

## Indigenous Church Update

July 2025

The role of indigenous members of the Anglican Church of Canada (ACC) has been evolving since the Church ran residential schools across Canada. Work towards a self-determining Indigenous Church within the ACC has been ongoing since the mid-1990s. In 2007, the National Indigenous Archbishop was inducted and in 2010 a national church law (or Canon) was added to establish the self-determining church.

At Sacred Circle (the national synod of the Indigenous Church) in 2019 their initial governing documents were finalized and signed. *The Covenant* and *Our Way of Life* are the basis upon which all current and future work will be based and include a strong emphasis on Gospel-based discipleship. Current focusses include ministry and mission, administration and stewardship, and putting the governance structures into place. As indigenous people across Canada are incredibly diverse in culture, language and lived experience, one of the big next steps will be to extend the reach of the Indigenous Church to connect with more Indigenous Anglicans in urban and less predominantly indigenous settings. How the non-Indigenous and Indigenous Anglican churches will structure their relationship is ongoing.

I had the privilege to be introduced to this during General Synod in 2023 and look forward to seeing how this and the rest of the Church continues to evolve.

Rebecca

Detailed story of self-determining church

Video: [Reclaiming Our Spiritual Wholeness: Our Journey to Self-Determination](#)

Document: <https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/our-story-of-self-determination-SINGLE.pdf>

Video history of colonization focusing on the Doctrine of Discovery referenced in the 94 Calls to Action created by the ACC <https://www.anglican.ca/primate/tfc/drj/doctrineofdiscovery/>

The Covenant and Our Way of Life: [https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/SC-covenant-owol\\_single.pdf](https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/SC-covenant-owol_single.pdf)