

Kaua'i Hawai'i 1999

Five delegations representing the People of the Land in Aotearoa (NZ), Australia, Canada, the continental United States, and Hawai'i gathered on September 8, 1999 on Kaua'i, fourth largest of the Hawaiian Islands, for the seventh meeting of AIN. After an opening Eucharist, the host delegation, the Commission On Native Hawaiian Ministry, convened the Network's three day formal meeting on the morning of September 9 at All Saints' parish in Kapa'a where each delegation reported on the ministry of their constituency since the previous 1997 gathering in Canada. The afternoon session was given over to reports on matters carried over from 1997 which included reports from the working group of heads of native theological training institutions, the group working on the development of native theology and the bishops in the Network on the jurisdiction of indigenous bishops. This was followed by the presentation of papers on the native spirituality of the constituents of each delegation.

In the remaining sessions, the mode shifted to the future of AIN. Where do we go from here? What tasks do we need to undertake in the upcoming direction of AIN? It was agreed: 1) to appoint Whatarangi Winiata of Aotearoa as AIN's voice at the upcoming ACC meeting in September 1999 [click to see ACC resolution] when AIN will seek recognition as an Anglican Indigenous Network with observer status and support in funding; 2) to the establishment of the following working groups: prayer and support, communications, youth participation, women's concerns; 3) to distribute Bishop Macdonald's paper on the authority and jurisdiction of bishops for discussion in the constituencies and to appointment a working group to follow up; 4) to expand participation in the Network by inviting other minority indigenous people to participate as observers at the meeting in Cairns in 2001; 5) to have Bishop Vercoe coordinate AIN administration in collaboration with member constituencies until our next meeting in 2001; 6) to encourage each delegation to make contributions as their budgets allow to a special AIN account in Bishop Vercoe's office to help with administrative expenses until 2001.