to make some reparations of his own; his family was involved on the colonial side of the actions that lead to the mass murder of Dakota warriors in 1862.
- Recent one-time events include hosting activist and author Roxanne Dunbar Ortiz, along with activist and teacher Waziyatawin, in Sept. 2018. Dr. Dunbar Ortiz spoke on her new book *Loaded: A Disarming History of the Second Amendment*.
- The congregation sent Rev. Kelli Clement and then ministerial intern Jane Smith to join the clergy witness at Standing Rock. Some 500 clergy and spiritual leaders from 22 faith traditions came together for witness, solidarity, learning, service, and repentance in Nov. 2016. Jane, now Rev. Smith, reports that this event was central to her education and experience of justice work.
- The current art show in the FUS Gallery is “Challenging Public Art,” a mix of photos of historic Twin Cities public art with racist images, and contemporary K-12 art reflecting stories students would like to see in our public spaces. Healing Minnesota Stories started this project during the debate about colonial art in the Minnesota State Capitol, and it continues by following proposed changes to art in St. Paul City Hall. Rev. Jim Bear Jacobs gave the accompanying presentation “Art as Storyteller,” that focused on the narrative told by some of our most public of spaces and demonstrated the need for new stories.
- We continue our work in Decentering Whiteness. Most of our current Board of Trustees and many congregational leaders and members attended 3 workshops held over the 2018-19 program year that focused on implicit bias, microaggressions, emotional IQ, and equity. In 2019-20 program year, we will host a social work intern who will complete a racial equity audit of the congregation. All 3 ministers, Rev. Dr. David Breeden, Rev. Jim Foti, and Rev. Kelli Clement, speak frequently from the pulpit and in classes about countering rising authoritarianism, racial equity, and decentering whiteness.

East Shore Unitarian Church of Bellevue, WA

Marilyn Mayer: mayersmarilyn@gmail.com

- East Shore Unitarian Church is located in Bellevue, Washington. It has a small group of individuals who work through Ministry Teams including Beloved Racial Justice, Climate Action, Women’s Perspective and Women-Helping-Women, Second Sunday Committee and Earth and Social Justice Coordinating Council to bring educational opportunities to

congregants and engage in actions at the congregation and in the Seattle area to support local tribes.

- **Forums:** offered occasional forums following a service with lunch and then an afternoon on a particular topic with invited speakers.
 - “The Indigenous Solidarity Climate Justice Forum” included Native presenter from Lummi, Quinault, the Three Affiliated Tribes (Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara nations) from North Dakota, and Northern Cheyenne from Montana).
- **Donated money from donations and special collection:**
 - Billy Frank Jr. Endowment Fund at NW Indian college
 - \$1,118 to Duwamish Tribal Services.
 - \$1,137 to Innovations Human Trafficking Collaborative in recognition of the work they do to address MMIW.
 - \$1,104 to the Indigenous Environmental Network
 - June 9 service collection was a donation to Lhaq’temish Foundation of the Lummi Nation for Paddle to Lummi.
- **Volunteered**
 - Penn Cove Water Festival and Canoe races in Coupeville, Whidbey Island, WA, Paddle to Nisqually.
 - One member volunteered at Protecting Mother Earth Conference of Indigenous Environmental Network in Nisqually.
 - East Shore members plan to volunteer at Paddle to Lummi in July.
- **Demonstrated**
 - in Hoquiam to support Quinault and Quileute protesting the establishment of oil facilities in Grays Harbor
 - in NoDAPL protests in Seattle
 - participated in Women’s March in Seattle. Some members served as Peacekeepers to protect the group of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women who were group leading the march
 - participated in indigenous-led march up Burnaby to protest Kinder Morgan pipeline expansion in Vancouver, British Columbia
 - participated in a demonstration in Seattle opposing Kinder Morgan pipeline
- **Stood Up for Standing Rock:** Over Thanksgiving the Sr. Minister, and the Youth Group Coordinator dived to North Dakota to support the indigenous led Standing Rock protests. Their trip was supported by the congregation.
- **Held Classes:** “Whose Lands are we on?”
- **Pull Together Campaign** hosted with the help of Sierra Club to support First Nations, led by Tseil Waututh in British Columbia, against Trans Mountain Pipeline expansion. We raised \$5,000, with 65 people in attendance from all over Washington.
- **Held A three-week series of classes** focused on a discussion of *All the Real Indians Died Off* by Native American scholars Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz and Dina Gilio-Whitaker
- **Hosted:**
 - **"Intergenerational Indigenous Story Hour"** with Paul Cheoketen Wagner (Vancouver Island Saanich Tribal member). Those who attended came away with a deeper awareness and appreciation of the close relationship that Native Americans have with their environment and the natural world.

- A panel on Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women (MMIW). This panel was led by staff from Innovations Human Trafficking Collaborative including Jeri Moommaw, Roxanne White, Carolyn DeFord. 62 people attended.
- A panel on Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women. “Challenges facing Native Communities and How to be Allies”, dealing with issues related to tribal history and sovereignty issues, the Liquified Natural gas plant in Tacoma, Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women. About 70 people attended.
- **Screened:**
 - *Promised Land*, a social justice documentary about the Duwamish Tribe and the Chinook Nation, and their ongoing fight for tribal recognition. Approximately 65 people, and presenters included the producers and directors, Sarah and Vasant Salcedo, along with Cecile Hansen (Duwamish Tribal Chair) and Aaron James Jones, (Chinook Nation).
 - Hosted screening of 2010 Ware Lecture by Winona LaDuke (Anishinaabekwe) which was followed by a discussion of Native American human rights and environmental issues facing tribal communities across the country
- **Services:**
 - Celebrated the Duwamish Tribe. Tribal Leader Cecile Hansen and Blake White Wolf Shelafoe told stories, offered insights into the history of the Duwamish people, drummed, and sang songs.
 - Highlighted the Duwamish and the Chinook as Rev. Elaine recapped the prior evening’s events and Cecile Hansen (Duwamish Tribal Chair) spoke briefly. Two members of the Duwamish tribe attended the church service and stayed for the potluck and conversation.
 - Jessie Dye from Earth Ministry focused on ways non-native allies have supported tribes. Freddy Lane from Lummi and Ken Workman from the Duwamish led the second service which focused on the spiritual dimension of the Canoe journey.
- **Contributed:**
 - East Shore women made 89 necklaces to support and express gratitude to the Lummi in preparation for the Paddle to Lummi Canoe Journey.
 - East Shore youth made 17 necklaces.
 - Organized necklace-making events at Muslim Association of Puget Sound (women there made 45 necklaces) and at Ahmadiyya mosque in Monroe (women there made 35).
 - More necklaces will be made during East Shore’s annual church retreat on Hood Canal at the end of May for Paddle to Lummi and at East Shore
- **Trainings:**
 - Two members attended: “Promise to Protect Training” at the Duwamish Long house.
- **Acknowledgement:** Several teams at East Shore are urging East Shore’s Worship team (which organizes the Sunday services) to incorporate a formal acknowledgement of sitting on Duwamish land at EVERY morning service.

UU Church of the Palouse, Moscow, Idaho

Pat Rathmann, patty0727@hotmail.com

- repudiated the Doctrine of Discovery following the GA in Arizona.

- Ken Faunce from the congregation as the chair of the Moscow Human Rights Commission was responsible for Moscow ID changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day.
- UUCP's Environmental Task Force submitted a Green Protector request for Nimiipuu Protecting the Environment that was accepted by Moscow Mayor Bill Lambert. An off shoot of the Congregations environmental group, "Palouse Environmental Sustainability Coalition" was named by Mayor Lambert as the "Green Protector of 2015".
- Congregation member, Pat Rathmann, was awarded the "Rosa Parks Award" by the community in 2017 in recognition of her environmental justice achievements.
- Members of our congregation joined with members of the UCC of Pullman to spend a week in Tucson supporting the migrants. We donated the proceeds from our Ren Fair Booth (\$1200) to one of the migrant groups.
- The congregations Environmental Task Force works with the United Tribes of Alaska to defeat the proposed Pebble Mine by providing local publicity.
- Several members of the congregation traveled to Alberta Canada, for five years, to march with the First Nations demonstrating against the Tar Sands Mining. We continue to stay in touch with First Nations members in order to support their causes.
- Several members of the congregation journeyed to Standing Rock to support those efforts. We also led demonstrations here in town to publicize "Moscow Stands with Standing Rock" involving members of the Nez Perce Tribe and University of Idaho Native American Studies Members.
- We organized two different community "Marches for Survival" to encourage support for climate change awareness. Both attracted several hundred marchers and featured talks by our minister Rev. Elizabeth Stevens.

Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship, Bellingham, Native American Connections Committee since 2006.

Beth Brownfield, bethbrownf@aol.com

- **Between 1976-2004 Influenced Indigenous work in MN especially at:** Minneapolis, First Unitarian Society, and First Universalist: Wounded Knee take over, American Indian Movement, (sovereignty, treaty rights, tribal government, UUSC work camps, education, volunteering, fund raising, camping, marching, and protesting in the Black Hills)
- **Work before 2006:** Facilitated four six-session seminars to over 150 participants with native presenters, or tribal staff on: "Contemporary American Indian Issues and Challenges", "Lummi, Nooksack, Swinomish Nations: Past Present and Future"; "Coast Salish Art and Culture"
- **2007: Formed Paddle to Lummi Community Connections Committee** to bring support to Lummi Nation hosting the 2007 Tribal Canoe Journey. Raised over \$80,000, brought hundreds of volunteers. Officially acknowledgement of the Coast Salish Peoples' as the First Inhabitants of these Lands and waters with proclamation and letters from local, state and national WA politicians.
- **Coast Salish Day 2007, 2008, 2009, 2001:** Community celebration of canoe landings, acknowledgement, sharing of songs and dances, crafts, food at a park in Bellingham, open to the public.
- **Nominated Native Americans for Whatcom Dispute Resolution's "Peace Builders" awards** (2006-2010, 2011, 2015, 2016)

- **Special Collections Sunday Services:** 2009-2018: Honor Foundation, NW Indian College, Lummi Youth Academy, Lummi CEDAR Project, Honor Works, Lummi Youth Canoe Family
- **Ongoing Collection for Lummi Food Bank:** 2013-2018: canned and dried foods, and electronic transfers.
- **Special Fundraisers:** dinners, speakers, special asks, support of outside groups using our space for dinners or programs related to indigenous issues (many every year)
- **Native Events Emails, now chimp mail:** Since 2012 have sent out emails to interested participants. Started with 200 and now in 2019 reaches over 1,000 recipients. It covers upcoming events, movies, plays, art exhibits, cultural events, protests, fundraisers, crucial issues and actions, workshops, symposiums, international issues and actions. These are topics not well publicized in local or national media. It builds crowds of people who come to listen , learn, and experience, and participate.
- **Education:**
 - Numerous Sunday morning Forums on indigenous topics and indigenous speakers, or non-natives with issue driven political and cultural actions
 - Workshops like Building Right Relations
 - Mentored and help start similar Native Connections Committees in Port Townsend, Olympia, East Shore in Seattle
- **Resolutions passed by Congregation:**
 - **2012:** Repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery
 - **2013:** Resolution to Honor Lummi Nation’s Sacred Lands and Waters of Cherry Point (opposition to proposed coal terminal)
 - **2015:** Resolution to Request the Pacific NW District Board of the UUA to become signatory to “A Public Declaration to the Tribal Councils and Traditional Spiritual Leaders of the Native Peoples of the NW
 - **2016:** Resolution of solidarity with Standing Rock Sioux Nation and its Resistance to the Dakota Access Pipeline
 - **2019:** Truth and Reconciliation Resolution
- **2010-2012: Work on getting UU Congregations to repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery.** Contacted a total of 58 congregations in WA, OR, ID and Alaska to get them to each repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery. It raised some awareness, but it was basically an unknown issue and competing with other rising issues. Perhaps 5 or 6 congregations passed a resolution. Contacted UUA President, Peter Morales about DOD, wrote letters to the Board of Trustees. Joined forces with SW District GA Planners and persuaded Trustees to put forth a resolution to repudiate DOC at Phoenix GA. Dave Weiman of Peoria, IL and Beth Brownfield led two workshops at GA, each attended by over 400 delegates each on the Doctrine of Discovery. The resolution passed overwhelmingly and has become an important social justice issue for the denomination ever since.
- **2012—2015:** Helped initiate and build a collaborative effort in county, state and nationally to support Lummi Nations efforts to defeat the proposed coal terminal. Sponsored two workshops at 2015 GA in Portland with Lummi Tribal members to tell the proposed Coal Terminal Story. Lummi also were main speakers for Immediate Witness event before 4,000 in attendance. Carried on a Faithify crowdsourcing and raised \$14,000 in 45 days for the Lummi Totem Pole Journey carrying the message of the extraction and burning of fossil fuels, from Bellingham to Montana and back.

- **On May of 20, 2013** Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship's Native American Connections Committee offered Lummi the Fellowships Sanctuary to speak to religious and activists from the regions they had invited to hear Lummi leaders speak about "Beyond Coal" which took the position of defeating the proposed Coal Terminal from just environmental concerns, but to preserving the sacred lands at Cherry point, preserving Coast Salish Cultures, and protecting fishing and hunting rights in their traditional and accustomed places. That morning, 86 religious leaders attended, representing scores of religious congregations, and in the evening over 200 activists representing 44 activist organizations were present. This event not only gave Lummi the lead in the fight against the coal terminal but also the collaboration of the wider religious and activist community. **May 9, 2016 Tribes prevail, kill proposed coal Terminal at Cherry Point:**
- **2015, Initiated an intensive immersion experience with the support of College of Social Justice Staff: *Solidarity with Original Nations and Peoples.*** 16 participants and staff from OR, WA, ID, WI, MA spent five intense days at Lummi Nation, listening, learning, and experiencing what it is to be a nation: tribal government, health, education, economics, natural resources, culture, difficult issues, history. They met tribal council members, the hereditary chief, staff members, program directors, elders...Lives were changed, and participants returned home to engage deeply with their indigenous neighbors. Many of this first-year's participants are still motivated and working diligently on indigenous initiatives. A second program was offered in 2016 but faltered without working closely with their Lummi Partner and without a local liaison between the organization and Lummi Nation. This intensive program was then terminated.
- **2015:** Initiated the discussion of Bellingham City Council to consider Coast Salish Day instead of Columbus Day. It became a reality on Oct 12, 2015 and is now celebrated annually.
- **March 2019:** Created a month-long curriculum, *Our Lhaq'temish Neighbors* for Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship Religious Education program that included adult components: with four adult Forums with indigenous focus; an intergenerational service, and a field trip to Lummi Nation. During this month we also brought Paula Palmer from Boulder Colorado to facilitate her workshop: "Seeds of Injustice, Roots of Change " workshop for adults to over 100 participants.
- **2019:** Lummi Nation is again hosting the Tribal Canoe Journey so the Paddle to Lummi Community Connections Committee has been revised. We work under the direction and support of Lummi Nation, have raised thousands of dollars, recruiting hundreds of volunteers, working with Lummi tribal members in making handmade gifts for the last nights potlatch.

In addition, we are seeking donations of produce, meats, and dairy from local farmers. One volunteer has pulled together a group of 15 local farmers who will collect their gifts, pack them in cooler. They then will load the goods onto rafts and row down the Nooksack River with 5,000 pounds of produce and meat. At the mouth of the Nooksack they will unload and truck to the refrigerated trucks for storage.

A Sikh, Whatcom County Council member, is contacting Sikh berry growers in the county for 1,000 of blueberries and raspberries, along with a rice pudding weighing about 110 lbs., enough to serve 5,000 people at an evening meal. The Paddle to Lummi. runs July 24-28 and is free and open to the public: The budget is for a \$1.1 million-dollar cost, welcoming over

100 Tribal Canoes representing close to 70 Original Nations and Peoples; preparing 11,000 meal a day, and have made 10,000 handmade gifts. www.Paddletolummi.com

MASS Action UU

Laura Wagner MSW, Executive Director, Unitarian Universalist Mass Action Network, Email: LWagner@uumassaction.org, Website: www.uumassaction.org, Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/>

U Mass Action is the original state-wide UU advocacy groups in the US. Our mission is to connect the 140 Unitarian Universalist congregations and 20,000 members, to “work smarter, not harder” for social justice by sharing ideas and joining forces to raise our compassionate voice in Massachusetts.

- **UU-Mass-Action**, Working with [UAINE](http://www.uaaine.org), United American Indians of New England and North American Indian Center of Boston. <http://www.naicob.org>. (Empowering and investing in the Native American community of Massachusetts for over 45 years.) MASS Action is working with Mahrowin Munroe at UAINE on developing an Italian American for “Indigenous Peoples Day” campaign
- **The North American Indian Center of Boston** (NAICOB) has provided cultural, social, educational, and professional related services to the New England Native American community for over 45 years. As the oldest urban Indian center in Massachusetts, our mission is to empower the Native American community with the goal of improving the quality of life of Indigenous peoples.
- **MA(ssachusetts) Indigenous Legislative Agenda**
We are working to support legislation currently before the Massachusetts State Legislature that will benefit Indigenous Peoples. **Our current Agenda** includes five bills in the 2019-2021 session that reflect some of the key concerns within Massachusetts.

These are the bills MASS ACTION is supporting in the 2019-2021 MA legislative session

- **A joint Committee held a hearing on the statewide Indigenous Peoples Day Bill**
Agenda: Honor Indigenous Peoples Day **Protect Native American Heritage**: ensure Native American funerary objects, sacred objects, and objects of cultural patrimony held in governmental or non-profit collections are not sold for profit.
- **Remove Racist Mascots**: Prohibit Native American mascots in MA public schools
- **Change the Flag and Seal**: Massachusetts has kept a sword hanging over the heads of Native Americans for hundreds of years. That’s a terrible symbol for our state. Bill Description: A bill to establish a special commission which shall make recommendations regarding a revised or new design of the seal of the commonwealth and a revised or new motto of the commonwealth
- **ppEducate Native Youth**: Improve educational outcomes and opportunities for American Indian and Alaska Native Students. www.maindigenousagenda.org

JUJustice Washington: <http://www.juustwa.org>

First & American Indian Nations Solidarity Hub (FAIN)

After more than 500 years where settlers to our continent have oppressed native peoples, how do settlers and First/American Indian Nations come together to reconcile and rebuild? For the people

using this hub, we begin wherever we are. We begin by learning and doing and being in relationship -- relationships in solidarity with First/American Indian Nations.

- **[OUR WORK.](#)** Work with First Nations issues or in indigenous communities takes on a variety of shapes and sizes. Here you will be able to see some of the different ways that we can be in service to First Nations/American Indian communities or work in partnership on issues that impact both Indian and non-Indian communities. It also means educating our non-Native individuals and communities on the issues in Indian Country and re-evaluating and informing our understanding, then taking action to revise, heal deepen and strengthen our relationship with the Original Peoples on this continent and across the globe.

From working to repudiate the [Doctrine of Discovery](#) to [standing with First Nations](#) to protect indigenous cultures, treaty rights of First Nations, [sacred lands](#), and Mother Earth herself, UUs in the Northwest are becoming an ever stronger a voice of support, compassion and activism on behalf of indigenous nations everywhere. They come to this work by asking the First Nations not how they can fix problems for them, but how we can work together to save their people and ours.

- **[RESOURCES.](#)** There are several tools we can use to better inform and prepare ourselves to walk in Indian Country. Films, videos, publications, reference materials, etc. are available to help bring us some level of understanding of the historical, social, environmental, economic and cultural aspects of indigenous communities, the issues they face and how we, as non-Indians have contributed to those issues and how we can put forward a genuine effort at reconciliation.