

WHAT IS RECONCILIATION?

“KNOWING WHAT WE
KNOW NOW, WHAT WAYS ARE
OPEN TO US TO PROMOTE
RECONCILIATION?”

A Corrymeela Programme Committee
Development Proposal 2014

THINK PEACE 5

Corrymeela Programme Committee Development Proposal 2014

“Knowing what we know now, what ways are open to us to promote reconciliation?”

Introduction

The Programme Committee’s Development Plan will be a collaborative effort between members and staff to progress the delivery of Corrymeela’s strategic priorities.

The Development Plan will map our direction of travel for programmes and the level of engagement expected of members.

To do the above we need to:

1. Assess the work Corrymeela has undertaken historically.
2. Establish what expertise and resources we currently have and need.
3. Consider the opportunities that are open to us now and in the future.
4. Decide on our Next Steps.

Background

CORRYMEELA STRATEGIC PLAN 2013-2016

The vision

Embracing Difference, Healing Division and Enabling Reconciliation

The mission

To provide open, safe and inclusive spaces for dialogue, which move society toward social justice, positive relationships and respect for diversity

The Values

Fundamentally, Corrymeela is committed to peace and reconciliation- the restoring and transforming of relationships and structures harmed by division and conflict, so that they reflect a shared humanity and seek a shared future in which we live well with and for others.

Corrymeela’s values hold promise for a shared society defined by tolerance, where differences are resolved through dialogue in the public sphere and where there is equity, respect for diversity and a recognition of our interdependence.

Strategic Priority # 1 – Peace and Reconciliation

Our overarching priority is to work for reconciliation across our divided society by bringing people together in shared, safe spaces and facilitating difficult conversations

Strategic Objectives:

1. Building relationships of mutual respect and trust across public and civic leadership, churches and community groups, which reach across interfaces and community divides.
2. Facilitate face-to-face encounter and meeting between wider society, socially marginalised groups and individuals across a range of interfaces and community divides.

Strategic Priority # 2 – Programme Development

To design, deliver and develop programmes that build on our expertise and experience and fulfil our mission with these key groups: Youth, Volunteers, Schools, Family and Faith.

Programme Development Strategic Objectives:

1. To develop creative programmes of encounter and dialogue around contemporary issues of reconciliation, prejudice and dealing with difference.
2. To develop and promote learning spaces; to include recording and disseminating our practice.
3. To create capacity to respond to societal needs for respite and intervention.
4. To open our centre to a balanced programme of local, Irish, British and international work for people of all economic backgrounds, ages and religious traditions.
5. To identify and develop three opportunities for programme partnership with other groups and organisations that strengthen the impact of reconciliation.

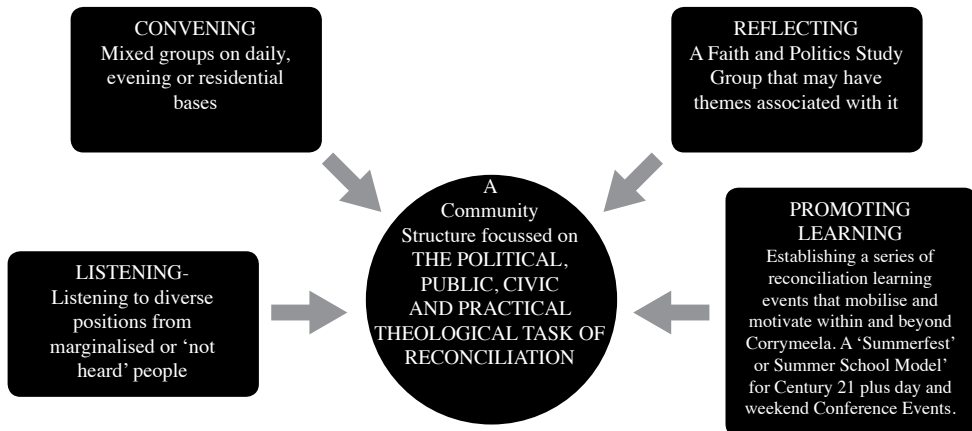
To consider how we deliver the Strategic Priorities in terms of:

- I. **Creating (and restoring)** innovative engagements and meeting?
- II. **Nurturing relationships** and growing developmental practices between people and groups?
- III. **Sustaining new forms of meeting** and working across divisions that embed shared practices, organisationally and institutionally?

What practices might Community Members, with staff support, promote?

LISTENING, CONVENING, REFLECTING, PROMOTING LEARNING

The roles identified above have been part of Corrymeela Member engagement historically. Below we outline some aspects of this public and civic task that we might consider in our local involvements, as well as in our residential centre.



How might we establish forums in which the theme of reconciliation is promoted: in social, economic and political forums; with faith, inter- faith and civil society organisations?

Fieldwork practice priorities for staff, with member support, to promote:

A. YOUTH WORK - HISTORICAL AND CURRENT MODELS

CREATIVE (RESTORATIVE)	NURTURING	SUSTAINING - EMBEDDING
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OPEN RECRUITMENT PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT • THE SEED GROUP • YOUNG CORRYMEELA • FACE TO FAITH • OLIVE TREE • SHORT TERM SUMMER VOLUNTEERING • ALL YEAR SHORT / MEDIUM TERM VOLUNTEERING • YOUTH ENGAGING POLICE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INTER FACE PRACTICE • INTER-FAITH/ INTER CULTURAL • VOLUNTEERS 18-25 • IONA-CORRYMEELA • LOCAL - INTERNATIONAL • LOCAL - GB - ROI PARTNERS • YOUNG CARERS WORK • WAVE AND VICTIM SUPPORT GROUPS • PARTNERSHIP WORKING • NURTURING YOUTHWORKER LINKS AND CONFIDENCE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FAITH BASED PRACTICE • BRIDGING THE GAP • RESOURCES FOR RESIDENTIAL LEARNING • RESOURCES FOR COMMUNITY - LEARNING • SUPPORTING WORKERS EMBED PRACTICE • YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMMES • INITIATIVES WITH BEREAVED CHILDREN • PARTNERSHIP WORK • YOUTH ADVOCACY

B. VOLUNTEERING - HISTORICAL AND CURRENT MODELS

CREATIVE (RESTORATIVE)	NURTURING	SUSTAINING - EMBEDDING
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SHORT TERM SUMMER VOLUNTEERING• ALL YEAR SHORT / MEDIUM TERM VOLUNTEERING• INTER-GENERATIONAL VOLUNTEERING	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ONE YEAR VOLUNTEERS• PARTNERSHIP WORKING WITH SCHOOLS AND OTHER AGENCIES• POTENTIAL UNIQUE RECONCILIATION PRACTICE COURSE WITH ACCREDITATION POTENTIAL• STRENGTHEN CIVIL SOCIETY THROUGH EXPANDING VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• THROUGH REUNIONS AND OTHER NETWORKS SUPPORTING FORMER VOLUNTEERS EMBED RECONCILIATION LEARNING• DEVELOPING PRACTICES IN GROUPS AND ORGANISATIONS• GROW PARTICIPATION IN CIVIL SOCIETY ACROSS GENERATIONS

C. SCHOOLS WORK - HISTORICAL AND CURRENT MODELS

CREATIVE (RESTORATIVE)	NURTURING	SUSTAINING - EMBEDDING
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• VOLUNTARY TEACHER PDMU SUPPORT GROUP• TEACHER REFLECTION GROUP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AREA BASED CLUSTERS• TWINNED SCHOOLS (KILGORE-HEANEY)• CONFLICT RESOLUTION- R.E. (NAYLOR)• INTEGRATED SCHOOLS PROGRAMME• CONTROLLED, MAINTAINED AND IRISH MEDIUM• TRANSITIONS PROGRAMME	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• FACING HISTORY• INTER CULTURAL PDMU PRACTICE WITH TEACHERS• RESOURCES FOR CLASS - RESIDENTIAL LEARNING• ROI CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT MATERIALS• FORGIVENESS EDUCATION

D. FAMILY WORK - HISTORICAL AND CURRENT MODELS

CREATIVE (RESTORATIVE)	NURTURING	EMBEDDING
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EARLY COMMUNITY INTERVENTIONS BY STAFF• PRACTICE MODELS ASSOCIATED WITH MATHILDE, LIZA, MARY M, PHILLIPPA, LINDA, CLAIRE• PRACTICE MODELS ASSOCIATED WITH SHEELAGH, RACHEL, HEATHER, MARY C, MAJELLA MARTHA, SARA, LOCAL CELL GROUPS AND MANY OTHERS• A SANCTUARY FACILITY• PEOPLE AND FAMILIES WHO ARE VICTIMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PARTNERS WITH CROSS GROUP• PARTNERS WITH CRIS PARENTS• RESTORATIVE PARENTING• PARTNER VICTIM SUPPORT• PRISONER FAMILY SUPPORT• WOMEN'S AID• MEMBERS IN FAMILY SUPPORT WORK	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NICRAS PARTNER LINK

E. FAITH BASED WORK - HISTORICAL AND CURRENT MODELS

CREATIVE (RESTORATIVE)	NURTURING	EMBEDDING
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• AREA BASED• GREENISLAND; EAST BELFAST• INTER CHURCH: COLERAINE, BALLYCASTLE• CONVENING ACROSS TRADITIONS• MIXED MARRIAGES / RELATIONSHIPS• LGBT ENGAGEMENT• INTEGRATED SCHOOLS• INTER FAITH FORUM• THEOLOGICAL WORKSHOPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SUMMERFEST AND SEMINARS• GIRARD STUDY GROUP AND PAPERS• ICC PEACE EDUCATION• PARISH AND CONGREGATIONAL• JESUIT FAITH AND JUSTICE• HENRY GRANT WORKSHOPS• RECONCILIATION MATERIALS• RETREATS- O TUAMA, M^c ALLISTER• DEVELOPING ECUMENICAL STUDY PAPERS-ALL LEADERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• SUMMERFEST AND SEMINARS• FAITH & JUSTICE SEMINAR PAPERS• ARGENTINE & BCC LEADERS• DUTCH NI CTTEE• PARTNERSHIPS WITH ICC• JESUIT, MENNONITE AND REDEMPTORIST RESIDENTIAL PRESENCE

This work will involve each of us appreciating:

- How innovative learning environments can be created;
- The different ways open to us in convening diverse people and groups meeting together; and
- The forms of new institutional practices and codes that we have found significant that structurally underpins and promotes reconciliation between people and more open and shared political, public and civic institutional cultures.

In each of the above areas, and others, we could explore:

WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE TO US FOR FUTURE WORK?

Let us consider how we can:

- Gather together existing and former members, friends, former volunteers and supporters who have entered these areas of work?
- Engage them with how we (staff and members) are thinking and invite them to explore these concepts and, together, develop additional ones?
- Invite them to consider engaging with Corrymeela as a partner and what resources that would require?

UTILISING THE FULL AMENITY OF THE CORRYMEELA CENTRE

The Use of the Environment

The future sustainability of the globe is a major challenge and must be part of the reconciliation agenda. How can we model changes in attitude and support people to think and act differently through programmes and our stewardship of resources at the Centre? What resources, such as those involved in conservation, could we secure?

Play

The playground in Corrymeela is in memory of Sean Armstrong. Sean, a member of a Portballintrae family, was the first youth worker killed in 1973. He brought young people together through the auspices of International Voluntary Service.

Play is one of the deepest experiences that shape us as children, and yet play should not just be the domain of children. The amenity of Corrymeela is a wonderful play space. How might it be developed further and resourced? Who should we link with to support this?

Space

Indoor and outdoor spaces that nourish the whole being are so important and the centre offers many such spaces.

Is there a need to 'carve out' or 'set aside' more dedicated spaces for residents and visitors in which they can reflect, be quiet or be prayerful?

What greater use of sculpture and installations around the Centre would enhance the space?

Story Trails

Recently several members have developed different trails around the centre through which stories of people, events and dialogues associated with Corrymeela's earlier, and current, work are told. The stories told varied—some were stories of raw encounter, others were stories of surprises, of tenderness and of hurt. All were stories of how hope is nurtured. Each story invited people to find their own responses and ways to act.

Art, Music and Dance

Art, Music and Dance are important cultural forms that can be used to transform and affirm life together. They can be used to draw out talent that may have been hidden; they can build resilience and nurture creativity. Could we re-connect with the potential of these mediums in the day and residential use of the centre, empowering people of all ages to use such mediums confidently? What links could be made with the Arts Council, the Ulster Orchestra etc.?

Sport and Adventure Learning

Some sports in this society have often been associated with diverse traditions and degrees of separation. Other sports have served to cross bridges. The good news now is that all sports are responding to the challenge of how they contribute to the wider common, 'shared good.'

How can the amenity of the Centre be enhanced further to embrace sports and adventure learning, themes that have been part of our approach over the years?

What people and sports have we connections to that could assist us in this activity?

With what other sports and activities could we link? What could be our relationship to the Sports Council?

This discussion document has emerged from the tasks given to a group of members who were invited to reflect on the programme work of the Corrymeela Community in the summer and early autumn of 2013. The group concluded its work in October 2013 with the production, initially, of a number of papers for members and staff.

Corrymeela Community

VISION:

Embracing difference, healing division and enabling reconciliation.

MISSION:

To provide open, safe and inclusive spaces for dialogue, which moves society towards social justice, positive relationships and respect for diversity.

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SEEKING TO BE A COMMUNITY OF RECONCILIATION

The Corrymeela Statement of Commitment
The Healing Task in Europe
Some Definitions of Reconciliation
The Significance of Reconciliation Centres?
The Development of Reconciliation Programmes

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