



SACRED CIRCLE DAILY REPORT



DAY 2: August 18, 2015

MEMORY KEEPERS

The Rt. Rev. Adam Halkett,
Saskatchewan

The Rev. Nancy Bruyere,
Indigenous Spiritual Ministry
Of Mishamikoweesh

The Craft Room

Please visit the Robert Dean room (adjacent to the assembly plenary hall) to purchase hand-made items such as jewelry, crafts and moccasins. If they do not have your size, moccasins can be ordered.

WEATHER

Hot and humid, with a slight breeze

Inspiring Service

The second day of Sacred Circle started with morning music and prayer led by Bishop Lydia Mamakwa. This was a highlight of the day for one memory keeper. "Bishop Lydia led her people in prayer and worship in their language and it was very moving."

A Way Forward

A draft proposal to follow up on Where We Are Today (A Call to the Wider Church) was circulated to members. The proposal highlighted possible ways to move forward and begin to implement Indigenous self-determination. The Talking Circles met to discuss the proposal.

"I think we are all starting to understand Canon 22. We still have to bring it to our people. Once it is translated they will see the vision of our elders. It is very exciting and hopeful," said a memory keeper.

Learning Circles

The afternoon included 7 separate Learning Circles. Delegates signed up for workshops based on interest.

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- **Using the Internet for Ministry** was facilitated by Brian Bukowski. This circle helped educate participants about the web and social media with emphasis on Indigenous Ministries.
- **Overview of Indigenous Catechist Training** was facilitated by The Rev Norm Casey and Dorothy Patterson. This circle combined catechism with the seven traditional teachings.
- **Overview of Indigenous Heathy Pathways** was facilitated by The Rev. Ginny Doctor. This workshop is a healing and empowering training program based on the Four Directions.
- **Climate Change** was facilitated by Bishop Mark MacDonald. This circle discussed the impact of climate change and disruption on Indigenous communities.
- **Indigenous Leadership Formation** was facilitated by Bishop Lydia Mamakwa and The Rev Ruth Kitchekekisik. The circle discussed leadership formation in Indigenous communities.
- **General Synod and Structure of the Anglican Church of Canada** was facilitated by Cynthia Haines-Turner. This circle discussed General Synod structures and plans for General Synod 2016.
- **Indigenous Urban Ministry** was facilitated by Bishop Greg Kerr-Wilson. This circle discussed

best practices for Indigenous ministry in urban areas.

The memory keepers attended the sessions on the catechism and climate change and found them informative. “It was amazing and powerful. It made me think of the elders – they are our teachers.” noted one memory keeper.

The learning circles will be offered again on Thursday afternoon. Sign-up sheets are in the registration area.

The Primate’s Commission

Nine members of the Primate’s Commission on the Doctrine of Discovery, Reconciliation and Justice led a panel discussion about the work of the committee. The questions and answers were enlightening including information on the history, practices and effects of the Doctrine of Discovery.

The memory keepers were particularly moved by Archbishop Fred Hiltz’ comments. “The way the Primate’s message carried on today from yesterday’s homily was very exciting. Now we can read his comments and it will bring great comfort and hope to our people.”

Keynote Address

Robert Keriopa of Te Pihopatanga O Te Tai Tokerau, Aotearoa delivered the keynote address of the day. The Indigenous Anglican Church in New

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Zealand has been self-determinate for 23 years. Mr. Keriopa explained the long journey of the Maori Indigenous people and offered encouraging words to delegates.

The memory keepers were impressed with Mr. Keriopa's address. "It is good to learn from different cultures and what they are going through. They have a lot to share with us and we have a lot to learn."

Sacred Circle Rocks On!

The evening closed with a lively Gospel Jam led by Bishop Mark MacDonald with a back-up band. Sacred Circle members sang, clapped, waved their arms and danced in the aisles. The highlight was an inspired performance by four bishops and the Primate, singing, "This Little Light of Mine. "

It was a great time for everyone. A memory keeper stated, "I enjoyed the Gospel Jam. They looked like a rock n' roll band!"

Prepared by: Bev Murphy,
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