



Ideas for Commemorating the Apology



In 2006, we commemorate the 20th anniversary of the United Church's 1986 Apology to First Nations Peoples.

Below are some suggestions for learning to live out the apology

- in worship
- in study
- with children
- by supporting The Healing Fund
- by developing a Justice & Reconciliation project

Focus on right relations in worship:

- refer to the worship resources in the *Mandate* Special Edition of May 2005:
 - “The Pursuit of Right Relations,” a worship outline written by Alf Dumont for the 20th anniversary of the apology (p. 29)
 - “Celebrating First Nations Day of Prayer” (worship ideas, p. 26)
 - “Beautiful Recklessness” (theological reflection, p. 13)
- read the 1986 apology in your service
- take up a special offering for The Healing Fund

Facilitate group study in your community:

- use the three study sessions in *A Healing Journey for Us All* in the period between May 26: National Day of Healing and Reconciliation, and June 21: Aboriginal Day of Prayer
- order a copy of *Toward Justice and Right Relationship: A Beginning*, a study guide for congregations to explore the legacy of Indian Residential Schools and forge new relationships with First Nations peoples
- use the Bible study in the *Mandate* Special Edition of May 2005: “Racism: Moving beyond Denial” (p. 21)

Involve children:

- use “The Diversity Umbrella” workshop in *Mandate* Special Edition, May 2005 (p. 16)

Support The Healing Fund:

- take up a special offering for The Healing Fund
- show a video available from AVEL or order a Spirit Connection Show included in the resource list that tells stories of healing

Develop a Justice & Reconciliation project:

- further your congregation’s commitment to living out the apology by building relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities by developing a Justice and Reconciliation project
- Read “Working Relationships: Some practical ways Native and non-Native communities are building relationships” on p. 18 in the *Mandate* Special Edition of May 2005
- apply for support for this project from the Justice & Reconciliation Fund