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THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
L'ÉGLISE UNIE DU CANADA

August 16, 2016

When a group of GO Project and other young adults came to the General Council office in July, I took part in the [Blanket Exercise](#) with them. This exercise, created by [KAIROS Canada](#), provides a brief but powerful way for participants to “live through” the Indigenous history of Canada as different roles are acted out.



I have taken part in several versions of the Blanket Exercise, and it is worthwhile each time because the reactions and reflections of each group of participants offer new meaning. This time in the conversation afterwards, Victoria Vickers said, “I just don’t understand how people can treat other people as if they are somehow lesser beings. How can that be?”

I didn’t have an answer for her that day, and I still don’t, but I have thought of her question many times. There is no explanation, so perhaps the only answer is to

remember the things that must not be repeated, and to act in ways that offer a different path.

On August 20, I'll be joining Moderator Jordan Cantwell and many others who will gather in Sudbury, Ontario at the cairn that marks the place where [former Moderator Bob Smith](#) offered the [United Church's Apology](#) to Aboriginal people 30 years ago, in response to a request voiced by Alberta Billie, a member of the [Laichwiltach We Wai kai Nation](#). Both of them will be amongst those gathered in Sudbury, and many others across the church and across the country will be offering prayers for the hurts done, and the [hope for reconciliation](#).

Peace and blessings,

Nora

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