

Ep 27: Spiritual Covenant with Adrian Jacobs

"I was looking for justice, tangible justice. I was looking for something that said, '*We're not just going to repent. We're not just going to be sorry. We're going to do something and here it is.*'"

With humour and patience, Adrian Jacobs from the Cayuga Nation shares a beautiful and challenging opportunity for the Church to make real steps toward reconciliation.

What can we do? How can we apply the invitation of the Spiritual Covenant with our church?

Discussion Questions:

- What made the biggest impact on you as you listened to this podcast?
- What are some specific small steps that you can take together as a congregation this year towards the invitation of the Spiritual Covenant?

"I didn't know that" is a common response that Adrian Jacobs has heard when he tells the Calendonía (part of the Haldimand Tract) story. Adrian talks about people needing to hear something 11 or 25 times before it becomes your thought or how you think about something.

- What do you or your congregation need to keep in mind in order to engage deeply in dialogue about the Spiritual Covenant?

"(Adrian) was hoping that churches would just take that document that (he) had and then sign it". Adrian also recognizes there is a journey for settlers to learn about land displacement, disempowerment, cultural loss and language loss. It can be overwhelming and that is why we need to journey together, over time!

- What is my next step personally and what is my next step in inviting others in my congregation into this journey?

Resources and Next Steps

Join a Truth & Reconciliation Working Group in your area. One way that Mennonite Central Committee Ontario is finding their role is in accompanying communities in a Listening into Action Journey. Contact Laurie Warkentin for more information at lauriewarkentin@mcco.ca.

Digging Deeper

- Phil Monture, A Global Solution for the Six Nations of the Grand River
 - https://youtu.be/G_BQiOc8m2E?feature=shared



- <https://www.aptnnews.ca/national-news/conflict-in-caledonia-a-timeline-of-the-grand-river-land-dispute/>
- National Film Board of Canada “Six Miles Deep”:
 - <https://youtu.be/9pDjJpZaag4?feature=shared&t=374>
- Two Row Wampum:
 - <https://www.onondaganation.org/culture/wampum/two-row-wampum-belt-guswenta/>
- History of Strawberry Thanksgiving:
 - <https://www.oneidaindiannation.com/celebration-of-the-strawberry/>
- Jonathan Maracle (Mohawk Christian) and Broken Walls: <https://brokenwalls.com/>

Be Inspired

2024 Strawberry Thanksgiving & Communion <https://canadianmennonite.org/stories/strawberry-communion-six-nations>

