

Report and Recommendations from the Reparations Working Group

The Reparations (for Native Americans) Workgroup grew out of a Legacy Gift request for a language reclamation project for the Wampanoag. It was offered in reparation for land occupied by the Hingham, MA home whose sale resulted in the Legacy Gift Funds. This land is the homeland of Wampanoag people. Since the request was outside the purview of the Legacy Gift Committee, it was referred to Permanent Board, which created this workgroup at annual sessions in 2017.

The group convened in October in 2017 and reviewed both 2013-52 "Minute Repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery" and the charge, given to us by PB Clerk Sarah Gant "Is this about New England Friends Home specifically? Or, does what Legacy brought to us beg the larger, unnamed and unmet call of the 2013-52 minute? How is this work a companion piece to the work of Permanent Board's ad hoc Challenging White Supremacy Working Group?"

To whom might we name our culpability? To whom might we make amends? Not only who is the "whom," but **what does that "whom" want?** What might a, in the scheme of things, symbolic act of amends and/or reparations look like? What might reconciliation look like? Is there even a place for some partnership going forward?"

We also reviewed and honored the workshops offered by the Racial, Social and Economic Justice Committee

<https://www.afsc.org/sites/default/files/documents/Doctrine%20of%20Discovery%20NEYM%20brochure.pdf>

And, we saw the care that the Legacy Gift Committee took with requests for support of partnership and projects with Indigenous people.

We were led to ask for consultations with groups of Native elders and leaders, which, while they agreed were important, did not occur due to other demands on their time. We regret that they did not take place but learned to find other ways to listen.

Instead, we were led as individuals to engage at local or state levels and participate in conferences, healing consultations and ceremonies and learn directly from Native people about tribal needs and priorities at state and national levels. We spent the past two years in consultation and discernment and are now clear to make the following recommendations:

- That NEYM craft and issue an apology to be widely distributed among Quakers and interfaith organizations as well as any and all tribal councils, bands and leadership in our region, (consistent w/decolonizingquakers.org). Several of us would be willing to work on this apology with others.
- That all NEYM affiliated meetings and worship groups and other Quaker institutions be invited to create and display land acknowledgments on their premises. (ibid.)

- That a certain portion of the Legacy Gift funds be designated as a challenge or matching grant within NEYM and that these monies be used to support additional activities and ministries such as travel for Indigenous Friends, support for the FCNL fellowship for Native American policy, support for local initiatives under the care of the monthly meetings or Quarters for partnerships with local tribes or allied organizations.
- That NEYM contribute to the support of Decolonizing Quakers, and invite that emerging group to New England for a gathering or conference in the near future.
- That we encourage Quarters and local meetings to take up the concerns of Native People in their region; and to work as led to engage in opportunities for healing and conciliation, support for tribal sovereignty, language and cultural reclamation, mandated teaching of Native history in public school curricula; efforts to establish Indigenous Peoples Day, and the removal of Native images as mascots as advised by local tribal members.
- That NEYM committees, such as FCNL, FWCC, Racial, Social and Economic Justice and Earthcare be urged to consider making the needs of Indigenous People more widely known among Quakers in New England and in our communities, with an emphasis on reduction of violence against Native women, the impact of climate change on Native communities, and amplifying Native voices whenever possible.
- That we take every opportunity to consult with Native people at our local and regional level to hear, honor and address their concerns, guided by their wisdom and our deep listening to what Love requires of us.
- That this working group be laid down no later than February of 2020, and that the responsibility for these recommendations continue with the Permanent Board, the Legacy Gift Committee, RSandEJ and the Challenging White Supremacy workgroup, which is under the care of the Permanent Board.

We also believe that it is past time for New England Yearly Meeting to take up the work of looking at reparations for descendants of African slaves, as we did with reparations to Native Americans.

Faithfully submitted,

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