

## **Indigenous Justice Advisory Group**

**Origin: National Indigenous Council**

**Approved March 16, 2019**

For transmission to the 2019 National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering

*This document has been prepared in collaboration with the Committee on Indigenous Justice and Residential Schools. The National Indigenous Council commends this work to the Executive of General Council for its review and approval. Further, it is recommended that the Indigenous Justice Advisory Group be launched at the 2019 National Indigenous Spiritual Gathering.*

### **Purpose Statement**

The Indigenous Justice Advisory Group (Advisory Group), will advise the National Indigenous Council and the General Council Executive of The United Church of Canada on matters related to Indigenous justice, the legacy of residential schools, and the Calls to Action issued by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. This will encompass legal requirements, pastoral care, communication, healing, advocacy, education, reflection, spiritual renewal, and building right relations.

Through the advice it provides, the Advisory Group will demonstrate a commitment to promoting right relationships within the denomination, ecumenically and in Canadian society. It will remind The United Church of Canada that the ministry of healing and reconciliation belongs to the whole church. Faithful consideration will be given to the many good steps taken. It will be informed and guided by the legacy of work of the Committee on Indigenous Justice and Residential Schools and the All Native Circle Conference's Council on Healing and Respect.

### **Terms of Reference**

- 1) The Advisory Group is accountable to the National Indigenous Council and the General Council Executive, and responsible for providing advice on:
  - a) all issues related to residential schools and related institutions, including pastoral concerns, communications, alternate dispute resolution possibilities, healing and reconciliation initiatives and financial planning;
  - b) ways that the church should live out its apologies, through theological reflection and Indigenous knowledge and wisdom; and through education and advocacy for Indigenous justice issues including but not limited to land, rights, treaties, the impacts of colonialism, and racism and white privilege;
  - c) How the whole church can address the 94 Calls to Action issued by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, June 2015;
- 2) The Advisory Group will:
  - a) Provide advice as requested to the National Indigenous Council and the General Council Executive
  - b) Work in partnership with the National Indigenous Council and collaborate with KAIROS, other ecumenical and denominational partners, and Indigenous organizations; submit full reports and recommendations as required to the General Secretary and to each meeting of the Executive of the General Council as well as to the National Indigenous Council;

## **Membership**

The Advisory Group will comprise three (3) Settler/Newcomer and three (3) Indigenous members, for a total of six (6) members. Committee members will have a good awareness of Indigenous justice issues and familiarity with the legacy of the Indian Residential School System. Members will possess a working knowledge of The United Church of Canada's history as it pertains to Indigenous ministry and justice.

Considerations for determining membership:

1. Two (2) young adults – one Indigenous and one Settler/Newcomer
2. One (1) past member of the All Native Circle Conference, Council on Healing and Respect.
3. Other - 3 remaining seats are for 2 Settler/Newcomer and 1 Indigenous

The National Indigenous Council will determine the appointments of 1 Indigenous young adult; 1 past member of the All Native Circle Conference's Council on Healing and Respect; and 1 additional Indigenous member. The Executive of General Council will determine the appointment of 1 Settler/Newcomer young adult and 2 Settler/Newcomers.

Two co-chairs, one Indigenous and one Settler/Newcomer, will be appointed by the Working Group.

## **Meetings**

Upon its establishment, the Advisory Group may decide to meet face-to-face for the purpose of creating relationships and clarity on its roles and responsibilities. Following that, meetings will be primarily held by video conference (Skype for Business, Zoom, or Adobe Connect).

Time commitments:

- a) A minimum of bi-monthly video conference call (2 hours).
- b) Possibility of evening and weekend meetings.
- c) Members may be called upon to represent the Advisory Group at regional meetings, gatherings, or meetings with representatives of government, Indigenous organizations or other churches and to participate in short-term project-oriented task groups.