

Suggested Vestry Motion: UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

WHEREAS our baptismal promises inspire us to respect the dignity of every human being while striving for justice and peace among all people;

AND WHEREAS our Church is confronting the ways in which it has both embodied colonial attitudes and not lived into this baptismal commitment with respect to Indigenous peoples;

AND WHEREAS our Church has begun a journey of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples through a formal apology by the Primate in 1993 for its involvement in running 26 residential schools, establishing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and repudiating the Doctrine of Discovery, among other acts of healing and reconciliation;

AND WHEREAS the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada held in 2010 endorsed the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples that was adopted by the UN General Assembly and encouraged parishes to urge their municipalities to endorse the Declaration;

AND WHEREAS the final report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada was released in 2015 with 94 Calls to Action;

AND WHEREAS Call to Action 43 calls upon “federal, provincial, territorial, and municipal governments to fully adopt and implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the framework for reconciliation.”

AND WHEREAS Call to Action 48 calls upon churches to engage “in ongoing public dialogue and actions to support the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.”

AND WHEREAS Bishop Michael Bird has called the work of truth and reconciliation a “movement of the Holy Spirit” and has committed our diocese to live into right relationships with our Indigenous brothers and sisters.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the parish of N commit to hosting an educational [workshop / program / series] on the UN Declaration on the Right of Indigenous Peoples in its community in 2017;

AND THAT parish leaders of N will engage its mayor and municipal leaders about the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and encourage the local council establish a process to review and endorse the Declaration if it has not already done so.

For more information, please contact Archdeacon Val Kerr (indigenous@niagaraanglican.ca)

Additional Resources

The United Nations Declaration on Indigenous Peoples:

http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unpfii/documents/DRIPS_en.pdf

KAIROS Resources on the United Nations Declaration on Indigenous Peoples:

<http://www.kairoscanada.org/what-we-do/indigenous-rights/undrip>

Summary of the Final Report of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada:

http://nctr.ca/assets/reports/Final%20Reports/Executive_Summary_English_Web.pdf

94 Calls to Action of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada:

http://nctr.ca/assets/reports/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf

The Primate’s Response to Call to Action 48:

<http://www.anglican.ca/news/let-yes-yes/30015309/>

Diocese of Niagara Truth and Reconciliation Resources:

<http://niagaraanglican.ca/ministry/truth-reconciliation>

Please notify the Reverend Bill Mous (bill.mous@niagaraanglican.ca) if this motion is passed by your vestry.