

A word from Bishop Jane regarding prayer for the proposed formation of a self-determining Indigenous church at General Synod 2019:

When I think of self-determination in terms of the indigenous church, I see it as a way of people being honoured and respected for who they are as children of God. It's an acknowledgement that God has been speaking over many generations to the peoples of this land. Self-determination is a spiritual movement, it is a way of putting things in right relations.

To be a self-determining church means that ways of making decisions, ordinations, leadership, liturgies are, or will be, developed in a way that is decided by the people themselves led by the gospel at the centre and taking full respect and the fullness of traditional spirituality. This is a momentous piece of work in the Synod building upon the work of the National Indigenous Anglican Bishop, the formation of new dioceses and indigenous leadership across the whole of the county. I believe that the work done so far with the Vision Keepers, the Leadership Circle, Sacred Circle, the Jubilee Commission and the Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery has laid the foundations for our walk together.

It is my deepest hope that General Synod 2019 will be an historic event in seeing a self-determining Indigenous church come into being. It's a joyful road. When we look back over the past 12 years here in this diocese we can see massive shifts in our walking together with our Indigenous brothers and sister. We are living in a time of change and transformation. There will need to be new conversations and a different view of diocesan boundaries and authority of leaders that is more flexible and consultative. This is a different way of being church and we are going to have to spend a lot of time talking together and being patient with one another.

+Jane

Prayers from [Kairos](#) resources:

God, reconciliation is a big word,
Help me to always listen with my heart,
as well as my ears.
Help me to see with my heart,
as well as my eyes.
Help me to speak the truth,
and to listen for the truth
And then I will be on the path towards reconciliation.
Amen

Gracious and loving God, forgive us for what we have done
and what we have left undone in our country's journey with Indigenous Peoples.

Our failure to live up to the treaties,
to live up to the dignity of all peoples,
to live up to your dreams of justice
have created a rupture in our nation and a deep wound in our hearts.

Bring us a change of heart, a restored will,
and a deepened resolve for a renewed and hopeful future.*

With your enabling and empowering love,
help us to begin to live in honour and mutual respect.

Write this covenant of right relations on each of our hearts,
and through the power of your Spirit,
make it an enduring bond of love and justice.

In the name of the One who loved every person, every creature, into being, we pray.
Amen.

* Walter Brueggemann, *Like Fire in the Bones*, ed. Patrick Miller (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2006), 152.