



SACRED CIRCLE 2012

WALKING THE DREAM

Daily Report: August 11

MEMORY KEEPERS:

LEONA MOSES,
SIX NATIONS

CAROLINE CHUM,
MOOSONEE

ERIN BLACK, CALGARY

WEATHER:
WARM, PARTLY CLOUDY

Dry bones come alive

One by one members of the Sacred Circle stepped up to the microphone and proudly said “yes” to Canon 22 on National Indigenous Ministries. “We have consensus” declared the Ven. Sidney Black, co-chair of the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples.

Easterville member Alfred Mink compared the Sacred Circle experience with a passage from Ezekiel in the Old Testament. “We are dry bones, and we will become alive and proceed on

our journey in that new canoe our elders talked about. Some day, we will walk with the Jewish people in the New Jerusalem together. Don’t lose that vision, that faith.”

Full day

The day started with a presentation from the military by Major Catherine Askew and Indigenous Veteran Victor Flett. Sacred Circle endorsed the work of the military with a standing ovation. Sacred Circle then endorsed the draft of Canon 22 that will be presented to General Synod June, 2013 in Ottawa.

The discussion carried forward from the previous day and Sacred Circle organizers circulated proposed amendments that were generated. While the document is not a final product, members felt it was a good start and that changes will likely occur in the years to come. The Indigenous people are not locked in to the canon as presented. It can be changed at future gatherings. "There's a new culture now; it's indigenous and allows us to be together, one in Christ," said National Indigenous Bishop Mark MacDonald

Partner reflections

The Rev. Malcolm Naea Chun Hawaii, the Rt. Rev. Susan Johnson ELCIC Primate, Bishop Kito Pikaahu, New Zealand, Bishop Griselda, Cuba.

Partners at Sacred Circle reflected on their experience. They spoke of the courage, generosity and kindness of the members of Sacred Circle and giving a sense of what it means to belong. One partner spoke of being touched time and again and of the faith of people to come to Jesus with their

hurts, pains and their joys. One speaker reminded us of the northern Manitoba Grand Chief's words. "Here in Pinawa great things do come. Another stressed Sacred was a light and the Spirit filled group provided inspiration of faith and hope.

Closing Eucharist

Clergy robed in traditional vestments for the closing Eucharist that featured the Primate's message. "The same Spirit (present at Pentecost) has been honored at this Sacred Circle and is breathing new life and new hope in our life in Jesus." Said Archbishop Fred Hiltz. He noted the Mississauga Declaration gives us hope and a message of the importance of family in the face of crises and struggle.

"There is a blot on the soul of this country that needs to be renewed: a call to government to love God, do justice and walk humbly with our God." The service concluded with the youth giving their blessing to the several bishops in attendance.

Closing rituals

After supper, the courtyard filled with people to witness the extinguishment of the sacred fire. Following that, everyone walked to the entrance of the Pinawa Wilderness Edge to plant a tree that will symbolize new life, new beginnings. One final Gospel Jamboree brought people to their feet to end the day.

Memory keepers comments

“It was an overwhelming vote. Native people at last are able to go the way they were taught. I am completely overjoyed.”

“It was beautiful; the Holy Spirit was just so powerful. Now I know we can move forward. The Inuit are beautiful, awesome, a door has been opened. People have been crying and the door is open.”

“I was thinking about the voting on Canon 22. I can say I was there and heard everybody say “yes”. I was honored to be part of it.”

“Every knee shall bow... to Ginny and Teresa. A lot of the spirit of God that welcome us came from

Ginny, who also added her own personality and gifts to the job.”

“You are now self determined.”

“I want to thank you for putting the trust and faith in ACIP; it’s a very historic day.”

(This Daily report was prepared by The Rev. Murray Still)