

## **PWR Indigenous Delegation Guiding Principles**

Milt Markewitz – June 6, 2015

The essence of the Indigenous Delegation's message to the Parliament of the World's Religions lies in speaking many truths that are based on the wisdom and resulting consciousness of living for millennia with the *guiding principles* necessary to be in balance and harmony with the Earth. These *guiding principles* are often called, *Original Instructions*, as they flow directly from Creation and inform us of the mutual dependencies and responsibilities that perpetuate life. It is through embodying these principles as the prime determinant in all our daily decisions that we ensure our children and all the generations that follow will be blessed by an Earth that always provides as it was for our ancestors.

These truths and guiding principles are all based on having Nature as a mentor and a model and are imbedded in our language, our science, our relational ways of being, and our deep appreciation for all life. From this way of being emerges ecological and social harmony as well as complementary economic systems.

We deal with generational problems by implementing generational solutions. Thus the warring Iroquois Tribes were able to establish peace processes more than three centuries ago that ultimately transformed their governance and birthed a concept of democracy that was gifted to the Founders of the United States.

It is unfortunate that the U.S. democracy had some inherent obstacles – slavery, imbalance between men and women, and ownership of resources intended to be included in the Commons – that severely impact the current democratic processes. Each of these obstacles is rooted in hierarchy, the primary organizing paradigm of the 'developed' nations. It is these hierarchical cultures that believe in *Manifest Destiny*, the belief that drives colonization and ultimately institutionalized an unsustainable world.

From Nature we know that hierarchical and relational ways of being must be blended and that being relational is the stronger of these paradigms. This is our truth, and is necessary not only to re-achieve balance and harmony on the planet, but also to know how to create a social order necessary for living through the very harsh circumstances we've created for now current and future generations.