***Proposed Learning Event on the Doctrine of Discovery for Spring 2015***

***Canadian Ecumenical Anti-Racism Network - November 2014***

**Introduction**

CEARN has more than a decade of history addressing racism in Canadian churches, convening and supporting anti-racism educators, and developing a series of resources on racial justice issues, in English and French:

* For God so loved the people of the world (2006)
* From Chains to Freedom: Journeying Towards Reconciliation (2007)
* Resources for March 21: International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
* Mamow Be-Mo-Tay-Tah. Let us Walk Together (2009)
* Cracking open White identity towards transformation (2012)

Though a work in progress, the Canadian Ecumenical Anti-Racism Network has recently defined its value proposition as “*a Canadian, Christian, ecumenical organization that offers a faith based perspective on anti-racism (work) from a Canadian perspective in a Canadian context”.*

**Doctrine of Discovery – Why CEARN?**

Several of the current members of CEARN are involved in denominational processes of study on the Doctrine of Discovery. When reflecting on what CEARN might currently offer its members and extended network that can build on its history and contributions, the members proposed to host a learning event on the Doctrine of Discovery because it holds the promise of convening like-minded colleagues, uncovering and naming root causes of topics CEARN has addressed in the past - White privilege, Indian Residential Schools, and Slavery for example – while assisting those who are advancing intercultural ministry to deepen their analysis and practice.

In addition, an important part of ENFORMM-NA’s (Ecumenical Network for Multicultural Ministry – North America) work is now related to the Doctrine of Discovery. A significant number of denominations in Canada and the U.S. have this work as a current focus and are eager to network and learn from those who are doing theological work on the Doctrine of Discovery.

**Who would the event be for?**

CEARN is proposing that the event be designed with church and community-based anti-racism educators, racial reconciliation facilitators, and indigenous rights facilitators in mind. It may also have a broader appeal for participants in Doctrine of Discovery study committees and those interested in social justice generally.

**Possible Topics**

* Historical presentations on the Doctrine of Discovery: what is it and where did it come from?
* Theological reviews of the Doctrine of Discovery from the Canadian context
* Look at the Doctrine of Discovery through the lens of first generation settlers:
* How do you sing the Lord’s song in land that has been taken from you?
* How do you sing the Lord’s song as a Settler?
* How do we communicate stories about Doctrine of Discovery, and where it shows up in church history
* What steps can we take to change our structures and ways of being church that are shaped by the DoD
* Define and describe the impact and effects of the Doctrine of Discovery, how it permeates what we do

**Questions**

* Who else should be part of the planning, organization and participation in such an event?
* How might it be made more relevant and more timely for your church context and work?
* What difference in focus or topics should be considered?