

Steps in the Journey Towards Right Relationships (1980 – 2014)

1947	UCC Brief to the Parliamentary Comm. on Reform of the Indian Act: "That Residential Schools should be closed in favour of non-denominational schools on Indian Reserves"	1997 (May)	St. Andrew's United makes apology to former students of Alberni Indian Residential School
1969 (April)	End of United Church role in Residential Schools.	1997 (Aug)	36 th GC makes Statement of Repentance re: res schools
1975	The United Church of Canada becomes an active member of the ecumenically-organized Project North and its successor, the Aboriginal Rights Coalition (ARC).	1998 (Feb)	Blackwater trial begins: 8 plaintiffs remain. Settled with 20 plaintiffs prior to trial.
1977	General Council 27 decision to review the United Church work with native people.	1998 (June)	Justice Brenner's rules on vicarious liability in Blackwater trial. Both church and government are liable. Appealed by UC. Moderator sends pastoral letter over painful and difficult decision. See July 2001, Dec. 2003, Oct. 2005
1978	Saskatchewan Conference approves "Call for a Year of Repentance", with the program throughout 1979	1998 (June)	GCE strikes Residential Schools Steering Committee, establishes staff position, and instructs DMC (now JGER) to prepare educational resources
1980	First National Aboriginal Consultations held (June & Oct) and others follow every 1-3 years; last one in July 2005	1998 (Oct)	GC Executive issues a formal apology to residential school students, their families and communities
1984	Dr. Jessie Saulteaux Centre established	2000	Justice and Reconciliation Fund established
1980's	BC Native Ministries Consortium established including community-based theological education in partnership with Anglican organizations	2000 (Mar)	Gathering of former staff of the 13 UC-associated schools
1986 (Aug)	UCC issues a formal apology to First Nations Peoples within the church; acknowledged but not accepted	2000 (Aug)	General Council creates portfolios for a stronger capacity for racial justice, and for enhanced, vital relationships between the regions of the church and General Council.
1987	Francis Sandy Theological Centre is established	2000 (Sept)	Canadian Ecumenical Jubilee Initiative and Aboriginal Rights Coalition within KAIROS launch a national campaign in support of Aboriginal land rights
1988	All Native Circle Conference established	2000 (Oct)	Reconciliation and Justice Leadership Support Gathering – 90 people from every Conference meet at Cedar Glen
1992 (Aug)	Stan McKay elected, first Aboriginal Moderator	2001 (July)	Judge Brenner rules that UCC is 25% liable in case of six remaining Blackwater plaintiffs
1993 (Nov)	UCC brief to Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples		
1994 (Aug)	Healing Fund established – goal of \$1 million		
1996	27 former Alberni IRS students launch lawsuit against UCC and Government of Canada seeking compensation		

2001 (July)	News release: UCC says cultural loss must be included in negotiations with Ottawa; says no to bilateral deal with Canada.	2004	Launch of “Sisters in Spirit” campaign with Native Women’s Association, the Anglican Church, and Women’s Inter-Church Council of Canada.
2001 (Fall)	Federal Government says it will pay only 70% in cases not under Brenner ruling	2004 (May)	1 st National Day of Healing and Reconciliation
2001 (Nov)	Future Directions Report names 4 mission directions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following God in Mission: Fostering Faith in a Changing Culture • Participating in God’s : Shalom and Justice-seeking • Repentance, Justice, and the Seeking of Right Relations with Aboriginal Peoples • Ministry in the 21st Century: Supporting Leadership for Ministry and Mission 	2004	Healing Fund remanded, new staff position created
		2005 (Apr)	UCC supports Assembly of First Nations Review Report on ADR process. Calls for a holistic response to legacy of residential schools with 7 elements.
2002	Staff position for Aboriginal Ministries created	2005 (May)	Justice Iacobucci appointed federal representative to negotiate and make recommendations on lump sum payments, ADR, commemoration, community healing and Truth and Reconciliation process. Working groups formed which involve UCC representation.
2003	Church and others successfully urge abandonment of Bill C-7 regarding First Nations governance	2005 (Oct)	Supreme Court reinstates 75/25% liability decision
2003 (May)	UCC participates in pilot project of an alternative settlement process with Gitxsan survivors	2005 (Nov)	Canada announces Agreement in Principle on resolution package negotiated by Justice Iacobucci
2003 (Aug)	GC accepts challenge to push for a “public inquiry” into residential schools as recommended by RCAP. Initiates “Roundtable” process in 2004 with churches, AFN, and government. Pre-empted by appointment and mandate of Judge Iacobucci in May 2005.	2006 (Feb)	UCC leads workshop “Decolonizing Ourselves; Transforming Ourselves” at WCC Assembly in Brazil
	GC also commissions “Circle and Cross” dialogues	2006 (Feb)	Special INFOPAC mailing to commemorate 20 th anniversary of apology to First Nations Peoples
	GC commits to ongoing funding for Healing Fund	2006 (Mar)	To date, some 800 claims from former IRS students have been filed naming UCC; <u>360</u> settled out of court, 6 court decisions. Received 280 ADR applications
2003 (Oct)	GCE adopts 6 Principles for guiding Right Relations work	2006 (May)	Settlement Agreement is finalized. UCC approves Agreement on April 30 th and federal Cabinet on May 10 th .
2003 (Nov)	Canada launches Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) process – UCC commits to attend every hearing unless claimant declines. UCC trains volunteers for this role.	2007	Settlement Agreement implemented on September 19 th
2003 (Dec)	BC Court of Appeal says Canada is 100% liable.	2007 (March)	Signatory to “A New Covenant: Towards the Constitutional Recognition and Projection of Aboriginal Self Government in Canada” A Pastoral Statement by the Leaders of the Christian Churches on Aboriginal Rights and the Canadian Constitution.
2004 (Feb)	Government files appeal of BC ruling with Supreme Court. UCC continues to pay 30% except in Alberni cases where it pays 25%.	2008 (May)	“Living into Right Relations” groups covenant at Pinawa

2008 (June)	Truth and Reconciliation Commission launched	2012 Spring	Executive of the General Council agreed unanimously to disown the Doctrine of Discovery
2009 (Jan)	Aboriginal Ministries Circle inaugurated	2012 (June)	The Aboriginal Ministries Circle hires final staff member. Full complement of staff includes Executive Minister, Healing Programs Coordinator, Two Community Capacity Development Coordinators, Youth Development Coordinator, Program Assistant, and Administrative Assistant.
2009 (May)	Aboriginal Justice Program Co-ordinator position begins		
2009 (June)	Joint Grand Council and National Aboriginal Spiritual Gathering		
2009 (Aug)	TR Commissioner Wilson & 3 survivors speak at GC40	2012 (Aug)	Ray Jones, chair of Aboriginal Ministries Council and Mardi Tindal, Moderator of The United Church of Canada signed a Covenant acknowledging the need for an ongoing relationship rejecting historical attitudes and affirming the commitment to move forward in Right Relations.
2009 (Aug)	40 th General Council approved a motion to acknowledge the presence and spirituality of Aboriginal people as a significant component to the Basis of Union & directed that they become signatories. It also directed that a new United Church crest be developed that acknowledges the presence and spirituality of Aboriginal people in the United Church.	2012 (Aug)	The United Church of Canada crest is changed to acknowledge the presence of Aboriginal people as integral companions from the time of establishing of the church.
2009 (Sept)	Aboriginal Ministries Council holds their first meeting		
2010 (June)	UCC participates in 1 st TRC national event and “Remembering the Children” ceremony regarding Red Deer Industrial School	2013 June	Aboriginal Ministries Circle calls for congregations to support an Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Aboriginal Women and Girls through signing a petition.
2010 (Nov)	Re-mandating/re-naming of Residential School Committee, now Committee on Indigenous Justice and Residential Schools	2013 June	The United Church of Canada writes to the Provincial Ministry of Education regarding mandatory inclusion of Residential School History in the curricula.
2010 (Nov)	The General Council Executive passed a motion initiated by Saskatchewan Conference to urge federal and provincial governments to recognize National Aboriginal Day, June 21, as a statutory holiday. This began in 2011.	2014 March	The United Church of Canada makes a statement to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission at the Edmonton National Event.
2011 (Aug)	National Aboriginal Spiritual Gathering is held in Tsimshaim Nation, Prince Rupert, BC. with the theme of “Honouring Spiritual Diversity”		
2011 (Nov)	Francis Sandy Theological Centre and Dr. Jessie Saulteaux Resource Centre are amalgamated to respond to budget concerns identified by the General Council Office of The United Church of Canada		

See the website: www.united-church.ca/aboriginal/schools
www.united-church.ca/en/funding/healing

(revised April 2014)