

Children's Books

- *I Am Extremely Absolutely Boiling* by Lauren Child
- *Now Everybody Really Hates Me* by Ross Chast
- *Now I Will Never Leave the Dinner Table* by Ross Chast
- *Once there was a Boy* by Dub Leffler
- *Shi-shi-etko* by Nicola I. Campbell
- *Shin-chi's Canoe* by Nicola I. Campbell
- *The Day the Crayons Quit* by Drew Daywalt
- *The Forgiveness Garden* by Lauren Thompson and Christy Hale
- *The Grand Mosque of Paris* by Karen Gray Ruelle
- *The Invisible Princess* by Faith Ringgold
- *When I Was Eight* by Christy Jordan-Fenton and Margaret Pokiak-Fenton

Movies and Video's

Making Treaty 7 This very powerful performance and the video can be found at <http://www.makingtreaty7.com>

"I Am Not the Indian You Had in Mind" by Thomas King: This video challenges the stereotypical portrayal First Nations peoples in the media.

<http://www.nsi-canada.ca/2012/03/im-not-the-indian-you-had-in-mind/>

"What is Reconciliation?" Video from Murray Sinclair, the chair of the TRC:

<https://vimeo.com/25389165>

"Where are the Children? Healing the Legacy of the Residential Schools" 2001

<http://wherearethekids.ca/exhibition/>

Reconciliation Canada engages Canadians in dialogue and transformative experiences that revitalize the relationships among Indigenous peoples and all Canadians.

<http://reconciliationcanada.ca/>

Justice Sinclair speaks with the CBC about the final report of the TRC:

<http://www.trc.ca/websites/reconciliation/index.php?p=312>

CBC 8th Fire Series 500 Years of History in 2 Minutes

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xmYu-Wppp3c>

Invictus (2009: 12A) Nelson Mandela, in his first term as the South African President, initiates a unique venture to unite the apartheid-torn land: enlist the national rugby team on a mission to win the 1995 Rugby World Cup.



FEBRUARY 2016 THEME

RECONCILIATION

"Canada is a test case for a grand notion – the notion that dissimilar people can share lands, resources, power and dreams while respecting and sustaining their differences. The story of Canada is the story of many such peoples, trying and failing and trying again, to live together in peace and harmony.

But there cannot be peace and harmony without justice."

Opening of NFB film on the 1996 Royal Commission on Aboriginal People



Last year at the closing of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in Edmonton, our Unitarian Universalist leadership pledged our commitment to continue the work of reconciliation in our congregations. This month, across Canada, UU congregations are studying and reflecting on the meaning of reconciliation. I invite you to work through the questions and exercises under 'Spiritual Practices', and if you cannot join one of the Soul Matters Groups, then I encourage you to initiate a conversation within your family or friend circles using this material.

It is the responsibility of every Canadian to educate themselves on the history and consequences of the residential school system that steadily worked to take the 'Indian out of the Indian.' To reconcile the harm done to multiple generations of Aboriginal people, we need to understand how First Nations understood the interdependency of all life, the importance of language and culture on identity, what is the nature of power and responsibility in the Aboriginal context, and finally the meaning of justice as the foundation of community.

To truly understand reconciliation in our bodies and hearts we first need to reflect personally on how reconciliation has clarified and healed relationships in our own lives.

Enjoy the journey Rev Debra

from the Heart
enter into the journey of reconciliation

“Reconciliation is about ensuring that everything we do today is aimed at that high standard of restoring balance in the relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.”

– Justice Murray Sinclair,
Chair, Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC)

“To reconcile is to weave a stronger and more vibrant social fabric, based on the unique and diverse strengths of Canadians and their communities.”

-Chief Robert Joseph, Ambassador for Reconciliation Canada,
TRC Honorary Witness, and Residential School Survivor

Spiritual Practice

PART ONE: Reflection

- Reflect on reconciliation in your life: When have you sought reconciliation with someone else, or when someone else has sought reconciliation with you? What was the process? What made it possible, or impossible?
- Have you ever experienced a time when you felt as though you didn't want to reconcile with someone? What do you understand about that? Do you believe that there are such things as irreconcilable differences?
- Have you ever “reconciled yourself” to something? What were/are the circumstances?
- What does reconciliation do with the hurt/scars/damage done when relationships have broken?
- How does power, or perceived power, play into the process of reconciliation? If the other party(ies) are unwilling to work toward reconciliation, what peace/healing are you able to find?

PART TWO: Story Building

If you are not of First Nation ancestry, trace your family's story of immigration to Canada. If you are First Nation, trace your family story. (This process may involve speaking with family members.)

How does your family's immigration, or your family history in Canada, or before, connect to the larger story of First Nations and immigrant relations?

PART THREE: Reconciling

How have your impressions of Aboriginal people been shaped by your upbringing? How might these impressions affect your ability to engage in dialogue about the history of the Residential School system in Canada and its effects?



Books

Read a Book – Understanding is a player in reconciliation

- Michael Asch, *On Being Here to Stay: Treaties and Aboriginal Rights in Canada*
- Marie Battiste, *Decolonizing Education: Nourishing the Learning Spirit*
- Tom Flanagan, *Beyond the Indian Act: Restoring Aboriginal Property Rights*
- Thomas King, *The Truth About Stories* and *An Inconvenient Indian*
- Wab Kinew, *The Reason You Walk*
- Arthur Manuel, *Unsettling Canada: A National Wake-Up Call*
- Pamela D. Palmater, *Beyond Blood: Rethinking Indigenous Identity*
- Paulette Regan, *Unsettling the settler within: Indian residential schools, truth telling, and reconciliation in Canada*
- John Ralston Saul, *The Comeback*
- Leanne Simpson, *Dancing On Our Turtle's Back: Stories of Nishnaabeg Re-Creation*
- Annis May Timpson, *First Nations, First Thoughts: The Impact of Indigenous Thought in Canada*
- Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, *Final Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, Volume One: Summary: Honouring the Truth, Reconciling for the Future*

