



Life and Work At Melrose

◆ Territorial Acknowledgement ◆

At the suggestion of one of our members, the Worship Committee at its recent meeting supported including a territorial acknowledgement as part of our regular worship practice at Melrose. Territorial acknowledgements have become increasingly common in the aftermath of the Canadian Truth & Reconciliation process. Such acknowledgements are greatly valued by our First Nations people. Here's what ours will sound like: *"We acknowledge that the land on which we gather for worship is part of the sacred land of the Haudenosaunee and Anishnaabeg. It is territory covered by the Upper Canada Treaties and is directly adjacent to Haldimand Treaty Territory."* The Haudenosaunee are Iroquois. The word *Anishinaabeg* translates to "people from whence lowered." Another definition refers to "the good humans," meaning those who are on the right road or path given to them by the Creator Gichi-Manitou or Great Spirit. The historian, linguist, and author Basil Johnson wrote that its literal translation is "Beings Made Out of Nothing" or "Spontaneous Beings," since the Anishinaabeg were created by divine breath.

◆ Prayer Box ◆

Many of you will know that after more than a century of faithful ministry, Olivet United Church closed this past June. Part of the sad task of that community was to distribute its treasures, some of which have been gifted to Melrose. One of these treasures is a lovely oak *Prayer Box* which currently rests on our narthex table. The intent is to give the opportunity for the Melrose community to identify people or things close to our hearts for which prayers might be offered. The box is locked and the minister will spend intentional time in prayer during the week, lifting up the prayer requests that have been put into the Prayer Box. These particular prayers will *not* be offered in public worship and anonymity will be preserved. We are grateful to the Olivet congregation for bequeathing to Melrose a tradition that they have greatly valued through the years.