

Reading for reconciliation

In 2017 TUMC's Mission and Service committee heard loud and clear from the congregation at the AGM and during a subsequent Soup and Sophia that you wanted us to focus on reconciliation with indigenous peoples.

Crucial on this journey of reconciliation is awareness raising. A fundamental resource for us is *Buffalo Shout, Salmon Cry*, a book edited by Steve Heinrichs, Mennonite Church Canada's director of Indigenous relations. This is a powerful and transformative book. It is intended for all who are interested in healing historical wounds of racism, stolen land, and cultural exploitation.

Writer and novelist Rudy Wiebe commented: "For centuries our misunderstandings and conflicts have accumulated . . . In this book the issues are opened, offering information, insights, and resolutions that amaze our usual thinking. Read it carefully, with a prayer for understanding."

Walter Brueggemann, the prolific Biblical scholar and theologian, says, "Steve Heinrichs has edited a courageous and urgent book.... Attention must be paid."

The Mission and Service Committee encourages us to pay attention, to read this book with a prayer for understanding. Read it individually or with your small group or book club. In the fall we will be organizing spaces to read and discuss it together as we discern what we are called to do to move toward reconciliation.

Mission and Service will have more information and copies of the book available at the TUMC Fair on Gathering Sunday in September. If you want to get a head start this summer, the book is available for loan or purchase at Mennonite Church Canada's resource centre, Common Word (www.commonword.ca).

Some 28 years ago, Canadian prophet and poet Bruce Cockburn sang:

*If you're like me you'd like to think we've learned from our mistakes
Enough to know we can't play god with others' lives at stake
So now we've all discovered the world wasn't only made for whites
What step are you gonna take to try and set things right ... in this
stolen land?*

*Rachel Schmidt
Luis Mata
Aldred Neufeldt
Tim Schmucker, Chair*

