

***“The Road to Warm Springs”***  
***Luke 24:1-35 (First Nations Version)***  
***The National Consultation on Indigenous Anglican Self-Determination***  
***September 15-17, Pinawa, Manitoba***  
***Wilderness Edge Retreat and Conference Centre***

For many years we have lived on the same land but have lived apart from each other. There are many reasons why we have lived this way but in order to walk together we have to find ways to live together, perhaps not physically but spiritually. During our time of being Anglicans, Indigenous people have often “sat in the back,” or have in the words of Robert Keriopa (Maori) have “stood behind the red line.” Ministry has been done “to Indigenous people” and not “with Indigenous people.” The direction of Indigenous ministry began changing in the mid-1980’s through the work of dedicated elders who began to talk about self – determination. The Covenant of 1994 marked a turning point in Indigenous Ministry. This bold statement called for “a prayerful dialogue towards self – determination for us, the Indigenous people” and “extended the hand of partnership to all those who will help us build a truly Anglican Indigenous Church in Canada.” We have been talking for the past twenty – two years, and while there are times when it seems that we are coming to understand what a life together would look like, there are others in which we are reminded how much work is ahead of us to understand how we are the church together and how we honour our differences. The Gathering will call together stakeholders (people with great interest in Indigenous ministry) to be together as the body of Christ, and discern how we can be together in our journey.

***“Most merciful God, we have erred in our treatment of each other, we have not always been good relatives, have not honored each other and who we are as Your creation and have wrongly judged on Your behalf. Restore the treasures of our cultures. Open our hearts to feel your heartbeat in the drum and let your heartbeat echo upon Mother Earth calling us to right relationship. We give honor to you, O, God, our Creator, Your Son the Peacemaker and the Sacred Spirit. Amen”***

***Our Present Picture***

- We seek to understand each other, to build relationships and a community of faith; a community that lives into the baptismal covenant, “to strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.
- We seek to celebrate our ministries and to honor the struggles that we need to reconcile.

- We seek to learn from each other, to value our cultures and our traditions, to feel what has been hurt through losses in our history together, and continue to promote healing and reconciliation for all.

### ***Our Quest***

- We seek to fully understand self – determination or self – rule, and how it impacts our life in Christ and in the Anglican Church of Canada.
- We seek ways for the non – Indigenous church members to fully understand and live into what it means to walk alongside Indigenous peoples in a good way; and for Indigenous church members to fully understand and live into what it means to be truly self – determining while continuing to walk with the whole church.
- We seek to strengthen the role of the United Nation’s Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People as a foundational document for our Church, and to find ways to live into right relations.
- We seek to be committed to the 94 Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission especially those calls that are directed toward church and spirituality.

### ***The Call***

- We seek to discern the leading of the Holy Spirit in the Journey of Spiritual Renewal;
- We seek to build an Indigenous church that is appropriate for the diversity of our Indigenous peoples; to understand each other, both across the differences between Indigenous and non – Indigenous peoples, and also across the diversity of Indigenous cultures, spiritualities and contexts.
- We seek to explore and understand “A Confederacy of Indigenous Spiritual Ministry within the Anglican Church of Canada.”

We will have approximately 20 hours for our work. Participants will arrive in time for supper on June 16 with a possible session that evening. Participants will leave after breakfast on June 19. Specifically, we ask the Planning Team to be creative in shaping the Gathering in ways that honour the contributions of Indigenous and non – Indigenous ways of being together. Therefore, we ask the Planning Team to undertake the following tasks.

### **Organizational**

- The Primate and the National Indigenous Anglican Bishop have a number of people they want to invite to the gathering. Who do you recommend? We hope to invite at least 60 people. We have selected Wilderness Edge in Pinawa, Manitoba, as the venue.
- How should we worship together?
- Who should facilitate the sessions?

- What will the schedule look like?
- Other? Is there anything you think should be included in the organization of the Gathering?

### **The Picture**

- What are the ministries we celebrate? Who can tell stories of ministry we should celebrate?
- What are the challenges for Indigenous Ministry? How do we tell the story of the struggle?
- Are there models of reconciliation that can be shared? How do our church leaders model reconciliation? What do we need to lament and what do we need to move on?
- Is anything else needed to show the picture?

### **The Quest**

- The Primate and the NIAB would like to identify someone who can speak to the Gathering on self – determination. Who can you recommend?
- Do we need to provide education on the UNDRIP and the 94 Calls to Action? If so, who should do this?

### **The Call**

- What kinds of activities can we do to promote a better understanding of each other?
- What documents should be available before and during the Gathering?
- How should “A Confederacy of Indigenous Spiritual Ministry be presented?” What is the best way for participants to have meaningful discussion to better understand the Confederacy concept?

There may be other things that the Planning Team thinks is essential to this Gathering and that is good. We offer these to get your creativity flowing, it is not cast in stone.