



***Office of the National Indigenous Anglican Bishop
Anglican Church of Canada
80 Hayden St.
Toronto, Ontario M4Y3G2***

Easter, 2017

Dear Relatives,

This pastoral letter comes to you to update you on progress since our Sacred Circle. We hope that this finds you well and happy. Written in Easter, at the resurrection of Lord Jesus Christ, it comes with love and good thoughts for all. Christ is Risen!

Sacred Circle asked us to move forward with Indigenous self-determination, endorsing the idea of “Fifth Province,” or its equivalent. This was seen as a necessity for our ministry to develop to respond to the crisis in our communities. The Church, as an institution, has been weaker in our communities over that past few decades, in some places disappearing. Abandonment of ministry or the neglect of pastoral and sacramental ministry is a shame, especially when contrasted with the ill-effects of colonization. Today, we seek to re-establish a Gospel presence in all of our communities. Sacred Circle asked the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples, the Leadership Circle, and the Office of the National Indigenous Anglican Bishop to take this work forward.

To do this work, a Focus Group has been formed. Its members are the Rev. Larry Beardy and Donna Bomberry, co-chairs; the Ven. Sidney Black, Sol Sanderson, the Rev. Vincent Solomon, the Rev. Ginny Doctor, the Rt. Revs. Lydia Mamakwa, Mark MacDonald, and Adam Halkett, the Rev. Annie Ittoshat....

The Focus Group received a detailed proposal from Sol Sanderson and a more modest step-by-step offering from Ginny. The Group decided to use Sol’s work

as the overall guide and Ginny's to help make the next steps possible and doable.

We will begin by first steps towards what is called, for now, a "Confederacy of Indigenous Ministries." This will bring together a number of places willing and wanting to support and help each other pursue ministry together. Already, we have heard from bishops and congregations that are interested. The plan is to find ways to be together in our work of ministry – leadership development, catechist training, youth work, and suicide prevention, to name a few of the items we look to cooperate on.

The Focus Group has given itself the following list as its next steps, these are not listed in priority:

1. Begin small, use the model of Confederacy as outlined by Ginny; separate the Office of the NIAB from Programs of Church House.
2. Allow Mishamikoweesh to come under the office of the NIAB.
3. Develop effective ways to help +Lydia's and +Adam's ministry.
4. Speak to Harry Huskins re incorporation (so we can receive money).
5. Work with a consultant for fundraising.
6. Focus on ministry to the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. Luke 14:12-14
7. The office of the NIAB needs help....the NIAB should install an Archdeacon who is an Admin Assistant, (and/or Assistant Bishop), someone who can assist in pastoral and program work.
8. Office of the NIAB location will remain in the Office of General Synod.
9. Vince, Lydia and Mark will draft up the 'roles and duties' of the NIAB.
10. Vince, Donna and Ginny will develop a Regional Model that has both Indigenous Community and Urban ministry.
11. Donna to assist in the financial plan to expand the office of the NIAB, to include an Archdeacon, programs funding and staff.
12. Develop Financial Management for capital and O&M, business plans for regions and for the national. The church is based on First Nation Sovereignty and Treaty Rights.
13. Mark, ACIP Co - Chairs, Larry, Donna, Primate, General Secretary and Officers of General Synod to meet.
14. "Abandonment of Ministry" is a term that should be used in our discussion with the General Synod leadership to build up our church regionally

We ask you to pray for the work of the Focus Group, pray for us all, that we may all have direction and guidance for the work ahead.

Almighty God, you have called us to Gospel life and hope. May your Spirit guide us to the Way, the Truth, and the Life that our communities need, that we may truly be the Sacred Circle that you created us to be; through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. AMEN.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark MacDonald". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

The Rt. Rev. Mark MacDonald