

# Basis of Union and United Church Crest Presentation to Conferences

## Background

*The 40th General Council (2009) approved a motion that acknowledges the presence and spirituality of Aboriginal people in The United Church of Canada as a significant component to the Basis of Union, and directed that Aboriginal people be invited to become signatories to the Basis of Union. It also directed that a new United Church crest be developed that acknowledges the presence and spirituality of Aboriginal people in the United Church.*

*The Task Group to Revise the Basis of Union and the United Church Crest is established by the Executive of the General Council to develop recommendations to realize these goals.*

*The task group is mandated to*

- initiate and oversee processes over the triennium to assist the church in understanding and acknowledging the presence and spirituality of Aboriginal people, and their historical context, in the United Church*
- develop recommendations for amending the Basis of Union to acknowledge the presence and spirituality of Aboriginal people, and their historical context*
- develop a process by which Aboriginal people will be invited to become signatories to the Basis of Union*
- oversee the design of a new crest that acknowledges the presence and spirituality of Aboriginal people in the United Church, and the fact that the United Church is built on Aboriginal heritage and territory*

## Call to Worship

One: We share our stories.

**All: Each of us brings a unique story and gifts from God, Creator.**

One: Our stories are about journeys of faith.

**All: We walk a path of righteousness.**

One: We share our path with all creation.

**All: We are all related.**

## Gospel Reading: John 17:13–26

Martha Pedoniquotte

## Reflection on the Word

Theological Reflection video by the Rev. Prof. R. Gerald Hobbs

## Crest Video

The Very Rev. David Giuliano and Louise Loucareas

## Table Group Discussion

Feedback and questions welcome. Feedback may also be submitted to Project Coordinator Debbie Siertsema at [dsiertse@united-church.ca](mailto:dsiertse@united-church.ca).

## Blessing

One: Our Great Creator, you have created all things in beauty and in truth.

**All: The blue skies of summer,**

One: The green grass of spring,

**All: The colours of autumn,**

One: And the soft snows of winter.

**All: You have created in goodness.**

One: May the knowledge of your love empower us to share a peace that includes justice with each other and with your world.

**All: All My Relations**