



Truth and Reconciliation

Commission of Canada

March 27, 2014

Dear London Conference,

Both London Conference President, Rev. Philip Newman, and Executive Secretary, Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa, myself, are at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) in Edmonton.

This is the final national gathering of the Commission. President Newman and I are part of a larger delegation from the United Church. We are mindful that London Conference was home to the only residential school the United Church operated east of the Manitoba border, the Mount Elgin school (located southwest of London).

The United Church is seeking to live out the apologies we have made to First Nations, firstly in 1988 and then in 1998. The latter focused on residential schools. Both can be found on The United Church of Canada website.

Also here from our Conference is Geraldine Robertson. Geraldine is an elder at St. Clair United Church and was a student at the Mount Elgin school.

This morning the TRC opened with the lighting of the sacred fire.

This is too important an event to wait until we return home to share with you so I am hoping to send a daily email that I am asking the Presbytery Secretaries to distribute so that you will share in this experience with us and we will be upheld by your prayers.

Posts will be regularly added to the United Church's Facebook page and tweets sent from its twitter account.

Very shortly, we will attend the opening ceremonies in which Moderator, Rev. Dr. Gary Paterson, will be part of the procession. Then, we will begin to listen to the stories of survivors. Commissioner Justice Murray Sinclair met with us yesterday to talk about how important it is that this story is told and heard so that we can begin to transform the broken relationship between First Nations and settler populations. Let us commit ourselves to listen deeply.

Please hold the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in prayer.

Cheryl-Ann Stadelbauer-Sampa
Philip Newman