



Invitation for Proposals

NAIITS: An Indigenous Learning Community

15th Annual Symposium

June 7 - 9, 2018

Co-hosted by

Acadia Divinity College

“White Supremacy, Racial Conflict, and Indigeneity: Toward Right Relationship”

The Symposium:

For many years now NAIITS has been exploring topics of interest and concern to a wide variety of people engaged within the Native North American and wider Indigenous community. At each symposium there have been clear articulations of the landscape in which we found ourselves, as well as some very cutting edge insights about how we might more effectively engage with Indigenous people and their communities as well as communities of people from other socio-cultural backgrounds and contexts.

Scope of Topics:

For the 2018 symposium, we invite people who desire to present a paper or panel on one of the following themes to submit an abstract of no more than 300 words to NAIITS for consideration. In the abstract, please outline the intention and methods of both research and presentation.

We invite proposals for papers and presentations from scholars, practitioners, and other interested peoples that address themselves to the contribution that Indigenous people can make, do make and, perhaps, should make, to contemporary expressions of racial discrimination, white privilege, and the resurgence of an aggressive form of white supremacy and neo-fascism in the North American context.

Our focus will be on overall health and well being of human beings with one another, the land, politics, and the rest of the creation of which we are a part. Of particular interest will be those topics and presentations that describe a holistic and corrective approach to dealing with injustice framed within historic and contemporary racism, racial prejudice and white supremacy.

Of interest will be how the interplay of theology and practice from Indigenous perspective, might transform our understanding of the human community environment, the practical issues of social context, and racial relationships. Papers that utilize any of a broad range of research and presentation methodologies will be considered. Submissions should address one or more of the following topic areas as noted above:

- Forms and focuses of racism, their impact on Indigenous communities and ways to address these impacts;
- White privilege and the suppression of racially equitable societies;
- The impact of the Indian Act in Canada and, counterpart legislations in the US, that maintain a perspective of Indigeneity which by default creates complicity in Indigenous leadership;



- White supremacy and the rise of neo-fascism, specifically in the North American context; a response from Indigenous values and ideologies;
- Indigenous values and perspectives that might contribute to alternative responses to those being offered elsewhere;
- Indigenous readings of the gospel and theologies that might offer a way forward.

Papers should strive to demonstrate how traditional Indigenous understandings, cultural perspectives, and historic practices, might strengthen the wider society and mitigate the rise of racially motivated injustice in all its forms and expressions.

NAIITS (www.naiits.com)

- Is one of four members of Indigenous Pathways (IP), a non-sectarian, non-profit charity devoted to ministry with and within the Indigenous context;
- Is the educational member of the IP family dedicated to encouraging the Indigenous community to develop and articulate Indigenous perspectives on Christian theology and mission practice;
- Seeks to facilitate the creation of a written theological foundation for a) the visioning of new mission paradigms to reach Indigenous peoples with the Gospel; and, b) the contextualization of the Gospel in Indigenous communities;
- Encourages the development and implementation of Indigenous learning styles and “world views” as we encourage the development of a body of written work;
- Seeks to develop theological partnerships with other cultural communities of Christian faith which will ensure the voice of Christ is heard in all ways, seeking biblical faithfulness in all things;
- Addresses scriptural, theological, ethical and missiological issues from Indigenous perspectives in concert with those of other ethnicities who would speak into this context;
- Is committed to genuine dialogue with the historical traditions of Christianity and values the written and living resources encompassed in these traditions.

The Symposium

The purpose of the symposium is to facilitate open dialogue about various aspects of biblical and theological contextualization in Indigenous thought, history, and experience. Symposium planners hope that participants will bring together academic and practical approaches to the issues being addressed in the symposium.

Submission Guidelines

Submissions must include a brief personal bio and both an abstract of not more than 150 words and a proposal for the type of presentation intended of not more than 1000 words. The proposal must include a clear statement of your ideas and, if a scholarly presentation, enough of a context to show that you are aware of the basic issues and literature of the field. The proposal is the document on which submissions will be evaluated and selected. Abstracts and bios provided for selected submissions will be used in advertisements and symposium materials. Selected papers will be allotted 40 minutes for presentation. NAIITS may, at its sole discretion, invite or offer respondents for the papers.

Submission of Papers

Papers should be both theoretically solid and simultaneously practical. Submissions will be evaluated



in light of their potential to contribute to the Symposium. To encourage dialogue we welcome submissions from various perspectives, from Indigenous presenters as well as those from supportive non-Indigenous presenters. Scholarly *papers must adhere to Turabian Seventh Edition; in Times Roman 12 pt. font; have complete footnotes and Works Cited. Papers may be distributed to selected respondents at the sole discretion of NAIITS and will be published in the NAIITS Journal.*

The deadline for submission of proposals for papers is midnight January 31, 2018. Please submit electronically to: **NAIITS Symposium Coordinator at symposium@naiits.com**

Finished papers must be submitted no later than April 15, 2018 so as to be included in the symposium handouts.