

The Corn Soup Meeting 1– Revised notes

Donna Bomberry and Ginny Doctor met at Six Nations to do some preliminary planning for models to move us toward an Indigenous Confederacy within the Anglican Church of Canada or some will call a Province. Donna suggested we get together at Six Nations so she could enjoy a bowl of corn soup, a traditional dish of the Haudenosaunee. Meeting on the Land provides both comfort and creativity! We did not want to exclude Vincent Solomon and our thoughts here are for further discussion and input from Vincent. We plan on meeting the day before the Focus Group meeting to do some more planning. The notes below include consultation with Vincent Solomon on January 3, 2017.

Donna brought along a book titled, “The Reason You Walk,” by Wab Kinew. Although Ginny has not read the book, both agreed that the reason we walk is the basis of our spirituality as First Nation’s people. We feel that spirituality is also the basis for formation of an Indigenous Province. We need to be able to express our spirituality on several levels: personal, family, community and church. From there we can express a spirituality for an Indigenous Confederacy. That being said, we identified several points that we need to consider as we move forward.

- Develop partnerships where possible with First Nation’s Councils or Band Councils. We need to approach these councils from the spiritual aspect, that is, we are providing spiritual care to the people. In doing this we need to respect and understand traditional values and Christian values. We need to negotiate for funds to pay spiritual leaders and this negotiation should be led by the NIAB, that is, “chief to chief” dialogue. It is important to develop relationships with councils or their departments.
- Propose a partnership with the Anglican Church of Canada; what do we want it to look like? Autonomous and healing ministry? Worship in an Indigenous context and development and provision of resources for worship. How does reconciliation fit into the partnership. What does it mean to be Christian and Traditional at the same time, how do we promote the understanding?
- Seek transparency from all partners including but not limited to ACC and the Council of the North.
- Appoint Archdeacons for each area and define roles and responsibilities of Archdeacons.
- Assess what Urban areas could be paired with rural First Nations. Could Montreal be paired with the Naskapi Cree? Identify and consult with dioceses that advocate for diocesan wide Indigenous ministry.
- Identify areas that want to be first to develop a Confederacy. So far the following have expressed an interest: Mishamikoweesh, Northern Saskatchewan, Naskapi Cree, Alert Bay, Nis’gah Nation.
- Build teams to consult with interested communities or invite leaders from each area to a consultation.

- Prepare questions to ask the communities: Define spirituality of self, community; define mission and ministry of self and community; what are the community's assets; who are the leaders, what other support is there (diocese, Chiefs, other denominations). There are other questions that need to be asked but those will come as we continue to discuss the plan.
- Share what makes us unique. How do we share our values with the ACC, such as, how is respect for elders shown in the ACC. We need to articulate our orthodoxy and doctrine, remaining true to our culture, particularly on how it affects the marriage canon. We need to have dialogue on our many First Nation's traditions and values.
- Consult with young people on their spiritual needs and on what they need to grow.
- What do we value about the ACC and our spiritual traditions? We need a consultation on spirituality, perhaps ask Gordon Beardy to speak.
- Convene the Elder's Council to help mentor this process.

We hope this is enough to get us started and we do need input from others. Skennen:kenh!