



Anglican Indigenous Network (AIN) Report for ACC18 - February 2023

*Tena koutou e nga mema o Te Haahi Mihinare Consultative Council.
This is the report of the activities of the AIN from 2020 to 2022*

Acknowledgements:

Dec. 2022, **Bishop Chris Harper** elected the Anglican Church of Canada's new national Indigenous Anglican Archbishop and presiding elder of the Sacred Circle.

Nov. 2022, AIN acknowledges the 4-years work relationship with **Jack Palmer-White**.

July 2022, **Rev. Rachel Taber-Hamilton** elected as Vice President of The Episcopal Church (TEC) - House of Deputies.

2021 New Years Honours, **Bishop Te Kitohi Pikaahu** appointed an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit, for services to the Anglican Church and Māori in Aotearoa, New Zealand.

Nov. 2020, **Dr Rose Elu** awarded the 2021 Queensland Senior Australian of the Year by Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk.

2020 – 2022, acknowledge all those who have passed during this traumatic period of COVID-19

2019-2022, acknowledge the work of **Archbishop Mark MacDonald** and Indigenous bishops & communities in crafting the foundational documents of the planned Indigenous Anglican Church.

Sep. 2019, acknowledge the hosts of the last AIN meeting held in Hawaii. The 2021 AIN meeting was cancelled because of COVID-19. The next AIN meeting is to held in Australia in July 2023.



2022 Lambeth Bishops Conference makes some space for Indigenous voice:

- Lambeth was attended by nine delegates and the AIN Chair, Bishop Kito;
- AIN networking meeting with Paul Tester (Latin America CMS Manager), & Indigenous Bishops from Argentina: +Mateo, +Cristansos, & ++Nick Drayson.
- ‘Prophetic Indigenous Voices on the Planetary Crisis’ films from Aotearoa & Polynesia + Amazonia screened at the University of Kent;
- Bishop Kito was a speaker in ‘Environment: Living with the 5th Mark of Mission;’
- Bishop Kito is a key speaker in the ‘Reconciliation’ plenary session;
- Lambeth Conference Eucharist Service held in Canterbury Cathedral – Rev Jacynthia Murphy blesses Archbishop Justin, & reads opening prayer in Māori;
- AIN delegates have reconnection lunch with Jack Palmer-White from ACO;
- Indigenous Prophetic Voices webinar working group dinner with Bishop Marc Andrus (TEC - California) & his wife Sheila, & ACEN & AA network members;
- The full 10-person AIN delegation present a seminar to Bishops at Lambeth;
- AIN seminar & Indigenous theological resources shared at Lambeth;
- Rev Neihana, Rev Te Karere & Waiora support the AIN Resource Centre Stand;
- AIN attends the Environment and Sustainable Development London Day event at Lambeth Palace – Rev Jacynthia provides a prayer during the tree planting;
- AIN members receive communion in the carpark at the Aotearoa/NZ Eucharist;
- AIN and Indigenous Bishops meet briefly with Archbishop Justin Welby.

Some key work by members of the AIN:

1. During the period 2020 to 2021, the AIN continued to gather regularly via zoom throughout the years however, because of COVID-19, did not meet as planned in Brisbane, Australia for their 2021 AIN gathering. A lot of the planned work for the AIN internationally was not able to be carried out because of COVID-19.
2. “The Sacred Circle,” the name of the self-determining Indigenous Anglican Church of Canada, which was enabled by the amendments to Canon XXII passed by General Synod in 2019, has progressed slowly since ++Mark MacDonald was stood down.
3. At TEC General Convention in July 2022, church’s executive council passed a resolution calling for a commission to investigate TEC’s involvement in Indigenous

boarding (residential) schools in the late 19th & early 20th centuries. TEC's General Convention also called for Indigenous land acknowledgements to be done at all church gatherings.

4. TEC Winter Talk Gathering, "A Chain Linking Two Traditions," was held virtually on January 15-16. The Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies participated, with the Oneida Nation being honoured on their 200th anniversary of affiliation with TEC, along with the premier of the video "Native Voices Speaking to the Church and the World."
5. TEC's Indigenous Ministries sponsored a team of Indigenous people attending the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Ministries in New York. Statements drafted and submitted to the Secretariat on the importance of Indigenous languages and the problem of Missing and Murdered Indigenous People in the United States.
6. TEC Office of Indigenous Ministries & Bexley Seabury Seminary in Chicago formed official partnership that was approved by the church's executive council, establishing a culturally sensitive and affordable theological education program for Indigenous theological students, both lay & ordained, to support & equip congregational leadership within Indigenous communities.
7. In July 2022 the AIN submits a report to the Special Rapporteur on Indigenous Peoples and the Right to Freedom of Religion or Belief.
8. AIN Chair & Chair of Te Runanga o Whakawhanaunga i Nga Haahi o Aotearoa (Māori Ecumenical Council) attends the WCC meeting in Germany.
9. Since the November 2020 AIN, ACEN & AA Network collaboration on the Advent webinars, 'Prophetic Indigenous Voices on the Planetary Crisis,'² the following work has resulted:
 - a. AIN/ACEN/AA working group proposed to Archbishop Justin Welby the creation of an Anglican Indigenous encyclical;
 - b. AIN/ACEN/AA working group received a response from Archbishop Justin Welby praising the work of the 4 Indigenous webinars & group;
 - c. The webinars and other resources coming out of the webinars were utilised for the COP26 Climate Change meeting in Glasgow, Scotland, in November 2021, and at the 2022 Lambeth Bishops Conference.
 - d. AIN continues the work with TEAC on the development of Anglican Church resources on Ecological Theology & Ethics.
 - e. Bishop Te Kitohi Pikaahu was invited as a representative on the Anglican Communion COP-26 Working Group.
 - f. North American representative for the AIN (Princess Daazraii Johnson (Gwich'in) from Fairbanks, Alaska) attended as one of the in-person ACC delegates at COP26 in Glasgow in November 2021, as well as Rev Jacynthia Murphy participating at COP26 via zoom.
 - g. Dr Rose Elu was the AIN representative to attend COP27 in Egypt in Nov.
 - h. Rev Dr Paul Reynolds (AIN Secretary) was selected as one of 4 of the ACC's registered delegates to attend and participate at the UNFCCC meeting in

Bonn, Germany (June 2022) - the first time that the ACC has participated in the intersessional meetings in this capacity.

i. Meet with the Interfaith Liaison Committee (ILC) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, with Henrik Grape, Co-Chair of ILC & World Council of Churches (Sweden), & Ms Sarwat Tasneem, ILC member based in Aotearoa, & Faith Advisor to UNFCCC.

j. St. John's Theological College in Auckland, Aotearoa/NZ, supporting the work of the AIN, has been proactive in advocating and making space for Indigenous theology through a network of researchers, establishing a research website (Te Piri Poho)³, & an inaugural journal to be released in September 2022 (Anglican Journal of Theology in Aotearoa and Oceania).

Future work - The AIN will work in a variety of areas including:

- Chair meeting with Indigenous Bishops and representatives around the world;
- Representation at the United Nations and with ACO;
- Continued project collaboration with ACEN & AA where appropriate;
- Standing in solidarity with the Indigenous Archbishop & Bishops of Canada, & the AIN chair will support by attending the next Sacred Circle;
- Being proactive in advocating and making space for Indigenous theology and voice internationally and within the Anglican Church;
- Supporting Indigenous mission, scholarship, and postgraduates, by providing access to a journal where Indigenous faith and theological voice is welcomed;
- Gathering for the next AIN meeting in Australia in July 2023.

Recommendations

1. Recommend that an Indigenous theologian be appointed to the Inter-Anglican Standing Commission on Unity, Faith and Order (IASCUFO).
2. Recommend that the AIN Chair be appointed to the ACC.
3. Recommend funding for the AIN for resourcing work such as translators / translation, for travel for the Chair to meet with Indigenous Bishops and representatives around the world, and for work toward raising Indigenous issues at the United Nations. This will enable the bringing together and better representing Indigenous voices of the Anglican Communion, which is a key role of the AIN that is unable to be fulfilled currently.
4. Recommend that the Anglican Church endorse the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (akin to the adoption of the 5 Marks of Mission).
 - a. The importance of an acknowledgement of the UNDRIP by the Archbishop of the Anglican Communion worldwide is a powerful symbolic gesture, very much like the apologies provided by Archbishop Justin Welby & Pope Francis to the Indigenous People of Canada in 2022.

b. The Anglican Church then needs to move from a symbolic gesture to action that proactively advocates Indigenous voice, knowledge and wisdom. The above first 3 recommendations would acknowledge the place & rights of Indigenous people & voice within the Communion.

c. Acknowledgement that what has happened to Indigenous people through colonisation (historic & contemporary) is 'genocide' – Pope Francis used the word on his recent visit to Canada in July 2022, & ++ Mark MacDonald used it in a Residential Schools article in 2021.

Kia tau te Rangimarie o te Atua ki a koutou.

God bless, and may the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

The Right Reverend Te Kītohi Pikaahu (ONZM), Bishop of Te Tai Tokerau, & AIN Chair.