

AMC 02 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CALLS TO THE CHURCH

Origin: Aboriginal Ministries Council

That the 43rd General Council

Receive with approval the *Calls to the Church*, and

a) Endorse and commit the United Church of Canada to the *Calls to the Church*, named in the report of the Caretakers of Our Indigenous Circle, and authorize and direct the following steps towards fulfilling these Calls:

a. Approve the creation of a National Indigenous Elders Council (Elders Council) to provide spiritual advice to the Denominational Council; Denominational Executive; Indigenous Organization; National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering; Regional Councils; Office of Vocation; and Working Groups of the Church, as capacity allows:

- i. The Moderator may call upon this Council from time to time for advice and guidance.**
- ii. The National Indigenous Elders Council will consist of eight (8) members that will reflect an equitable representation from across Canada and will include the urban Indigenous and LGBTQ2 Spirit Communities;**
- iii. Indigenous Communities of Faith will lift up Elders they know to be suitable for this work, including Elders who follow traditional Indigenous spiritual paths as well as Elders who identify themselves as Christian.**
- iv. The Elders Council will meet face-to-face during its formation to develop protocols, build relationships, and deepen their knowledge of the mission and ministry of the church and the vision for the Indigenous Church. There will be one face-to-face meeting per year, thereafter.**

b. Approve the creation of a National Indigenous Organization, which will be a decision making body which will:

- i. Receive spiritual direction on matters of ministry and mission from the National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering and the National Indigenous Elders Council;**
- ii. Provide presence and voice to the Denominational Council, its Executive, Regional Councils, and the Office of Vocation;**
- iii. Have responsibility for decision-making on matters of Indigenous Real Property; Stewardship, including Mission Support Granting to all Indigenous Communities of Faith; Healing Fund; Youth and Congregational Support and development; Provide oversight of Leadership/Congregational Development Funds;**
- iv. Glean best practices from the rich history of the All Native Circle Conference, Ontario-Quebec Native Ministries, and British Columbia Native Ministries;**
- v. Consist of representatives from the National Elders Council, youth, strategic thinkers, knowledge keepers, and carriers of history; urban**

- Indigenous and LGBTQ2 Spirit communities, for a total of 8-10 members;
- vi. Meet face-to-face once each year;
 - vii. Provide guidance to the Indigenous Justice Working Group;
 - viii. Promote and honour local protocols (as determined by the local Communities of Faith) and will honour Elders;
 - ix. Develop and implement strong communications strategies and resources necessary to accomplish the work of a National Indigenous Organization;
 - x. Provide continued opportunities for the gathering, working together, and supportive work of all the Indigenous faith communities in the United Church. The following gatherings will honour the cultural and linguistic regions of the Indigenous communities and support a national network of urban Indigenous ministries:
 - 1. A National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering to be held every three (3) years, with the first National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering to be held in August 2019 at the Geneva Park Convention Centre, the traditional territories of the Williams Treaties (Orillia, ON) to mark the inauguration of the new National Indigenous Organization;
 - 2. Cluster gatherings to provide continued opportunities for local networking, discussion, common issues of concern, fellowship, and collaboration;
 - 3. A national network of urban Indigenous ministries.
 - xi. Work in collaboration with other parts of the church to strengthen relationships between the Indigenous communities of faith and the wider Church through Indigenous representation in the areas of education of all United Church personnel, including Indigenous history, culture, and contemporary issues; groups who look to strengthen relations with Indigenous Communities of Faith; and reignite the spiritual, cultural, holistic, and healing renewal of the whole church.
- c. Authorize the Indigenous members of the current Aboriginal Ministries Council to serve as the National Indigenous Council until such time as the new organization is established, which shall be no later than August 2019.
 - d. Authorize and direct the General Secretary, working with the National Indigenous Council, the Executive of the Denominational Council, and the Executive Minister of Indigenous Ministries, to support and facilitate such further steps as may be needed to implement the *Calls to the Church*.

Moved: R. Burns

Seconded: J. Sigurdson

CARRIED.