

**Territory of the People**  
**Regional Gatherings**  
**October 16, 2021 – 10:00 and to 400 pm**

The Territory Assembly Delegates and people of the Territory, gathered together in three locations in the Territory, Ashcroft, Quesnel and Kamloops, and from other locations on-line.

The Gathering was live streamed from Kamloops via the St. Paul's Cathedral FaceBook page to the other locations and for those participating on-line.

Archbishop Lynne McNaughton facilitated the proceedings; guests attending include Archbishop Mark MacDonald, National Indigenous Bishop, and Bishop Mary Irwin-Gibson from our companion Diocese of Montreal.

Melissa Green welcomed everyone to this gathering both at the Cathedral, in regional locations and on-line, thanked Jon Fulton for providing the technology to live stream; Melissa acknowledged the Indigenous territory on which we gather, and the territories on which others are gathered today, and covered housekeeping items. Melissa outlined technological directions for accessing the FaceBook livestream and the Zoom links for conversation groups. Melissa welcomed Archbishop Lynne McNaughton

Archbishop Lynne McNaughton welcomed everyone and briefly outlined the schedule for the day

- Worship in small groups
- Greetings from +Mary
- Archbishop Mark MacDonald
- +Lynne's charge – gathered thoughts
- break
- conversation groups - recorded
- lunch 12:30ish
- +Mark – Healing and Reconciliation, locally and nationally
- Conversation groups - recorded
- Close with prayer

Lynne thanked everyone for the gift of their time today.

The Gathering opened with Morning Prayer from A Disciple's Prayer Book based on Luke 12:8-12

Archbishop Lynne: brought greetings by letter from our Primate Archbishop Linda Nicholls.

Bishop Mary Irwin Gibson brought greetings from the Diocese of Montreal, presented a financial gift and provided a history <sup>1</sup>of the relationship between the Diocese of Montreal and the Territory of the People - the first covenant was signed by Bishop Gordon Light and Bishop Barry Clarke at the Montreal Synod on October 24, 2008. Bishop Mary closed her presentation with a special prayer <sup>2</sup> written for us by the Montreal Partnership Committee.

Archbishop Mark MacDonald brought greetings and heartfelt prayers from Indigenous Christians across Canada and spoke to the deaths and tragedies in the Territory, and spoke later in the day on resurrection.

+Lynne's comments:

- a blessing to have +Mary and +Mark here, a huge encouragement to know the wider church is embracing us and holding us in prayer.
- Come and Find the Quiet Centre  
Explained the purpose of the day – work through the layers of grief in the hope we can move beyond that and move into a space where we understand who we are and where God is calling us to be.
- Where have we been? what is the change we are in the midst of? what does the future hold for us? what do we retain of our history and the past? and what do we let go of?
- In this time of change we need to engage in open ended conversation to understand what people need, what we are experiencing, what we hope for. Listen respectfully in our small groups, allowing room for the Spirit to move in us.
- Last night (October 15, 2021) the Coordinating Council met to fulfill the requirements of the BC Society, and to begin the process to move forward to an Electoral Assembly. Today is an opportunity to move into what our future may hold for us.
- We need to lament our losses, it's important to grieve and lament so we can move forward. Engage in honest open conversation about all that has happened to us, climate change, and it's affects on our communities, the pandemic, racism, trauma of the residential schools, the loss of bishop... we need to lament all these losses and move into a new future.
- Five Marks of Mission – remembering our mission; being in liminal space which is the time between the past and the future, liminal uncertainty – what we were, what we are becoming, how do we cooperate with God and trust God to provide for us? The message of the angels “fear not.”
- People of the Territory are a people of resilience. We have been through trauma and tragedy before and have risen to a new being together.

The gatherings moved into triad groups on Zoom, in Ashcroft, Quesnel, Kamloops and others participating on-line – we were encouraged to listen respectfully, no advice, no judging.

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<sup>1</sup> Territory of the People and Diocese of Montreal, history of the Companion Relationship

<sup>2</sup> Prayer for the Territory of the People from the Diocese of Montreal Partnership Committee

Question 1. Who are we now? Who is our neighbour – focussing on our mission.

Question 2. What have we learned from our experience?

Question 3. What re-shaping or changing do we need to work on because of what we have learned?

*Grace was said and Lunch provided for the Kamloops group by Elaine Parkes and Rae Long*

Archbishop Lynne gathered us back and read some of the responses to questions 2 and 3

People were encouraged to have a conversation about the responses we heard.

Archbishop Mark MacDonald presentation: reconciliation, healing circles

- Thinks about the Gospel a lot, personal and corporate practise.
- We gather together through the Gospel, following the example of our ancestors, based on truth and spirit.
- Elders make the Gospel central to who they are, place the Gospel in the centre of the Sacred Circle, truth for Indigenous and non Indigenous peoples equally. God has made us all a Sacred Circle. God has made us each of us individually and communally unique – the Gospel in the centre, the agent for change among the people of God, the Good News. 2 or 3 gathered together God is present to us in Jesus.
- We read the Gospel again and expounded on it.
- Blaspheme – desecration of the Holy by the way we live, the things we do, not hallowing God's name.
- Where the Territory is today is not only a great challenge but a spectacular opportunity, what we do, how we move forward will have a tremendous impact on the rest of the church... we are breaking trail!
- We are not here to receive something from the church, but what we are called to give.
- Revelation of 215 children in Kamloops has caused trauma across the nation, the church must live in such a way, that the desecration of the holy must be undone.
- Accept the situation we find ourselves in and know that God is here to help us.
- Recognize the Sacred Circle, but the number one thing is to understand, believe and trust the presence of God is with us. **We are the epicentre of pain and trauma, but we are also at the epicentre of blessing.**
- The most important thing in any situation is to gather as disciples and put the Gospel in the centre.
- When we come together as the people of God, we must know God promised to be with us in the presence of Jesus.
- As people of God, we must meet on a regular basis, listen to the Gospel and pray.
- **Exhorting us to grasp the urgency of this moment and the promise of this moment and engage in the Gospel in the centre of our circle.**

- **It's important to remember God does the heaviest lifting.**
- Indigenous culture in the Anglican Church
- A Privilege and an honour to have John Haugen with us today, who has been instrumental with his work locally and nationally in the creation of the spiritual infrastructure of the self determination of the Indigenous church.
- To make the living word of God real in the Indigenous culture – how do we do this?
- The colossal failure of colonialization of the Indigenous peoples into western culture, of which residential schools are just a small part.
- The principles of Indigenous culture in the life of the church: constitution/covenant; canons/our way of life;
- Hope for a way of being themselves in the midst of the Anglican church which they love in spite of the hiccups along the way.
- Indigenous governance creates differences: different view points in the governance, border/boundaries versus relationships; we operate in different ways; co-existing will be less trouble than most people worry about; example is the Territory of the People.
- Have found ways to come together and inspire others to become themselves in their different communities.
- Borders and boundaries and jurisdictions affect relationships.
- Very exciting time in the life of the church
- Anglican Council of Indigenous People (ACIP) – John Haugen has been a part of for 6-7 years – working on this for a while, as has Sacred Circle – Self Determination Plan will be brought again to Sacred Circle in November, and will then be shared with the wider church. Gathering in Ontario in May and fulfill the covenant in the Eucharist. Will form the basis on how we live together.
- Lots of (bad) stuff in front of us, but lots of good stuff too...

Question for triad groups: What stood out for you? What did you hear God saying to you?

Responses were shared and questions asked and answered.

More Questions:    Next steps for the Territory of the People; what do we take away with us today?  
                          What does God call us to do now?

Archbishop Lynne offered closing remarks – take what we learned today to our parishes for further discussion.

Thanks were extended to:

- Canon Margaret Mitchell, Office Coordinator for the Territory of the People, for note taking and administrative preparation for the weekend
- Jon Fulton – videographer – enabling the regions to participate
- Melissa Green – technical assistance with the broadcast and collating answers to the questions from the groups

- Rev Canon Len Fraser, Administrator for the Territory of the People, for his work in preparing for the weekend and facilitating the Zoom group conversations
- Elaine Parkes & Rae Long who provided lunch at the Cathedral in Kamloops; and for others who provided lunch in other locations
- Archbishop Mark MacDonald – for his presence with us, for his excellent presentations
- Bishop Mary Irwin Gibson, our companion partner the Diocese of Montreal, for her presentation of our partnership history and her presence here among us.
- Regional Deans:
  - The Rev Angus Muir – hosting and facilitating the group in Ashcroft
  - The Rev Jo Ann Hinter – hosting and facilitating the group in Quesnel
- For all who participated, clergy and lay delegates, people of the Territory participating in person and on-line for their time and energy

Archbishop Lynne commented the Sunday Worship for the Territory will be live streamed from St Paul's Cathedral – with Archbishop Mark Presiding, and Archbishop Lynne preaching; Bishop Mary & Archbishop Lynne will be signing the covenant for the next five years.

Hymn was sung: Come and Find the Quiet Centre

Closing Prayer

Archbishop Mark gave two quotes:

1. Rabbi Maimonides – describing the struggles of the people in the desert, “Once the people declared their willingness to hear God’s word and came to understand its depth and significance no hurdle would be too inconvenient; for a trivial goal any hardship is great, for a great goal any hardship is trivial.”
2. Revelations 1:9 – Where John says to the churches and to us: “I, John, share with you in the persecution (tribulation, the suffering and pain, and I also share with you in the kingdom, and in the patience.” Those three things John saw as an aspect of our discipleship, we would experience tribulation, we would be like Jesus, we would suffer. But one day we walk on the water and are part of the kingdom, the next day we would be crucified... that’s to be following Jesus, that’s what discipleship is. We oftentimes are looking for one or the other, and mostly looking for the kingdom, but we share in the suffering, we share in the kingdom, and one of the keys to staying in both is the patience. Let us have great goals, and let us learn how to both suffer and feel the kingdom at the same time.

Archbishop Mark gave his Episcopal Blessing in English and in Cree