

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 learning the ways in which we are also Treaty People with First Nations peoples across our nation.

As people of The Bay Ministry Area we are particularly learning about the rushed local treaties that apply where we live. Our area was not “empty land.” Earliest explorers met significant numbers of Iroquoian Peoples at the “Head of the Lake” and the French called them “the Neutral” Nation. In 1626 twenty-eight villages existed along the Grand River. Many peoples used the lakeshore and this crossing point to the interior rivers and Great Lakes across the generations. Encounters of peoples resulted in conflict and epidemic-spread depleting the Original Peoples of the land.

Following the American War of Independence British colonial forces rushed to “Purchase” and settle English speakers and allies on the Lake Ontario and Lake Erie shorelines. Settlement was predicated on the [Royal Proclamation](#) of 1763 and the [Treaty of Niagara](#) of 1764. This was followed by an unsustainable intensification of in-migration resulting in numerous follow up treaties. Eventually the Crown admitted it was too overwhelmed to enforce agreed upon treaty boundaries resulting in Original Peoples being relocated including the Mississaugas of the New Credit now at Hagersville living among the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory.

Agreements about lands, resources and sharing that we need to better understand include the the [Two Row Wampum Agreement of 1613](#), the [Great Peace of 1701](#) signed at Montreal and Albany, [the Royal Proclamation of 1763](#) and and the [Treaty of Niagara](#) of 1764.

Land-use agreements for our area include the [Between the Lakes Purchase and Collins Purchase, No. 3](#), the [Haldimand Proclamation](#) lands announced Oct 25, 1784 for six miles either side of the Grand River from mouth to head and [Brant Tract No. 3 ¾](#).

Lutherans located in this area after the American Revolution as Loyalists but the first congregation occurred when German-speaking peoples built churches in 1858 in Hamilton, and in 1868 in Brantford. We were significantly boosted after World War II by European immigration of German, Latvian and Estonian speaking peoples.

Particularly through the Truth and Reconciliation process, we are coming to see the Mohawk Indian Residential School as the “Mush Hole.” And we are beginning to understand the intergenerational traumas resulting from Indian Act Policies. Crown aggression has included the police breaking into the Council meeting at Oshweken and disrupting self-government.

Today the City of Hamilton affirms that the Mississauga, Huron-Wendat and Iroquois Confederacy peoples retain their interests in developments that occur within the City boundaries.

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

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

The Bay Ministry Area

Interim Acknowledgement of Treaty Territory

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 Bay Ministry Area we are learning much about our local treaties. 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 Treaty of Niagara of 1764, the Between the Lakes and Collins Purchase No. 3 of May 1784, the Haldimand Proclamation of October 25, 1784, and the Brant Tract No. 3 ³/₄ treaty.

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.