

CRITERIA FOR FUNDING HEALING AND RECONCILIATION PROJECTS

Background

The 2006 General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada (The PCC) approved a series of recommendations which constitute a plan for Healing and Reconciliation between The PCC and the Aboriginal peoples of Canada. The plan is called *Walking Together*.

Central to *Walking Together* is the concept that healing and reconciliation will come about only if members of The PCC at all levels of the church are involved. Healing will occur as congregations, women's groups, young people's groups, presbyteries, and other local and regional organizations meet and get to know their Aboriginal neighbours. Aboriginal members of our church likewise may be able to use funding support to pursue relationship building with their non-Aboriginal neighbours.

The history of Christian mission and ministry among Aboriginal people, particularly during the residential school era, is marked by a lack of appreciation and interest on the part of The Presbyterian Church in Canada in Aboriginal people themselves, in their own history, culture, traditions and spirituality. For this reason, the Healing and Reconciliation Fund is designed to support members of The Presbyterian Church in Canada in deepening their appreciation and understanding of Aboriginal people, their history, culture, traditions and spirituality, as a means of building a new relationship. We hope to create opportunities for non-Aboriginal people to learn about Aboriginal people directly from Aboriginal people.

The *Walking Together* report identifies a number of kinds of activities that will contribute to building better understanding and a new relationship, including:

1. Engaging in conversations with Aboriginal peoples about their lives, their traditions, and their spirituality
2. Exploring issues of concern to Aboriginal people in Canada today; and,
3. Developing activities and experiences for bringing together Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, including initiatives for youth

Local Initiative Funding

To support church members in reaching out to their Aboriginal neighbours, and to support Aboriginal church members in reaching out to the non-Aboriginal community, funding is available to support local initiatives. This support is intended to be "seed funding" to foster ongoing healing and reconciliation activity at the local or regional level. To ensure the widest possible range of projects is supported, normally not more than two projects from any one organization will be funded in any given year.

Each year a total of \$60,000 will be available to support local projects. Of this amount, \$10,000 will be reserved for youth-oriented projects.

Grants to all individual projects are available at any amount from \$100 up to a maximum of \$5,000 per project. Projects at the lower end of the range might include providing refreshments for a fellowship time with members of a local Aboriginal community or service agency, or to pay an honorarium to an Aboriginal Elder or Aboriginal speaker. Mid-to-upper range projects might include a larger fellowship gathering, including Aboriginal speaker(s), or a workshop with Aboriginal people. Joint Aboriginal-Church recreational or service-oriented projects also might fall in the mid-to-upper range. Larger projects may involve a number of partner churches, Aboriginal organizations, or other groups.

Criteria for funding are outlined below. Key among them are that projects must bring together PCC members with an Aboriginal person or group of Aboriginal people, and that the successful applicant will have a plan for follow-up activities. All groups and courts of the church are encouraged to consider submitting proposals.

Groups may wish to develop projects ecumenically, or with other partners. Cost-sharing is encouraged where feasible.

Learning from experience is an important goal of the local initiative funding process. Groups receiving funding will be asked to share information about their experience to help shape future Healing and Reconciliation activities, and provide models for other groups of what works well at a local level.

The next project submission deadlines are January 31, 2009 and April 30, 2009. Funding decisions will be made within 6 weeks of each deadline.

Criteria for Funding

- A. Eligible projects will fall into one of the three streams of activity, noted under “Background” on page 1, i.e.:
 1. Engaging in conversations with Aboriginal peoples about their lives, their traditions, and their spirituality
 2. Exploring issues of concern to Aboriginal people in Canada today; and,
 3. Developing activities and experiences for bringing together Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, including initiatives for youth
- B. Eligible projects will bring together non-Aboriginal church members and Aboriginal people or Aboriginal church members and non-Aboriginal people. The kind of activity may range from informal social or recreational gatherings to more formal speaking or workshop events.
- C. Eligible projects will identify follow-up activity, i.e. identify an approach for continuing contacts between the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.

- D. Eligible projects will be completed within nine months of release of funding. Funding recipients will submit a report on expenditures, along with a short narrative report on the project, to Justice Ministries within 90 days following completion of the project. The report should comment on what worked well, and what may not have worked, and offer advice for others wishing to do something similar.
- E. To encourage healing and reconciliation across Canada, priority may be given to projects based on their geographic location.

Support for Developing Projects

Lori Ransom, Healing and Reconciliation Animator, Justice Ministries, is available to answer questions about *Walking Together*, and the project submission process. As needed, Lori would be pleased to help church members develop project proposals, and to provide advice on how to make contacts with Aboriginal people and with others who have relevant information and resources.

Lori may be reached at 1-800-619-7301, or (416) 441-1111, ext. 283. Her e-mail address is lransom@presbyterian.ca. Postal address is 50 Wynford Drive, Toronto, ON, M3C 1J7.

Ideas for projects may be found at www.presbyterian.ca/healing/projects.

Process to Apply for Funding

An Aboriginal Healing and Reconciliation Project Application form is available from the Healing and Reconciliation Animator, or at www.presbyterian.ca/projects/application.pdf. Project proposals may be sent to the Healing and Reconciliation Animator by e-mail or postal mail.

Project Approval Process

The Healing and Reconciliation Animator will conduct an initial review of project proposals, and seek additional information from applicants if necessary.

The Healing and Reconciliation Animator will present a summary of all project requests to the Healing and Reconciliation Advisory Committee which will make the final decisions on funding.

Applicants will be notified of funding decisions no later than 6 weeks following the project submission deadline.

Updated by:
Justice Ministries
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