



SACRED CIRCLE DAILY REPORT



DAY 5: August 21, 2015

MEMORY KEEPERS

THE REV. VAL KERR
NIAGARA

MELANIE WESLEY
MOOSONEE

WEATHER

SUNNY AND WARM, WITH A COOL
LAKE BREEZE

Morning Service

The fifth and final day of Sacred Circle started with music and prayer led by The Rt. Rev. Adam Halkett from the Diocese of Saskatchewan including prayers in Cree.

Gospel Based Discipleship

The talking circles met for the last time this morning. A memory keeper found the session touching. "There were a lot of mixed emotions. People were happy to be going home and sad to be leaving Sacred Circle. Everyone shared a touching story. It was a safe place – a real gift."

Partings

Bishop Mark MacDonald had to depart the Sacred Circle this morning. Before he left, he outlined the agenda for the afternoon and thanked Ginny and Teresa for their work on the gathering. His message to everyone was, "We are about to become the Joshua generation – the people that will occupy the land that was envisioned by the elders."

Steve Darden, the fire keeper, also had to leave this morning and made some touching final remarks. He sincerely

Sacred Circle Daily Report — Day Five

thanked the five members that helped tend the fire every day, as well as Bishop Mark and Ginny. Bishop Mark and Steve prayed in Dene Navahjo and repeated, “It is finished and beauty.”

Election of ACIP

Sacred Circle members gathered in Provincial Caucuses to elect members of the Anglican Council of Indigenous People.

The 8 elected members are The Ven. Larry Beardy (ISMM), The Rev. Nancy Bruyere (ISMM), Caroline Chum (Moosonee), John Hogan (APCI), Willard Martin (Caledonia), Dorothy Russell Patterson (Huron), Ruby Sandy-Robinson (Quebec) and Cheyenne Vachon (Quebec).

The National Indigenous Anglican Bishop can make three further appointments and ACIP also has the ability to appoint additional members, if required.

A memory keeper noted, “We discussed, prayed and in the end we were all happy with the results. Those that did not get in were all told that they were special and there are other ways they can contribute.”

TRC Recommendations

Groups reported back from the talking circles discussion on Wednesday.

Child welfare, education, language and culture were all highlighted as priorities. Others talked about how

difficult it was to choose priorities from so many important issues.

Regional Gatherings

Verna Firth, presented information on Our Faith, Our Hope, a fund that has been created for regional gatherings for non-stipendiary clergy and lay leaders.

More information and application forms are available at:

<http://www.anglican.ca/cn/regional-gatherings/>

A 5th Province

Sol Sanderson presented an outline for a model of how a fifth Indigenous province could be structured. After a time of discussion at the open mike, there was consensus amongst all members to adopt, in principal, the statement establishing a 5th province, with the understanding that ACIP will be responsible for working with the larger church to create a full proposal.

The memory keepers had a number of comments about this accomplishment.

“It is hard when you don’t have the full picture. But you have to step out in faith and it is a start and what people are looking for.”

“It has been talked about for a long time. Now it is no longer talk – it is action!”

Sacred Circle Daily Report — Day Five

“The comments of an elder kept running through my head, “Do not hesitate and do not be afraid.”

“We are recognizing what a gift we have. When the time is right, we come together.”

“We are recognizing that we are not weak people – we are strong!”

Closing Eucharist

Clergy robed in traditional vestments for the closing Eucharist. A memory keeper said, “I found it moving, especially the procession. I thought the jingle dress was really neat. That is really integrating our culture into the church. The procession was so diverse, yet unified.”

Archbishop Fred Hiltz’ homily compared the story of Ruth to the Indigenous story of rising up and renewing one’s strength. He commended Sacred Circle members for being loving and trusting that Jesus comes from your heart. The Primate pledged the church’s very best efforts to move forward and said, “It is time to lead and be an example to the rest of the country.”

The memory keepers felt uplifted. “So much comes from his heart. It feels like a lot of strides have been made. To hear the commitment from the Primate was huge!”

“That he admires that we speak our minds and proclaim our faith means a lot.”

Closing Rituals

After dinner a giveaway was held with gifts for all talking circle members, staff, keynote speakers, fire tenders, past ACIP members, computer learning circle attendees, Teresa, Donna and a touching presentation to the Primate.

This was followed by the planting of a tree. Members brought water from across Canada to water the tree.

Memory Keepers Final Comments

“The giveaway shows the generosity of our people. It is an example of our teachings and we have had examples of our teachings all through the week.”

“Hanging the cross in chapel was moving. It means a lot to me and the vision of having it in Church House means we’ll be able to see it again and remember our time here.”

“Love...unity...everyone gathered. The tree planting ceremony was close to my heart. The other tree was planted by my mom and late brother 13 years ago. Bringing water from their own area was meaningful. The tree will be a reminder of this time if we ever come back. The unity song was wonderful. It just wells up in you.

“What a model Sid was for everyone.”

Sacred Circle Daily Report — Day Five

“It was great seeing old friends, making new friends and now we have mixed emotions about leaving.”

“I am going home with a lot of peace in my heart.”

Sacred Circle Website

On Day 1 of this Sacred Circle, a memory keeper said, “I think this is the most important thing delegates can do. We must educate others in our parishes when we return home.”

Many resources are available on the Sacred Circle website. There are video highlights, photos, daily reports, articles from both General Synod communications and Anglican Journal as well as many of the reports that were used as resources for this meeting. You can find all this information at the following web address.

<http://www.Anglican.ca/im/sacredcircles/sc2015>

Nia:wenh

Prepared by: Bev Murphy,
Senior Manager, Communications