

5-year Celebration of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Work

7 years ago, with the seating of the Maine Wabanaki-State Child Welfare Truth & Reconciliation Commission we prayed. Today we stand here celebrating. Our prayers are being fulfilled.

O God of all truth, the One who calls us to be companions on a Holy and just journey of life, you heard our cry, gathered with us and blessed us with Grace throughout this historic process.

O Creator of all that lives, Source of all that sustains life, your Sacred Spirit was the breath that animated and gave life to this Truth and Reconciliation Commission as it began this redemptive work of healing and wholeness. May ancient teachings continue to heal, inspire and guide.

May we continue to find Love at the heart of the truth that is found, the foundation of this process of discovery.

May Wisdom continue to incline those who are prepared to listen, to cherish and absorb even the most difficult of testimonies, calling forth a remorse that can restore trust.

May those whose stories need to be heard, possess strong hearts to Bravely face any fear. May they be gifted with Courage to tell of what pain they have lived, and what was taken from them – their childhoods, their children, their culture, their community

May Honesty prevail, that neither victim's shame, nor perpetrator's blame will hide or deny the errors, abuses, and harms committed in the past and those that continue.

Help us to see each other as friend and not foe. Today we are grateful for the work that has been done. May those of us with privilege and power cast off any arrogance, experience vulnerability and change our hearts. May we continue to repair harm to people and fix systems that are unjust.

We have shared stories without shame. We have shared our woundedness. May we continue to restore mutual respect and give freely from the heart.

May we continue in truth to be the fruit of this good effort. May our work continue to bring peace, justice and healing for the sake of the children.

Today we thank and ask God to continue to bless the selfless servants - the Commissioners and those who worked hard, hand and hand with them to share their stories. May the circle of truth created become more than words. May the truth that was learned shape a new lived reality.

We are grateful for the Maine Wabanaki-State Child Welfare Truth & Reconciliation Commission, and all who took part in this historic process. Creator, continue to bring peace, justice, safety and healing to the Wabanaki people and especially children. Nyalich.

Prayer by Rev. Dr. Robert Grove-Markwood, President of Bangor Theological Seminary
written Feb 12, 2013 for the Seating of the Commission of the Maine Wabanaki-State Child Welfare Truth &
Reconciliation Commission. Revised by N. White and P. Phillips-Doyle. 5/14/2020