



# SACRED CIRCLE DAILY REPORT



**DAY 6:** August 22, 2015

## DEPARTURE DAY

## CLOSING REFLECTIONS

The Rev. Canon Ginny Doctor,  
Indigenous Ministries Coordinator

## MEMORY KEEPER

Teresa Mandricks,  
Program Associate,  
Secretariat of the National  
Indigenous Anglican Bishop

## WEATHER

Very hot! (at least for Ginny!)

## A Full Basket

It is a bittersweet day as we collect our belongings and memories for the journey to our homes.

When I visited Kenya a long time ago, the women there said that when they arrived their baskets were empty. But, when they left their baskets would be filled with everything they learned; they packed their baskets with memories. They then gave me a basket and told me to do the same thing. I still see their faces and hear their singing. I am leaving this Sacred Circle with my basket full and hope that everyone's basket is filled with sacred memories.

As we move forward, the Office of the National Indigenous Anglican Bishop will be busy making plans to fully live into the things heard at the 8<sup>th</sup> Sacred Circle:

- a more concentrated effort on Indigenous urban ministry
- education and advocacy for the TRC Calls to Action
- creation of a 5<sup>th</sup> Province for Indigenous Ministry
- transitioning to the “newly” constituted Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples

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- healing from the affects of residential schools and other historical trauma
- developing new partnerships; Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and the Church of Sweden

And, of course we will continue with projects/programs such as the Indigenous Catechist Training and Suicide Prevention. Please remember Indigenous ministry in your prayers!

### The Search for Honey

The Sacred Circle Planning team met at the UNIFOR Center in June. On the trip back to Six Nations, Norm Casey took us to Anna Mae's Restaurant for home style Mennonite food. Donna Bomberry bought some of their honey and on our drive to Sacred Circle she said she needed to buy some more of that honey because she and her brother really liked it.

On the journey from Port Elgin we found a Mennonite store complete with bakery and honey! As we continued our journey, I thought about the song, "Michael Row the Boat Ashore," sung by the Highwaymen back in 1960.

Two of the verses say:

"River Jordan is chilly and cold,  
Alleluia;  
Chills the body but not the soul,  
Alleluia."

"River is deep and the river is wide,  
Alleluia;  
Milk and honey on the other side,  
Alleluia."

We are searching for the honey and as Bishop Mark said, "We are the Joshua Generation!"

### Voices from Sacred Circle

"I grew so much spiritually this past week, the stories around the fire from Steve and others, and learning traditional songs with the drum . . . next Sacred Circle I want to help facilitate the group for young people"

"All 94 are important, we can't prioritize them!"

"We will have our own Sacred Circle"

"Get behind the red line!"

"It takes compassion, commitment and courage . . ."

"So, this is what I have been missing all these years . . . I'm so glad to finally be here."

"The singing makes a big difference, all meetings should have singing."

"Did you see the Primate up there dancing?"

"My computer is so old it has a floppy drive."

"This food is outrageous!"

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“Gotta get up in time to see the sun rise on the lake and make my prayers!”

“Who’s that little bishop?”

### Acknowledgements

We want to thank everyone who helped to make our Sacred Circle possible, you know who you are, too many to name in this space. But, we do want to thank the Ven. Dr. Michael Thompson, General Secretary of General Synod for his prayers for us and we pray that he continues to heal.

### KAIROS at Sacred Circle

We also received the following message from KAIROS:

We bring greetings from the KAIROS Indigenous Rights Circle to this Sacred Circle. KAIROS is an organization of 11 churches and agencies that work together on issues of human rights and ecological justice. The Anglican Church of Canada is a founding member.

The Indigenous Rights Circle works with partners in Canada and around the world on issues such as:

Climate injustice  
Mining Justice  
Indigenous rights  
Gender and violence

Since 2012, the Indigenous Rights Circle has been committed to what we call "resetting the relationship" -- so

that Indigenous people can be equitably represented in the governance and program management and operations of KAIROS.

We share two recent examples of the work of the Indigenous Rights program --

In July, KAIROS presented a brief to the United Nations Human Rights Committee on the subject of discrimination against Indigenous children in Canada. KAIROS did this as part of the Coalition for the Human Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The Committee was so concerned about issues of violence against Indigenous women and the violation of Indigenous Peoples' land rights that it called on Canada to report back within one year on progress made to implement its recommendations on these issues. KAIROS will continue to advocate for government action.

A second brief example -

Ontario Power Generation (OPG) is proposing to bury low and mid level nuclear waste 680 meters underground one kilometer from Lake Huron.

The Saugeen Ojibway Nation is concerned about the long term environmental impact on water quality and on their Aboriginal fishing rights that have been affirmed by a court decision.

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Previously, Ontario Power Generation and the Nuclear Waste Management Organization gave the Saugeen First Nation assurances that the nuclear waste storage would not proceed without their consent.

However, on May 6, 2015 a Joint Review Panel, appointed by the federal Minister of the Environment and the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission, submitted a report recommending that Environment Minister, Leona Aglukkaq allow the project to proceed. The government has 120 days to respond to an appeal from the Saugeen First Nation and its supporters, including KAIROS.

These are two ways in which Anglicans promote Indigenous rights with other churches through KAIROS.

*Respectfully submitted by Anglican members of the KAIROS Indigenous Rights Circle -- Charles Bobbish, Todd Russell, Jose Zarate, and Henriette Thompson.*

### Thoughts from Teresa

Reflecting on the 2015 Sacred Circle, Teresa Mandricks noted, "The last day ended on a high note. Many good memories and friendships were made. It was hard to say farewell.

One thing that came to mind is that we have many "spiritual storm-chasers" in Sacred Circle. They know the storms will not overtake them. The higher purposes of God make every risk worthwhile."

"The peace of God which transcends all understanding will guard our hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" Philippians 4:7

### Sacred Circle Website

Resources from Sacred Circle 2015 are available on the Anglican Church of Canada's website. There are video highlights, photos, daily reports, articles from both General Synod communications and Anglican Journal as well as documents used at the meeting. You can find this information at the following web address.

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

### Oneh!

In many of our languages there are no words for good-bye. In the Mohawk tradition we say "Oneh!" Loosely translated it means "until the next time."

Prepared by: The Rev. Canon Ginny Doctor and Bev Murphy,  
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