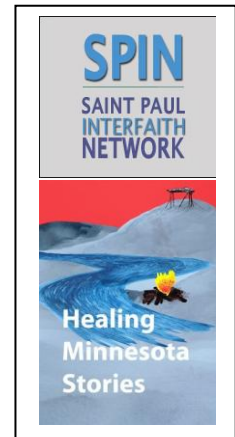


Models for Collaboration

Religious and spiritual communities wanting to engage in concrete acts to repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery can find opportunities and inspiration from other groups already on this journey. Here are three examples:

[Winona Dakota Unity Alliance](#)

The Alliance's mission is to create sustainable alliances among indigenous Nations and the Winona community with a mutual understanding that we are all related, its website says. It will offer educational, cultural, and service projects mutually designed to bring both together in greater wholeness. One of its big events is an annual Pow Wow called The Great Dakota Gathering. It's for families of indigenous and local populations and around the region.



[Bemidji Area Truth and Reconciliation](#)

The idea behind Truth and Reconciliation work is to discover, reveal, and educate about past wrongs, usually with a focus not on individual crimes, but historical and contemporary wrongs that are institutionalized, carried out by governments or non-state agencies, its website says. The purpose behind our work in the Bemidji area is to open the door to opportunities for dialogue, to enhance understanding and to forge pathways to create more equitable systems and institutional policies.

Most importantly, through creation of more opportunities for awareness, education, and constructive dialogue about our area, our history, and the peoples indigenous to this land, we endeavour to create a safe space for our Bemidji community to come together with a renewed sense of mutual respect and shared understanding. We recognize that the depth and breadth of this work will require much time-- this is not a singular event. This is a process we must work through together, to create a better future for us all.

[Healing Minnesota Stories](#)

Healing Minnesota Stories is an effort to create understanding and healing between Native American and non-Native peoples, particularly those in various faith communities. Native people have suffered deep trauma over many years, losing their land, language and culture, and all who call Minnesota home are the lesser for it. While many contributed to that trauma, it happened with the full participation of Christian churches. We all still need healing, healing is doable, and churches can play a role in healing.

We believe in the healing power of stories. Stories heal because they make invisible pain visible. The healing goes from the listener to the storyteller, and from the storyteller to the listener. Healing Minnesota Stories believes that churches and all faith communities can play a key role in promoting and experiencing healing by opening ourselves to our own history and listening to the stories of Native people. We hope through the sharing and retelling of stories, we can create new more positive ones.

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