Dear Church:

The Trent Valley Association of Churches invites you to attend an Indigenous Conference on October 19th-21st

Indigenous people have been treated as sub-human for generations in Canada. When settlers first arrived, the crown made a promise, the treatise of Niagara in 1764, in which our government agreed to respect Indigenous peoples by including them in their decision making processes, and to respect their difference in culture. Canada has systematically ignored this treaty by making the Indian Act in 1876, which lead to the implementation of residential schools and the 60’s scoop. Essentially, we tried to make Indigenous people like us. We overpowered them and we continually over power them, treating them like a problem to be fixed; an inconvenience. This colonial mindset still lingers in the Canadian conscience at large, but it also lingers in the church. We hope that this conference will be one small step in the direction towards reconciliation. We cannot change the past, but we can change the future, by changing the way we think, and learning to be good neighbours to our Indigenous people. The first step to learning is listening. We have invited Indigenous Christian and non-Christian leaders, scholars and artists to share their stories with us. Judge Murray Sinclair, chairman of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, said “it was education that got us into this mess, it is education that will get us out.” We have a lot to learn.

**We have included a poster and 10 brochures to share with your congregation.**

**To register go to Eventbrite:** [**https://wtgwt.eventbrite.com**](https://wtgwt.eventbrite.com) **or you can register at the door on the 19th or 20th**

Our prayer is that through the experience of this conference, we will begin “walking the good way together”

Jeremiah 6:16 says, “This is what the LORD says: "Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls. But you said, 'We will not walk in it.'” May what you experience at this conference deeply impact the way you see, hear, feel, think and act. It is our hope and prayer that we will learn to “walk the good way together.”

Blessings,

Dave Greenhough

TVA Moderator