

The Apology Cairn

After the United Church's 1986 Apology to Indigenous Peoples, rocks from each part of the country were brought together and gathered into a 'cairn' – a pile of rocks that marks a special place.

The Apology Cairn was created to commemorate the apology and to remind the Church of our ongoing work to live into the words of the apology.

Read more about the apology cairn [HERE](#).

What you will need:

- [A copy of the United Church's Apologies to Indigenous Peoples](#)
- A place to gather rocks from (make sure you are allowed to do so first!)
- A few sharpies or paint pens



The Cairn at the site of the first official Apology made by the UCC to First Peoples in 1986.

Instructions:

With your family, read the 1986 Apology to Indigenous Peoples and the 1988 Response. Talk together about what you have learned about the church, residential schools, and why the apology was so important.

Ask each other the following wondering questions:

- I wonder... what it felt like to hear the apology?
- I wonder... why the elders acknowledged the apology but did not accept it?
- I wonder... where have you seen the apology lived out?
- I wonder... what are some things that the church still needs to do to live out the apology?

Go out to gather some rocks that fit in the palms of your hands from places that are important to you. When you get home, rinse them in water and let them dry.

Option: Watch [the 25th Anniversary of the United Church Apology](#) at the Apology Cairn together.

Write or draw on the rocks: what actions will you take towards reconciliation? What kind of church can you imagine?

Pile your rocks together somewhere in your house or yard where you will see them and remember the apologies, the response, and the actions we can take together to live them out.