

Walking Together in Covenant DO's and DON'Ts

*Script used as part of the Walking Together in Covenant presentation 2 July 2022 at Box Hill Town Hall
UCA VicTas Synod 2022 "Arise, Come With Me"*

Denise: So much of the work of Second Peoples in Walking Together, means we need to unlearn what we thought we knew, and to learn, and relearn. And we're all in a different place on the journey. And we need cultural guides and mentors. So what are some things that could help us along the way?

Denise: So Alison, what are some of the DOs and DON'Ts of Walking Together, some things we should ... DO?

Alison: Use the UAICC Logo and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flags to show where First Nations peoples are supported and welcome. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Flags on churches are Deadly!

Denise: DON'T ...

Alison: Use them if it is the only change you are willing to make: like you are never expecting them to show up! Haha!

Denise: DO ...

Alison: Ask First Nations people that you know are attending your worship service or community gathering if they would like to do the Acknowledgement of Country

Denise: DON'T ...

Alison: assume that they will, or won't, want to. And if they are happy to do the Acknowledgement, DON'T expect them to be brief about it. Acknowledgements of Country are not something to be checked-off and rushed through. Allow for people to take time with it, and allow space in the service for reflection. Don't miss the opportunity to have a closing prayer that reflects the Acknowledgement!

Denise: ALWAYS ...

Alison: Have cultural resources on hand for lay people and children.

Denise: NEVER ...

Alison: Be afraid to use dreaming stories in worship

Denise: ALWAYS ...

Alison: Note significant dates for First Nations People in the Liturgical Calendar. Be intentional about Australia Day, NAIDOC Week and Reconciliation weeks, and other significant dates.

Denise: NEVER ...

Alison: Leave it till the last minute, and don't approach speakers as an after-thought! These are busy seasons for our mob, and we are often thinly stretched and over-committed. Be intentional. Have some foresight and invite them a month ahead to help you prepare the community for a more engaged response during these weeks!

Denise: So what are a few basic tips to make First Nations people more comfortable in approaching our churches?

Alison: Plant bush tucker, create inviting outdoor spaces, fire pits, natural play spaces, and use them regularly!

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