

NEW 05 INDIGENOUS SOVEREIGNTY PROPOSAL

Origin: Eileen Antone, Russel Burns, Teresa Burnett-Cole, Evelyn Day, Donna Kennedy, and Janet Root

1. What is the issue?

This proposal comes in response to the Letter from the General Secretary of August 15th, dissolving the National Indigenous Council. In light of the Remit, the Indigenous United Church believes that the General Secretary overstepped his authority in dissolving the National Indigenous Council.

2. Why is this issue important?

At the moment, the trust between the General Council Administration and the Indigenous Church is broken. Correction of this action would assure the self-determination of the Indigenous Church and correct, or change, the colonial process of the United Church Administration.

3. How might the General Council respond to the issue?

- a. The General Council could suspend immediately the decision to dissolve the National Indigenous Council – the self-determined leadership of the Indigenous United Church.**
- b. Furthermore, the General Council could assure that all future decisions affecting the Indigenous Church be made in collaboration with the National Indigenous Council until GC45.**
- c. The Indigenous church requests that a commissioned committee of three Indigenous and two non-Indigenous people conduct a review of the administration and provide a report with a proposal of both immediate and ongoing changes in response to the Church's commitment to reconciliation for GC45.**

4. What will be the impact?

This action would ensure the self-determination of the Indigenous Church and begin to repair the damage done to the relationship between the General Council Office and the Indigenous church. Furthermore, it would signal to the entire Indigenous United Church that the Remit was not simply lip service, and the church is able to follow through on the principles agreed upon at General Council 43 when it approved the National Indigenous Organization.

5. How does the proposal help us live into the commitment on equity?

The Indigenous church has been assured via the Remit that they have autonomy in decision-making concerning the Indigenous church. This proposal would restore their autonomy.

6. For the body transmitting this proposal to the General Council Executive: