

DREAMING NEW RELATIONSHIPS FOR THE INDIGENOUS CHURCH



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NATIONAL INDIGENOUS SPIRITUAL GATHERING

- Carries forward the role and responsibilities of the National Aboriginal Spiritual Gathering
- Oversees the work of the Indigenous church, meeting every three years with approximately 150 participants and guests
- Appoints the members of the National Indigenous Elders' Council and the National Indigenous Organization
- Will include more urban Indigenous representatives

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS ELDERS' COUNCIL

- A new advisory body, 8 members
- Appointed by the National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering
- Provides spiritual guidance to other councils and bodies of the church, including the General Council, the Moderator, the Office of Vocation, and the National Indigenous Organization

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS ORGANIZATION

- Appointed by the National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering, 8–10 members
- Provides policy direction for the Indigenous church
- Assumes the responsibilities of the Aboriginal Ministries Council
- Takes on additional responsibilities for
 - Indigenous stewardship (including Mission Support Grants for all Indigenous communities of faith)
 - Appointments from the Indigenous church to the Executive of the General Council, regional councils, and the Indigenous Office of Vocation (i.e. to the Board of Vocation and Indigenous Candidacy Board [Council on Learning])

INDIGENOUS OFFICE OF VOCATION

- **Office of Vocation Minister for Indigenous Communities of Faith:**
 - A new position, within the new Office of Vocation
 - Advised by the National Indigenous Elders' Council
- **Indigenous Candidacy Board (Council on Learning):**
 - A commission of the new Board of Vocation, min. 6 members
 - Named by the National Indigenous Organization, and advised by the National Indigenous Elders' Council
 - Oversees training and candidacy pathway of Indigenous candidates for ministry
- **Indigenous representation on Board of Vocation**
 - 13- to 15-member board establishes policy and standards for ministry personnel in The United Church of Canada
 - 1 member will be appointed by the National Indigenous Organization

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS ORGANIZATION STAFF

- Supports the Indigenous church from the General Council Office
- Assumes the responsibilities of the Aboriginal Ministries Circle
- Addition of 1 full-time Community Capacity Development Coordinator (CCDC); all 3 CCDCs will be regionally based

INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES OF FAITH

- Have “dual belonging”: fully belong to both the National Indigenous Organization and a region that they choose and covenant with
- Also belong to informal clusters and networks of local Indigenous communities of faith for fellowship, mutual support, and collaboration