



SACRED CIRCLE DAILY REPORT



DAY 4: August 10, 2018

MEMORY KEEPERS

The Rev. Vivian Seegers,
New Westminster

Shilo Clark,
Calgary

WEATHER

Warm and hazy. The air quality warning continues due to the wildfires.

Opening Prayers and Music

The Diocese of Huron provided music and opening prayers in the Cayuga and Oneida languages.

Gospel Based Discipleship

The memory keepers talked about their experiences in GBD this week.

“I found the youth group willing to engage in deeper discussions at this Sacred Circle. Everyone was more comfortable with each other.”

“It was good to hear from members that were in different focus groups and how those experiences gave different perspectives for interpreting the bible readings.”

Partner Messages

The Rt. Rev. Susan Johnson extended greetings from the ELCIC. They are in full communion with the Anglican Church and have been supportive of Indigenous self-determination.

This is the third Sacred Circle she has attended and she said it is like visiting family and old friends. She relayed a touching story about a severely sick parent for whom she recited morning



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and evening prayers in the hospital. After they recovered, her parents still say the morning and evening prayers together.

The Rev. Ray Aldred, Director of Indigenous Studies at the Vancouver School of Theology informed members about programs at the VST and about a new initiative called the Elders Teaching House. It moves around the country providing education to people that cannot come to Vancouver.

Ray Jones also extended greetings from the United Church of Canada. He explained the history of the United Church of Canada. Currently, they have approved a new structure more supportive of Indigenous rights.

Focus Groups Reports

The focus groups that met on Wednesday reported back to plenary.

Resource Extraction and Climate Change – This group had a dynamic and emotional session. Indigenous people are at ground zero and it affects every aspect of their lives – their emotional well-being, the roles and responsibilities of their families and their spiritual well-being. “Where is the church?” they asked. The group

would like to see a resolution at the 2019 General Synod.

Opioid Crisis and Drugs – This group noted that there are programs from the government, but there should be help from the ACC from a church perspective. This issue is particularly difficult for parents that went to residential schools and have blocked their emotions and do not know how to deal with this type of situation.

Suicide Prevention – This group talked about using Indigenous spirituality and Christian spirituality to help combat grief. They felt that it would have been helpful to have this session in plenary so everyone could benefit from the presentation. Jeffrey, Yolanda and Norm are available to talk to parishes and bring resources.

MMIW and G – It is not for anyone to judge why some women put themselves in dangerous positions. In order to make an impact you have to go and talk to the women where they are. Nancy emotionally told us about her murdered niece who left six children. The impact on the whole family was horrific. “As a church, I feel we can do more,” were her closing words.

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Marriage Canon – The question is still divisive. There isn't a path that won't wound someone. The Marriage Canon should be translated into Indigenous languages. There is mass confusion about what it is and what changes are being proposed. We do not want this to overshadow self-determination at the 2019 General Synod.

Canon XXII and self-determination – The role and selection of the NIAB needs to be clarified. If Sacred Circle agrees in principle with changes, it can be passed on to ACIP. Our spirituality is our governance is an important guiding principle. The idea of a national gathering with traditional Indigenous art, music and programs was raised through this group as well.

The memory keepers felt the messages were informative and helpful.

“The main message for the Marriage Canon is be gentle with each other, minimize pain and show compassion.”

“I was very impressed with the Resource Extraction and Climate Change presentation. It needs to be kept in the foreground and we need to keep praying for the trees, salmon, moose and Mother Earth.”

“Everyone seems overwhelmed by the OPIOD crisis. Personally, I think every church should offer their space to AA for 10% of the basket.”

Before dinner, the Diocese of Quebec sang songs and said grace in Nasaapi.

Youth Presentation

The youth entertained and challenged members with songs, jokes and a film by Danielle Black. She explained that she wanted to make a film for youth that would illustrate urban Indigenous life.

Youth members also presented a slide show where each member made suggestions and sent messages for future Sacred Circles. Suggestions included more traditional stories, open spaces, welcoming spaces for all, prisoner justice, elders and youth and meeting with other Indigenous youth around the world.

The memory keepers were very impressed.

“It was a lot of fun and different from the last youth presentation.”

“The video was excellent.”

“I am so impressed with Freeman. He has been around a while and now he is a young man and has good things to offer.”

Tree Planting

All members went outside and planted a tree by the university residences.

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“This is an important aspect of Sacred Circle because it leaves behind a legacy. It is going to grow and it was planted with love and spirituality.”

“It was interesting to see a drone in a spiritual sense!”

Closing Eucharist

Clergy robed in traditional vestments for the closing Eucharist.

Archbishop Fred Hiltz' homily included a handout about the 1994 Covenant. It was signed by 21 people and the Primate asked us to note the number of members that are no longer with us and also note the number that are currently with us at this Sacred Circle.

“Every time the Primate speaks I am blown away. He hits all the points,” noted a memory keeper.

A collection was taken during the offering for non-stipendiary ministry. Sacred Circle members were very generous with \$2,470.45 collected for this important cause.

Near the end of the service, Yolanda Bird and the new ACIP members were commissioned by the Primate and Bishop MacDonald for their new duties.

The closing Eucharist was very moving for the memory keepers.

“When closing Eucharist comes I get emotional. It's a time of reflection and it makes me realize that my problems are fixable.”

“ I am a Sundancer. I do healing as my hands become full of sundance. I have never done laying on hands in a church service before. Laying on hands on Bishop Mark was powerful. While saying prayers it was beautiful to look up at everyone praying for healing and strengthening ourselves and our communities.”

Tribute and Gifts

After dinner a giveaway was held with gifts for delegates, bishops, guests, fire tenders, ACIP members, Anglican Video, Ester Wesley, Nancy Hurn, Teresa and Ginny.

After the gifts, a video of the Primate at previous Indigenous events was shown. It also included messages from numerous members thanking Archbishop Fred Hiltz for his many years of support of Indigenous ministries and sent good wishes to him for his retirement.

After the video, the Primate was presented with a beautiful traditional purple regalia ribbon shirt and beaded cross. The ribbon shirt was designed and sown by Dorothy Russell Patterson and the beaded cross was designed and beaded by Cindy Jacobs, daughter of The Rev. Canon Laverne Jacobs.

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Archives Display

During Sacred Circle, the Archives had a display with information and pictures from the residential schools. It was very popular with Sacred Circle delegates.

Memory Keepers Final Comments

“Attending Sacred Circle is like climbing a mountain of positivity. Your problems are nothing in comparison. “

“I am in spiritual awe of Bishop Mamakwa. I felt like I was in the presence of the Dalai Lama.”

“It is a lot of work – 16 hour days, but there is lots of energy.”

“Sacred Circle is an eye opening experience. People are changed.”

“Bishop Mark, Ginny and Teresa are so committed to native ministry. I am humbled by the spiritual strength and power of these people.”

Sacred Circle Website

Many resources are available on the Sacred Circle website. There are video highlights, daily reports, articles from both General Synod communications and Anglican Journal as well as many of the background reports that were

used as resources for this meeting. You can find all of this information at the following web address.

anglican.ca/im/sacredcircles/sc2018

Nia:wenh