

# **Theme: RIGHT RELATIONS**

## **General Comments**

### **What We Heard:**

- The groups expressed affirmation for this work and that the church is called to continue working on right relations.
- Groups said it's about reconciliation, diversity and genuine reparation.
- One challenge is to really understand the UNDRIP and think about how the church looks different moving forward.
- It is essential indigenous people be involved going forward.
- We are all treaty people and want to participate in this work and want to be aware of settler privilege regardless of how and where we settled on these lands.
- Honoured the relationship is still being offered to us from the indigenous community and we are grateful for the

grace that has been extended to the non-indigenous community.

**ANW 06 – LIVING INTO RIGHT RELATIONS NETWORK  
BQ 2 – STEPS TOWARD RECONCILIATION  
TOR 1 – FUNDING AND SUPPORT FOR LIVING INTO RIGHT  
RELATIONS (LIRR) NETWORK BEYOND 2018**

**What We Heard:**

- Several groups dealt with proposals ANW 06/BQ 02/TOR 01 as one, therefore so did the facilitation team. Groups affirmed the spirit of these proposals and the continuation of this important work. One group felt we should take no action on these proposals, but that the Regions should be encouraged to continue networking and consider the Calls to the Church.

- There was some confusion about what the Living into Right Relations network is, what its role is, what the cost is, and whether the network is effective and has had impact?
- There was concern about bringing something from the past into the new structure and balancing that with preserving what has existed that ensure this important work continues.
- Most groups expressed the view that adequate funding should be provided and that the work needs to continue in the new structure.
- There was concern about the capacity of staff.
- There was a strong sentiment that this settler work needs to happen nationally, regionally and locally.

- The work should not be imposed on the indigenous church, but rather be done through a framework developed with the indigenous church.

### **Suggested Way Forward:**

That the 43rd General Council affirm proposals ANW 06/BQ 02/TOR 01 and refer them to the General Secretary.

Moved: M. Bell

Seconded: W. Brown

CARRIED.

## **M&O 3 – ENHANCING RIGHT RELATIONS THROUGH THE USE OF INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES TO NAME OUR CHURCH**

### **What We Heard:**

- Most groups expressed affirming the spirit of recognizing local indigenous languages.
- They suggested this could be a regional or local initiative.
- Groups asked questions about practicalities such as: What language would we use as there are many indigenous languages? Would some languages be privileged over others?
- While the majority of the discussion in groups focused on implementation questions, in the end there was consensus for the proposed study.

### **Suggested Way Forward:**

That the 43rd General Council affirm proposal M&O 3 –  
Enhancing Right Relations Through The Use of Indigenous  
Languages to Name our Church, and direct it to the General  
Secretary for implementation.

Moved: K. Grant

Seconded: H. Johnson

Abstention: L.E. Moir

CARRIED.

## **SK 6 – MINISTERIAL TRAINING IN RESPONSE TO TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION CALL TO ACTION 60**

### **What We Heard:**

- All groups supported this proposal, and some wanted stronger language: changing “might encourage” to “encourage” or “will encourage”.
- Some groups felt that this educational formation is essential, not just for students but all ministry personnel through continuing education.
- There was acknowledgment that many theological schools are already working on this; there was some support for making courses on indigenous issues mandatory.
- Indigenous groups should have the right to self-determine their engagement with theological training schools, and

that indigenous groups should be consulted in the development of curriculum.

**Suggested Way Forward:**

That the 43rd General Council direct the General Secretary to encourage the United Church of Canada testamur-granting theological colleges and other educational bodies to develop concerted, timely and coordinated efforts to respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call to Action #60 in consultation with the Caretakers of the Indigenous Circle, the church's national indigenous organization and other appropriate bodies.

Moved: P. Thomas

Seconded: A. Gairns

CARRIED.

## **TOR 2 – TRC CALL 60/BLANKET EXERCISE**

### **What We Heard:**

- All groups expressed support for this proposal.
- This training is a first step and we need to find additional tools in consultation with the indigenous church; there is need for further training.
- There was concern for the impact of cost for rural churches as these courses are often in urban settings; it was suggested there is need for training in rural communities.
- There was a suggestion that this could be a regional responsibility or referred to the Office of Vocations, as well as other practical questions on implementation.

### **Suggested Way Forward:**

That the 43rd General Council affirm proposal TOR 2 – TRC Call 60/Blanket Exercise, including the recommendations from Toronto Conference and direct it to the General Secretary for implementation.

Moved: L. Standingready

Seconded: S. Eagle

CARRIED.