

History, Part 2 (April 5, 2018)

Who We Are/What We Do

Learning Right Relations (LRR) is group of South Puget Sound residents who, since autumn, 2015 have joined in a continuing search for appropriate expressions of right relationships with the original peoples of the Salish Sea. We focus especially on the members of the Nisqually, Puyallup and Squaxin Island Tribes.

From our members we have established an *Action Group* that meets monthly to develop and implement 3 -hour seasonal *Gatherings*, auxiliary meetings, visits to Tribal sites, and assorted projects aimed at addressing the historic marginalization and historic inequities faced by our Coast Salish neighbors.

Vision and Mission

These activities support the statements of *Vision and Mission*, drafted in early February, 2015, that are found in several of the six attachments to this message.

LRR Presenters

Learning from and interacting with Tribal and Tribal-related Government agents who act as invited Presenters at our Gatherings are also listed in several attachments. Their deeply appreciated presence and contributions are central to our activities!

Early History

Our work was co-founded in the autumn of 2015 by Doug Mackey and Pat Rasmussen,-- both with more than 30 years of interactions with Indians of many different tribes in many different contexts—took form originally as a series of 14 classes within the Adult Ed program of the Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation. Again, this early history of classes and a broad array of other activities from the autumn of 2015 to May, 2017 is available in one of the attachments.

This history reveals that each class included a break to share food prepared by those attending, including salmon from one of the local Tribes. We continue to ask for a \$5 donation to cover our costs, which includes stipends/travel costs for presenters.

More Recent History

Revealed also in the latter part of this history is a change in sponsorship and venues aimed at expanding the outreach to the implementation of our Vision and Mission. Beginning in the autumn of 2017, we moved from the auspices of the OUUC Adult Ed committee to the OUUC Ministry of Faith *to work collaboratively with faith communities of Interfaith Works* in offering *Gatherings—our new moniker for classes and other activities*. It is this breakthrough that has allowed the more recent hosting of three Gatherings in October, November and December of 2017 at The First United Methodist Church of Olympia and a subsequent three Gatherings at the Olympia Friends Meeting House in January, February and March of 2018 (with one more coming in April.) The attachments to this statement cover several of these Gatherings.

An example of an even broader potential for greater outreach on our Vision and Mission is in sight now with the expressed interest of the Shelton School District in hosting Gatherings to complement their interest in enriching in K -12 curriculuar offerings for History and Social Studies through use of an exciting multi-dimensional curriculum called *Since Time Immemorial*, a sovereignty-oriented curriculum. This exciting development was mandated for use by Governor Inslee in October, 2015, and has been implemented in some local school districts.

As Doug would say, *onward!*

Doug, little has been said hereabout some of our other current projects, although some of these (like Acknowledgements) have been referred to in the early history. I'm anxious to see the attachments adorn the top of this piece. I'm beginning to think I can now learn how to do that! B