

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.

We are also Treaty People with First Nations peoples connected [to treaties from coast to coast](#). In our own Ministry Area and Congregational settings there are generations of land and sharing treaties with many distinct First Nations as well as the French and British Crowns, and today's Canadian Government. Realities around "lands and resources" are complex as is to be expected where the land and waters are fertile and the territories are strategically located along the Detroit and Thames Rivers, between Lakes Erie, Huron and Ontario, near Lake Michigan.

The Munsee Delaware Nation, the northernmost Lenni Lenape or Delawares, and the Chippewas of the Thames have never signed treaties. They belong to the Union of Ontario Indians (UOI) as do the Aamjiwnaang Chippewas near Sarnia and the Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point. Members of the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians include the Caldwell Band, Chippewas of Point Pelee and Pelee Island, and Oneida of the Thames, all of whom have never signed treaties, as well as the Lenape (Lunaapeew) People of the Delaware Nation at Moraviantown who have signed treaties. Archaeological evidence shows that there were at one time many Iroquoian villages across our Ministry Area (the French labelled these the "Neutral" Nations).

Treaties of particular note in our Ministry Area include the [Great Peace of 1701](#) signed in Montreal and Albany. [McKee Treaty 2 \(1790\)](#) with the Ottawa, Chippawa, Pottowatamy, and also Huron nations, [Treaty 6 of 1796](#) with the Ottawa and Chippewa called the London Township Treaty; [Treaty 7 of 1796](#) with the Ottawa and Chippewas called the Sombra Township Treaty; Treaty 27 ½ leading to [Treaty 29 the](#)

[Huron Tract](#) with the Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point (Perth County, 1818-1827), Treaty 21 (1819) Treaty 35 (1833) and the [Long Woods Treaty No. 25](#) (1818-1822).

Colonial forces wanted the shores of Lake Huron and Lake Erie for their advancement. Stories from the War of 1812 and "[Ipperwash Beach](#)" explain how much so. The communities of "Windsor" and "London" on "the Thames" remind us routinely of the British North America Loyalist narrative that positioned settlers against the French, Americans and First nations. Yet Lutherans of the Thames Ministry Area were not only Loyalists, but also Germans and Finns who like our First Nations neighbours fought hard to resist assimilation into the dominant religion, language and culture.

We have only just begun to understand the Residential Schools experiences of those who attended Wawanosh and Mount Elgin Residential Schools. To be people of reconciliation in right relations with our indigenous neighbours we will need to relearn many things, we hope others will want to learn about us too.

Resources Available at

lutheransynodseminary.com

http://lutheransynodseminary.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://lutheransynodseminary.com/my_life_indigenou_s_rights/mapping_lutherans_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

Thames Ministry Area

Interim Acknowledgement of Treaty Territory

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We are also Treaty People with First Nations peoples connected to treaties from coast to coast to coast. In our own Ministry Area and Congregational settings there are generations of land and sharing treaties with many distinct First Nations. Yet some of our First Nations neighbours have never signed treaties. Some live on Reserves. Some had to purchased their Reserves. Inter-national and International Wars led to the displacement and near extinction of some Nations.

Realities around “lands and resources” are complex. Some of our First Nation neighbours belong to the Union of Ontario Indians alliance, and others are allied through the Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians. All this complexity is to be expected where the land and waters are fertile and the territories are strategically located along the Detroit and Thames Rivers, between Lakes Erie, Huron and Ontario.

Treaties of particular note in our Ministry Area include the Great Peace of 1701 signed in Montreal and Albany, Treaty of Niagara (1764), McKee No. 2 (1790), Between the Lakes Purchase 1784, Treaty 6 (1796), Treaty 7 (1796), Treaty 27 ½ that became the Huron Tract Treaty 29 (1818-1827), Treaty 21 (1819), Treaty 35 (1833) and the Long Woods Treaty No. 25 (1818-1822).

We desire to be in Right and Reconciled relationships.