
Conference Notice

**Indigenous-Mennonite
Encounters**

A DVCM Conference

2021

(exact dates TBA)

Conrad Grebel University College, Waterloo, ON

In October 2000 the History of Aboriginal-Mennonite Relations Conference was held at the University of Winnipeg; conference proceedings were published in the *Journal of Mennonite Studies* in 2001. Nearly two decades have passed since this event and much has happened in Indigenous-Canadian relations: the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the “Idle no more” movement, awareness of the impact of the “Sixties scoop” and the drive towards “Indigenization” of post-secondary institutions, to name a few. Mennonite organizations, churches and individuals are establishing new relationships with Indigenous communities, reconsidering their settler narratives, and assessing their roles in past injustices.

The Institute of Anabaptist and Mennonite Studies at Conrad Grebel University College will host a Divergent Voices of Canadian Mennonites conference in 2021 on the theme of Indigenous-Mennonite encounters. The location is significant, as Mennonites were the first European settlers on this land, comprising Block 2 of the Haldimand Tract given in treaty in 1784 to the Six Nations. Waterloo is also near the first area of settlement for Mennonites in Canada, the Niagara Peninsula, and the largest First Nations reserve in Canada, Six Nations of the Grand River.

In the spirit of both “nothing about us without us” and the responsibility of settlers to educate themselves, we imagine a conference involving both Indigenous and Mennonite voices and one that is focused on building present relationships as much as discovering the past. Additional details and a call for proposals will follow.

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