

Communiqué from the 2017 Meeting of the Anglican Indigenous Network (AIN)

The Anglican Indigenous Network (AIN) is an international community of faithful Indigenous Anglicans who are minorities in their own Lands. We gather every two years to provide mutual support as we strategically plan our future together. Compelled by the Gospel's power of love, renewal, peace, reconciliation, and restoration we support one another within our common challenge as minority peoples faced with the unique daily realities of the ongoing impact of colonialism in the Church we love and in the world we are called to steward. We gather for sacred conversations, meaningful worship, cultural exchange, and fellowship. We hope that our recommendations will empower the Anglican Communion to provide effective leadership, mission, ministry and meaningful reconciliation with indigenous peoples within the Communion. We believe that this will be a source of renewal for the whole Communion.

We affirm our self-determination within our cultural contexts and church structures. As indigenous peoples we share the common experience of living within the psychological and physical realities of intergenerational trauma resulting from historical genocide and ongoing forces of occupation. These realities include isolation, marginalization, theft of land and resources, denial of political sovereignty and loss of socio-cultural heritage and identity. As Indigenous Anglican Christians, we experience ourselves to be a minority within a minority. Consequently, our ability to gather together provides mutual support, the opportunity to share strategies for addressing common issues confronting our communities.

We acknowledge the Haudenosaunee peoples of the Six Nations Reserve on the Grand River Territory, where we gathered from August 27 to September 2, 2017. Attending members included representatives from: Canada, Aotearoa New Zealand, Australia, Torres Strait Islands, Hawaii and the United States. The assembly heard presentations and reports from each delegation covering a wide range of concerns. A summary of key issues is provided below, followed by a series of actions for follow-up by the AIN and recommendations to the Anglican Communion for improving partnerships between the Church and its indigenous members.

Climate Change

- The reality of rising sea levels is threatening the land and food production sustainability of the Torres Strait Islands, Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, Turtle Island (North America), and Hawaii
- Rising temperatures and rapidly melting glaciers in the High Arctic are impacting the physical and cultural landscape of the Inuit peoples, threatening their livelihood
- Climate change negatively impacts indigenous peoples disproportionately, as those whose lives and cultures are closely connected to sacred lands and waters

Historical and Intergenerational Trauma

- Each of the delegates told their stories of the impact of intergenerational trauma within their contexts
- The effects of this trauma are seen through high rates of addiction, poor health, homelessness, incarceration, family breakdowns, violence, suicide, neglect, and abuse/sexual abuse which are disproportionately high across our peoples

Resources and Environment

- The United States delegation presented a case study on environmental racism faced by the Standing Rock Sioux tribe, fighting the Dakota Access Pipeline on the basis that it runs through a sacred site and puts their water supply at risk
- The Australia delegation shared the motion before General Synod for a moratorium on fracking on Aboriginal lands
- The Hawaii delegation shared ongoing concerns over the desecration of Mauna Kea and Haleakala mountains, both sacred sites
- The First Nations (Canadian) delegation shared the lack of clean and safe drinking water due to environmental contamination

Sovereignty and Treaty Rights

- Australia calls upon the AIN for support in recognition of sovereignty and establishment of a treaty, because Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people continue to live without recognition of sovereignty
- The AIN were informed by the National Indigenous Bishop and the Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada of the work initiated by indigenous Anglicans, following the vision of the elders, towards self-determination for indigenous peoples within the Anglican Church of Canada, presenting a model of reconciliation that could be beneficial for the whole Communion
- Hawaii called upon the AIN for support in recognizing and commemorating Queen Lili'uokalani, Hawaii's last reigning monarch, in Lesser Feasts and Fasts
- A common theme heard across all delegations was a failure to acknowledge sovereignty and respect treaty rights of indigenous peoples both inside and outside the church

AIN agrees to take the following action:

- Broaden network membership, opening up the AIN to indigenous peoples who are minorities in their own lands, within the Communion
- Expand our communication network within and between Provinces
- Create a small working group to draft a statement on indigenous peoples self-determination within the Anglican Communion
- Raise up young people to participate in the AIN
- The AIN endorses the calls for recognition and action shared by our delegations

The AIN calls Upon The Anglican Communion to Take the Following Actions:

- We call upon the Provinces of the Anglican Communion to adopt and implement in the life of the Communion, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- We call upon the Anglican Communion to support and resource efforts toward self-determination and self-sustainability
- We request financial support from the Anglican Communion Office in order to advance the causes of AIN, including the work of reconciliation with and within the Anglican Communion
- We request AIN representation on the Anglican Consultative Council
- We call upon the Provinces of the Anglican Communion to support adequate care and training for indigenous clergy and laity dealing with compassion fatigue and the effects of vicarious trauma
- We request that the Provinces of the Anglican Communion provide a report on indigenous ministries within their province
- We call upon the Anglican Consultative Council to identify an observer to visit Torres Strait, witness the effects of climate change, and report to the Standing Committee of the ACC

- We invite the Anglican Consultative Council to send an official observer to attend the next AIN meeting, to be held in Hawaii in 2019
- We invite the Primates of our indigenous Provinces to meet with the AIN and join with us on our ongoing journey of reconciliation and faith

We conclude our report with deep gratitude for the partnership of The Episcopal Church with the Standing Rock Sioux tribe; for the solidarity shown by the Three Tikanga Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand, Polynesia; for the partnership between the Primate and the National Indigenous Bishop in the Anglican Church of Canada; for the upcoming dedication in October of the new Anglican Cathedral in Nunavut; and for the upcoming 150th anniversary of the coming of the light to the Torres Strait Islands in 2021.

Signatures of Delegates

On behalf of the indigenous peoples of the Anglican Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia –

The Rt. Rev. Te Kitohi Pikaahu (Chair)
 Mrs. Lynnore Pikaahu
 The Rt. Rev. Richard Rangi Wallace QSM
 The Rev. Canon Robert Kereopa
 The Rev. Canon Pane Kawhia
 The Rev. Katene Eruera
 The Rev. Dr. Paul Reynolds
 Ms. Mira Elmsly-Martin
 Miss Kauri-Aroha Tapine-Miller

On behalf of the indigenous peoples of the Anglican Church of Canada –

The Rt. Rev. Mark MacDonald
 The Rt. Rev. Lydia Mamakwa
 The Rt. Rev. Adam Halkett
 The Very Rev. Jonas Allooloo
 The Rev. Canon Norman Casey
 The Rev. Canon Virginia Doctor
 Canon Donna Bomberry
 Ms. Melanie Delva
 Ms. Teresa Mandricks
 Mr. Aaron Sault

On behalf of the indigenous peoples of The Episcopal Church –

The Rev. Dr. Bradley Hauff
 The Ven. Lewis Powell
 The Rev. Rachel Taber-Hamilton
 The Rev. Anne Powell

On behalf of the indigenous peoples of The Episcopal Church (Diocese of Hawaii) –

Ms. P. Kalani Holokai
 Ms. Jasmine Bostock
 Mr. Edward Bruce K. Hanohano
 Ms. May L. Holokai

On behalf of the indigenous peoples of the Anglican Church of Australia and Torres Strait Islands –

Dr. Rose Elu
 The Rev. Daryl McCullough