



# Invitation for Proposals

## NAIITS: An Indigenous Learning Community

### *16<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium*

June 6 - 8, 2019

Co-hosted by

**Tyndale Seminary**

## “Land and Place: Indigenous Perspectives In an Era of Displacement”

### **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. There have been cutting edge insights about how we might more effectively engage with Indigenous people, their communities, and those from other socio-cultural backgrounds and contexts.

### **Scope of Topics:**

For the 2019 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 research and presentation as well as a bio and photo (or bios in the case of a panel) of the presenter for use in promotion of the symposium.

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 historic and contemporary understandings of the relationship between human beings and the land.

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 justice framed within the need for relationship with land and place for people of all walks of life.

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 relationships with the living creation of which humanity is a part. 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:

- Indigenous values and perspectives that might contribute to alternative responses to those being offered elsewhere in respect of land and human displacement from it;
- Indigenous readings of the gospel and theologies that might offer a way forward in some of the following:
  - For example, does, or how does the Bible instruct us as far as corrective approaches to the concept of dominion over the land?



- What do the concepts of ownership and/or stewardship mean?
- What, if any, are human responsibilities to the land?
- Does land simply have a utilitarian function or is there a spiritual connection we are intended to have with the land?
  - If there is a spiritual connection, how does the land as part of human identity help us heal, or conversely, how does our identity help promote healing of the land?
- What are the implications of short and long-term displacement; displacement and disconnection; displacement and reconnection?

Papers should strive to demonstrate how traditional Indigenous understandings, cultural perspectives, and historic practices, might strengthen the wider society and mitigate the continued alienation of people from the land.

#### **NAIITS** ([www.naiits.com](http://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 the latest Chicago Turabian formatting style; in Times Roman 12 pt. font; and have complete footnotes and Works Cited. Please refer to the NAIITS Journal Style Guide for more information. *Papers may be distributed to selected respondents at the sole discretion of NAIITS. Presented papers will be published in the NAIITS Journal after a peer-review process.*

**The deadline for submission of proposals for papers is midnight January 31, 2019.** Please submit electronically to: **NAIITS Symposium Coordinator at [symposium@naiits.com](mailto:symposium@naiits.com)**

**Finished papers must be submitted no later than April 15, 2019 so as to be included in the symposium handouts.**

**\*PLEASE NOTE: Panels will only be accepted if the panellists also submit a paper – either jointly or individually – for publication in the annual NAIITS journal.**