

## REPORT TO GENERAL SYNOD

**NOTE: THIS DOCUMENT IS A SECOND DRAFT UNDERGOING FURTHER REVIEW. INDIGENOUS IS USED TO DESCRIBE "FIRST NATIONS, INUIT AND METIS"**

### **Mission Statement, Goals and Objectives for an Indigenous Anglican Spiritual Ministry within the Anglican Church of Canada**

We believe that God has called us to reclaim our ministry using the gifts and talents that have been given to us. As we move toward full self-determination and self governance we will create a structure that will allow us to enhance our ministry and healing; and fully empower the National Indigenous Anglican Bishop to freely minister with all Indigenous Anglican people in all of the Provinces. We are restoring the Sacred Circle of our people.

#### **Goal and Objectives for an Indigenous Anglican Spiritual Ministry**

***Goal 1: To create an Indigenous spiritual structure in accordance with our traditional teachings and the dreams of the elders so that we may more effectively proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom or "to tell the Good news from the People of the Land; that the Kingdom of God is near, the Creator is all around us and our first responsibility is to be thankful. The Creator gives us what we need to live upon Mother Earth, upon Turtle Island. "***

Objectives:

- A. Study Canon 22 to determine what changes need to be proposed to General Synod. (Working group appointed by the Primate)
- B. Consult with the Governance Working Group of General Synod and others who have been helpful in the creation of Canon 22. (Working Group)
- C. Educate our Indigenous people and the wider church as to our plan for self – determination and self – governance.
- D. Determine what the Kingdom of God looks like.
- E. Research how we achieved harmony with self, others and the Creator when we needed to work together, i.e., treaties, wampum belts, covenants, United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People.
- F. Develop a Rule of Life or what some may call and Constitution and By laws.
- G. Develop the resources needed to make our mission and ministry sustainable and accountable; determine what we have and then what is needed.

***Goal 2: To prepare leaders for ministry to teach, baptize and nurture new believers; "recognizing that many Indigenous believers did not receive adequate formation." Teachings should include "traditional teachings, or the Grandfather Teachings," the teachings of the Great Law of Peace and Handsome Lake and other traditional teachings from other Indigenous People.***

Objectives:

- A. Prepare Indigenous standards for baptism and confirmation.
- B. Prepare an Indigenous Catechism similar to the 1962 Book of Common Prayer
- C. Look at ways our people are called to leadership in our various communities.
- D. Prepare a teaching on discernment in an Indigenous, cultural context.
- E. Continue to train Catechists.
- F. Provide Healing Circles and Indigenous Healthy Pathways
- G. Define who we are; determine standards for leadership development, particularly Indigenous ordination; create standards of care for those ministers (both lay and ordained) who are working on their own;

***Goal 3: To respond to human needs by loving service, a love that knows no boundaries and carries us forward on our journey to completeness with the Creator, self and others.***

Objectives:

- A. Identify the critical human needs in our communities
- B. Identify who is meeting those needs
- C. Identify how the Church can help
- D. Collect stories of loving service from the past and present such as response at the time of death in a community, scarcity of hunting and gathering, etc.
- E. Write curriculum for use in Sunday School, Catechism/Confirmation on “The Need to Heal from Historical Trauma.”

***Goal 4: To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation; to change unjust structures in church and society, to remember that violence (in any form) is not good as it separates us from God, our Creator; the way of Jesus, the Peacemaker, is to find peace and reconciliation to live in our hearts so that we may mend the sacred circle.***

- A. Identify unjust structures (unjust structures can be violent structures) that impact Indigenous people in the Anglican Church of Canada, the government, educational institutions, prisons, etc.
- B. Study our traditional structures to see what we should be using today, what some have not let go.
- C. Educate Indigenous Anglicans as to the types of violence and how violence has broken our communities. How did Jesus deal with violence?
- D. Provide input to develop a plan for peace and reconciliation needed for healing from residential school trauma and other historical trauma.
- E. Advocate for action on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, help to develop a resource for women relocating to the urban areas.
- F. Promote the traditional teaching respect, respect for self, others, and God
- G. Develop strategy to transform and celebrate non-stipendiary ministry prevalent in our Indigenous communities.

H. Collaborate with others in responding to the TRC 94 Calls to Action

***Goal 5: To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth; to honor Creation by teaching all our traditional teachings and by “living into these teachings as our ancestors would want us to.”***

- A. Identify our abundance and collect stories of how we used that abundance and continue to use it for our sustainability
- B. Educate and advocate for action regarding climate change or justice, identify how climate change has impacted our lifestyle
- C. Share our stories with the wider church
- D. Promote the traditional teachings humility and generosity. We have to view Creation with great humbleness and thanksgiving. We are given everything we need in order to live upon Mother Earth. When we receive gifts, we are taught to “give back.” Being generous is a sign that we are a complete being in the eyes of the Creator.

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