



SACRED CIRCLE DAILY REPORT



DAY 1: August 7, 2018

MEMORY KEEPERS

The Rev. Lily Bell,
Caledonia

The Ven. Val Kerr,
Niagara

NUMBERS OF NOTE

169

The number of registrants for the 9th Anglican Sacred Circle, including:

- representation from 19 dioceses
- 12 partners (bishops, ecumenical or non-indigenous)
- 10 members of the Primate's Commission on Discovery, Reconciliation and Justice
- 7 members of COGS
- 24 national office staff
- 10 guests including 5 international guests (New Zealand, and USA/Hawaii).

WEATHER

Sunny and hot with a faint smell of smoke in the air.

Lighting of the Sacred Fire

The 9th Sacred Circle commenced at 7:00 a.m. with a sunrise ceremony including the lighting of the sacred fire. The fire remains lit for the duration of the event to ensure the spirits and teachings guide and protect participants. Steven Seegerts and Walter Tylee are the two fire keepers that will tend the fire until the close of Sacred Circle.

Prayers were offered by The Rt. Rev. Mark MacDonald and The Rev. Andrew Wesely in Cree and Gwich'in. Traditional songs were sang by The Rev. Ginny Doctor and The Rev. Leigh Kern about empowering the people and honoring women. The Sacred Fire will be extinguished at the conclusion of Sacred Circle.

After breakfast, members dressed in robes and traditional clothing including beaded stoles and moccasins. They formed an impressive procession leading from the Sacred Fire to the plenary hall for the opening Eucharist.

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Blessings and greetings

The Eucharist opened with a water blessing from Bishop Mark MacDonald and Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada.

Greetings and gifts were extended from The Rt. Rev. Barbara Andrews and members of the Territory of the People.

Memories and Hope

In his homily, Archbishop Hiltz, remembered the apology by Archbishop Michael Peers 25 years ago and asked for a moment of silence for Vi Smith, who accepted the apology on behalf of indigenous people.

Archbishop Hiltz explained that the thrust of the apology was about the intention and hope to create a new life for indigenous people.

Memory keepers were moved by his message.

“He started with the history and brought back a lot of memories – that was an amazing and sacred day for us.”

Reports received

Reports were received from the co-chairs of the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples, the Coordinator of Indigenous Ministry and the National Indigenous Aboriginal Bishop highlighting their work over the past

three years. Bishop MacDonald further explained the history and role of the National Indigenous Anglican Bishop and noted that “what we do here this week will guide us for years to come. I pray that you do it with a heart that is aware of the healing power of God, so that we can bring back that healing power to our communities.”

History Highlights

A video produced by Anglican Video showing the history of the Anglican Indigenous Church in Canada was shown. The memory keepers were moved by the video.

“It was good to remember the people that are not with us anymore and that their spirits are still with us.”

“The eagle in the closing gives us inspiration.”

An Indigenous Spiritual Movement

The document, “An Indigenous Spiritual Movement: Becoming What God Intends Us to Be” was distributed. Members broke into small groups to read and discuss the document and later report back to plenary.

The memory keepers found the process good, but thought that more time would have been helpful. “ We all learn differently and allowing for this would have been good.”

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They were also inspired by the report from the youth group.

“It was great when the young people said, “We’re still here!”

This message was repeated numerous times today.

Spirituality of Self-Determination

The Rev. Dr. Martin Brokenleg was the guest speaker and spoke about the path forward on the road to self-determination. The memory keepers were very impressed with the presentation.

“Martin’s presentation really brought the whole day together, completing the picture.”

“It is important to not have a Pollyanna view. Life has roadblocks and we either give up or find a way around them.”

“Indigenous spirituality is not complicated!”

“I think it leaves us with feelings of hope.”

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