

Reparations and Restoration of Right Relation with Indigenous Peoples

SCYMF Equity and Inclusion Committee

We of SCYMF are convinced that we must learn and bear witness to the truth of our complicity in the harm of what happened. We recognize the unequal burden Black, Indigenous, and people of color have suffered historically and presently... ..we commit to the ongoing work of healing and orienting toward right relationship between our portion of the Friends denomination and Indigenous people and people of African descent... ~Minute on Right Relationship with Indigenous Peoples, Introduction (Approved June 2022)

This Minute was drafted by North Pacific Yearly Meeting and adapted by SCYMF's Equity & Inclusion Committee, with the mutual goal of collaborating in this work with other Friends in the Pacific Northwest. ~ Minute on Right Relationship with Indigenous Peoples (Approved June 2022)

Intro

Having passed the Minute on Right Relations with Indigenous Peoples, the SCYMF Equity and Inclusion Committee has discerned the following three paths as beginning commensurate efforts towards Reparations and Restoration of Right Relations with Indigenous Peoples. While we believe we should challenge other meetings of the Pacific Northwest to likewise give to these and similar groups, we do not believe SCYMF should wait for other Meetings to do the work we have already discerned we should do. Please consider the following for seasoning and discernment.

As we note Native American wealth is 8 cents to every white American \$1.00, we propose using about half the settlement money from Northwest Yearly Meeting in the continuing effort to restore right relations with the Indigenous peoples.

Village of Kake Healing Center: \$75,000 without delay

Village of Kake is 95 air miles southwest of Juneau, centrally located in the Southeast panhandle of the State, Kake is a Tlingit village rich in cultural history and tradition. Kake is where the Northwest Yearly Meeting (formerly Oregon Yearly Meeting) sent missionaries 1894-1911.

Alaska Native and First Nations people in Kake continue to face various intergenerational traumas stemming from when they were sent to boarding schools by European outsiders, such as the Quakers, to evangelize, take over their lands, eradicate their culture, and erase their language. Much of this harm manifests today in the form of substance use disorders, depression, and suicide. After battling this epidemic for too long, local leaders from Kéex Kwáan have started the fight for community healing, an intentional movement to address the trauma responses. The solution lies in the

development of an old Forest Service logging facility deep in the rainforest of Kupreanof Island turned into a cultural healing treatment center. The center's intention is to serve the indigenous community members, along with all Southeast Alaska rural villages by reintroducing them to their identities, their histories and their land.

<https://earthjustice.org/article/tongass-alaska-kake>

<https://www.juneauempire.com/news/resilient-peoples-place-cultural-healing-mission-bonds-indigenous-peoples-across-the-pacific/>

<https://www.kake-nsn.gov/about.html>

Higher ed scholarship/grant - \$100,000

Employment opportunities for Indigenous Peoples are often scarce due to the small size and rural isolation of many reservations. Gaming employment remains controversial among many tribes and many Native peoples live in urban areas where opportunities are more plentiful. Yet these opportunities are often low-wage jobs like service-maintenance and skilled crafts characterized by low pay, long hours, and few opportunities for growth.

Higher education helps Native Americans overcome these employment barriers. But American Indian/Alaska Native students complete high school at half the rate of other Americans, are less likely to complete college degrees than their peers and have the lowest graduation rates of any group.

- \$100,000 for grants / scholarships - completed after 2 years
- \$100,000 endowment granting about \$4000 per year indefinitely
- Hybrid - grant both small and large amounts until gone, probably after about 5-10 years

Connect with local Indigenous \$25,000

There are over 28 Indigenous groups in the Portland area alone, Sierra Cascades Yearly Meeting can and should locate and support indigenous groups throughout the region, seeking restorative action and right relationships.

<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/civic/article/505489>