

Province VIII Winter Talk Report

January 16 – 18, 2015

Reno, Nevada

Friday, January 16:

The theme for Winter Talk 2015 was “Indigenous Women in Church Leadership.” Winter Talk began on Friday, January 16th at 12:00 p.m. or high noon. The start of ceremonies at noon is culturally significant to many indigenous peoples, including native Hawaiians, for various cultural reasons. All participants gathered in the “Spirit of the Circle” where the Rev. Deacon Reynelda James, tribal Paiute elder confirmed to the permanent diaconate in the Diocese of Nevada welcomed all of the returning participants from past Winter Talks. Reno and its surrounding communities are home to the Pyramid Lake Band Paiute Nation. Members of the Nation attend primarily two churches: St. Mary’s, which is in Nixon (on the reservation) and St. Michael’s, which is in Wadsworth (bordering the reservation). After her welcome prayer, James stated that she said that she was very happy that Province VIII chose Reno, which is close to them, some people do not like to travel on planes. “We’re all related somehow in our spiritual lives,” she said, and that she has in the past “met priests and lay people [at these Winter talks] and they become your family.” She also added that “Winter Talk is education, learning experience, [and is] very valuable to me.”

As the altar was built, each participant came forward and placed items of spiritual significance to them, their families, and/or their communities. At the same time, each participant provided background information on themselves and the objects that they brought with them.



**Geneva Chimburas (Ute) and the completed Altar
Winter Talk 2015**

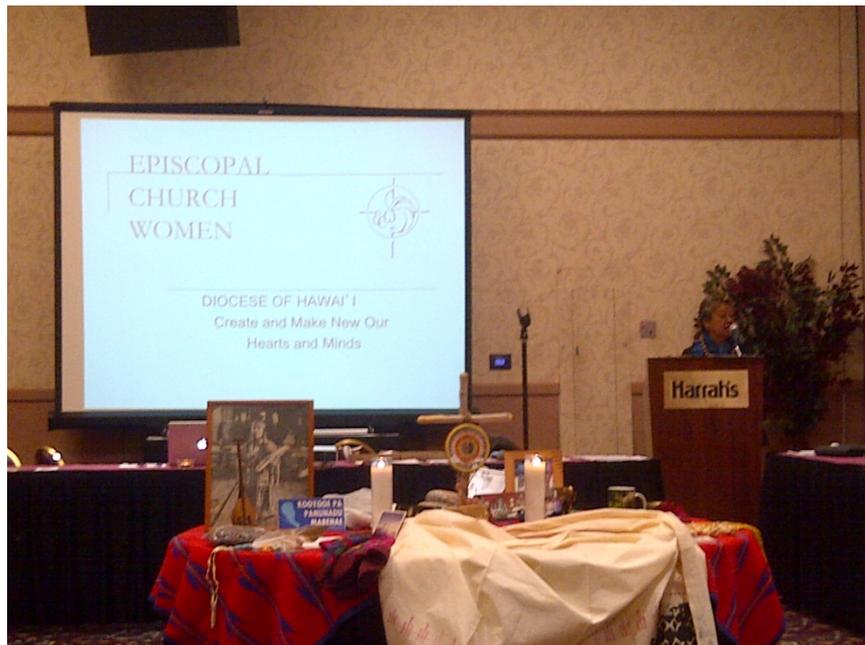


**Rev. Deacon Lewis Powell (Cherokee),
Indigenous Ministries Missioner, Diocese of Northern California**



Ron Braman (E. Shoshone) and his niece Vanessa

After the altar was completed, the group had dinner. Following dinner, the group listened to a presentation by Louise Aloy (Native Hawaiian), former President of the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) in the Diocese of Hawai`i, and newly elected incoming President of ECW for Province VIII. The presentation provided indigenous women with the important role that women play in the life of the Church through its many activities at the local, provincial, and national level. Ms. Aloy encouraged more native women to be involved and actively participate and provided her own experiences as a native woman why she decided to participate in the ECW. After Ms. Aloy's presentation, the group concluded with an early evening prayer service.



Louise Aloy (Native Hawaiian)

Saturday, January 8, 2011:

The first full day of the provincial Winter Talk began with a short DVD prepared by the Office of the National Indigenous Bishop of Canada about the installation in June of 2014 of the first female Bishop of native ancestry, the Rt. Rev. Lydia Mamakwa (Oji-Cree), in the newly created Diocese of Mishamikoweesh, which means "Big Beaver House" in Ojibway. Due to unavoidable scheduling conflicts, Bishop Lydia was not able to attend our Winter Talk in person, and so the taped highlights of her installation was played for viewing and discussion.

Centered in Kingfisher Lake, 500 km north of Thunder Bay, Mishamikoweesh is home to the Kingfisher First Nation, an Oji-Cree community in Northern Ontario, and encompasses more than 25 First Nations communities in northwestern Ontario and northern Manitoba.



The Rt. Rev. Lydia Mamakwa

The installation service was held in a school gymnasium that had been transformed for the occasion with red and white banners, garlands and a profusion of flowers around the altar. Archbishop Fred Hiltz, primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, offered the homily. Archbishop David Ashdown, metropolitan of the ecclesiastical province of Rupert's Land, formally seated Mamakwa as bishop and blessed the episcopal chair. National Indigenous Bishop Mark MacDonald participated and offered a reflection. The service was in English and Oji-Cree. Bishops from across the country attended, along with many members of the Kingfisher Lake First Nation.

Hiltz began by holding up a pair of moccasins that Mamakwa gave him at General Synod 2013 in Ottawa. "I am wearing them today, recalling that wonderful moment when General Synod gave concurrence to the creation of an indigenous diocese in northern Ontario," he said. "Carved out of the diocese of Keewatin, it would be self-determining with respect to its leadership, ministry and decision-making. It was a historic and a joyful moment." Hiltz spoke of Mamakwa as a "woman of great compassion." He told those gathered that "she has a heart for you—for your delights and your struggles, your joys and your sorrows, your sufferings and your hopes." "On this day of new beginnings, let us strive to make love the mark of our common life," Hiltz said—love for children, parents, young people and elders, a love that is rooted in Jesus's own ministry. "This love is not mere social service and is not mere political movement. No, it is the gospel," he said. "It's a gospel movement in which we must be socially minded and yes, politically motivated, so as to protect our people's rights and dignities."



The Rt. Rev. Lydia Mamakwa with Donna Bomberry, former co-ordinator for the indigenous ministries for the Anglican Church of Canada, and the Rt. Rev. Mark MacDonald, National Indigenous Bishop of Canada

Bishop Mamakwa said she draws inspiration and strength for the work ahead by thinking of the elders and those who have passed on. "This was their vision. They wanted a native bishop and a native diocese. And I feel like I have been called to start to open up this journey for them," she said. Asked what are the biggest challenges facing the new diocese, Mamakwa spoke of setting up an executive council to be a governing body, along with establishing a council of elders. Geography, however, remains the biggest challenge, she said. "We are in an isolated area...None of the villages I look after, except one, is accessible by road, so that is a huge challenge," she said, also mentioning related financial challenges.



**Rev. Debbie Royals (Pasqua/Yaqui),
Director, Native American Ministries, Diocese of Arizona**

The Rev. Debbie Royals (Pasqua Yaqui), newly appointed Director of Native American Ministries in the Diocese of Arizona informed the group about her newly created position in the Diocese by Bishop Kirk Smith, the work she is currently involved in, and extended a warm invitation to the participants to have next year's Winter Talk to be held in Arizona in 2016.



Rev. Malcolm Naea Chun (Native Hawaiian)

The Rev. Dr. Malcolm Naea Chun (Native Hawaiian) provided participants with an introduction to Indigenous Based Gospel Discipleship (IBGD), which is a slight differentiation on Gospel Based Discipleship (GBD), which many Indigenous Episcopalian communities are familiar with.

Afternoon session:

The afternoon was spend viewing the DVD "We are Here," DVD produced by Paul Nahoia Lucas through a grant from the Church, which discusses the implications for native peoples following the passage of DO 35 at the Church's General Convention in 2009. DO 35 formally recognizes the Church's repudiation of the European Doctrine of Discovery. While passage of the church resolution was celebrated by Native Tribes and tribal communities nationwide, it received little or no attention from the Church and its members. The DVD is designed to educate members of the Church of the profound implications for the Church and the native members of its church. The DVD consists of selected interviews with the Rev. Dr. Martin Brokenleg at the 2010 Province VIII Winter Talk in Auburn, Washington, the Rt. Rev. Mark

MacDonald, National Indigenous Bishop, Anglican Church in Canada, at the 2010 national Winter Talk in Poarch Creek, Alabama, and the Rev. Canon Ginny Doctor, Diocese of Alaska, at the 2009 General Convention.

Bishop MacDonald emphasized that native people are people who have refused to sever the living relationship with the land. They serve as a "prophetic witness" about human life, the "God-given communion with Creation," and Jesus' communion with water. The Rev. Dr. Martin Brokenleg spoke on the origin of the Doctrine of Discovery, and about how it began in early discussions between the Portuguese and Spaniards over whether Native people in the "New World...have souls." Papal edicts stated that if land is not owned by European Christians then it is considered vacant. This European thinking was carried over to the United States in Supreme Court decision enunciated by Chief Justice John Marshall, who declared that Native American tribes were "domestic dependent nations." This "Right of Discovery" allowed European colonizers the justification to own, rule and exploit anyway they wanted to do. The doctrine of discovery, Brokenleg states, validates racism. The Rev. Canon Ginny Doctor shared that an elder told her "we have forgotten how to dream because so much has been taken from us." Reverend Doctor said that it is important to "reclaim" what was taken from us.

Sharon Pasula, Oskâpêwis (Metis), Aboriginal Cultural & Educational Helper for the Diocese of Edmonton in Canada presented on the challenges posed with increasing awareness and essentially getting the message of the Doctrine of Discovery to those communities who need to know, both native and non-native, and especially those outlying rural communities who have never heard of this message. The presentation also included strategies for overcoming those communication and distribution challenges. After viewing the shortened version of the DVD *We Are Here*, the audience engaged in discussion.

At the end of the day, all participants unanimously voted to adopt several resolutions calling: 1) to congratulate Bishop Dan Edwards of the Diocese of Nevada for supporting the Province VIII Winter Talks in Nevada since 2011 and for raising up new leaders in the Church, especially indigenous leaders Reynelda James and Rose Mary Joe Kinale to minister among all peoples, including those of native ancestry; 2) to also congratulate Bishop Kirk Smith of the Diocese of Arizona for creating a position of Director of Native Ministries within the Diocese to serve as a clearing house for native American issues in the Diocese, and to encourage other Diocese within the Province to "follow the lead of the Diocese of Arizona and appoint Directors of Native American Ministries in each of their respective Diocese that comprise Province VIII to meet the needs of Native American members of the Church who reside in their diocese;" 3) to support the Diocese of Hawai`i in its petition to add Her Royal Highness Queen Lili`uokalani to the Holy Women Holy

Men Calendar in the Church, and to begin that process at the upcoming 78th General Convention in Salt Lake City; and 4) to “urge our Church through its investment relationships with the nation’s business community to call to action a plan of partnership lead by our Church, our nation’s businesses and our tribal governments that will explore and create jobs for Native Americans, especially for our young people, on their reservations where poverty, social ills, drugs and high unemployment kept our people from being contributors to their people and communities.”

A complete copy of the resolutions are attached to this Report.



The Rev. Rose Mary Joe-Kinale and the Rev. Deacon Reynelda James posing for pictures with their families at 2015 Province VIII Winter Talk

Sunday, January 18, 2015:



Indigenous Women Leading Worship at the Eucharist

(L-R: Rev Debbie Royals, Rev. Deacon Reynelda James, Rev. Anne Scissons, Rev. Rose Mary Joe-Kinale, and Rev. Anne Frank)

The Provincial VIII Winter Talk closed on Sunday with a celebration of the Holy Eucharist led by the Rev. Anne Frank, retired priest from the Diocese of Alaska, and the first woman of native American ancestry ordained to the priesthood in the Episcopal Church. The Sermon was preached by the Rev. Rose Mary Joe Kinale, Shoshone/Paiute elder and newly ordained to the Priesthood in August 2014 for the Diocese of Oregon.

Rev. Debbie Royals invited Province VIII to co-sponsor the 2016 Winter Talk in the Diocese of Arizona at the Casino Del Sol in Tuscon, Arizona. Province VIII would share the sponsorship with the Diocese of Arizona and the federally recognized Pascua Yaqui Tribe of southern Arizona.



Some of the PVIII Winter Talk participants pose for a photo