



We acknowledge that the land and water we live on is gifted to all from God-Creator who cares for all Creation. We are Treaty People with our Creator.

As Canadian citizens, we are also Treaty People with First Nations peoples from coast to coast to coast. As people particularly of the Grand River Ministry Area we are learning much about our First Nations neighbours, but little about treaties. We are in conversations [with our neighbours](#) regarding [how they wish us to Acknowledge Traditional and Treaty Territory](#).

Agreements about lands, resources and sharing that we need to better understand include the Two Row Wampum Agreement of 1609, the [Great Peace of 1701](#) signed at Montreal and Albany, [the Royal Proclamation of 1763](#) and the [Treaty of Niagara](#) of 1764. At Niagara, two-thousand five hundred Chiefs and Delegates from twenty-five nations gathered to meet as the United Nations on North American soil.

Following the American Revolution, large scale treaties were signed to allow for Loyalist settlement and “Upper Canada” border protection. Land-use for our Area was secured from the Missisaugas Nations arranged through the [Between the Lakes Purchase and Collins Purchase, No. 3](#) initiated May 22, 1784. On October 25, 1784 later-named Governor General [Haldimand](#) Proclaimed a land commitment for the Six Nations from the Between the Lakes Purchase and Collins Purchase, No. 3 for land along the Grand River for six miles either side of the river from mouth to head.

Our ancestors were taught that the land was empty before their arrival, yet two extensive villages, settlements of Iroquoian peoples the French called the “Neutral Nation,” have been found in south Kitchener dating back to the Reformation era. An earthworks was recently destroyed at Gage and Glasgow. In

1626 European explorers counted twenty-eight villages along the Grand River (with perhaps twelve being in our Ministry Area).

In 2014 the Treaty of Niagara was commemorated by Ontario First Nations Chiefs and the Crown to polish the Covenant Chain of agreements to share land and resources.

We have much to learn and unlearn. We are grateful for the generosity of the First Nations who welcome our questions and are helping us learn and change.

Resources Available at

luthersynodseminary.com

http://luthersynodseminary.com/2016_treaties_histories_of_the_land_and_peoples

History of the Land and Peoples Resource for each congregation organized by Ministry Area

Interim Acknowledgement of Treaty Territory by Ministry Area

Reflection for 2016-2018 for use with Ministry Areas and Confederacy Neighbours

http://luthersynodseminary.com/my_life_indigenou_s_rights/mapping_luthers_and_first_nations

Ministry Area Maps with First Nation Contact Info Updated with Residential School Data

Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory by Ministry Area

Coming in 2017:

500 Year timeline of ELCIC and First Nation History in Canada

Grand River Ministry Area

Interim Acknowledgement of Treaty Territory

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