



Northeastern Jurisdiction Native American Ministries Committee of the United Methodist Church

April 10, 2024

2020-2024 Quadrennium Report of the NEJNAMC

As with most ministries faced with the many challenges of COVID 19 at the beginning of the Quadrennium, the NEJNAMC pivoted to working virtually in all respects. The incoming Chairperson, Pat Parent, was also shortly confronted with the sudden and unexpected death of her husband, Rev. Peter Parent. Despite this deep personal loss and the steep digital learning curve, Pat pressed on and with the help of other Executive Committee members, began virtual meetings to carry on the work.

The 2020 Annual Gathering was held virtually as we thanked our previous leadership. A team was organized to define our Action Plan for the quadrennium. We committed to developing a statement in support of LGBTQIA+ persons with an emphasis on the Two-Spirit experience throughout our First Nations' history. Helpful advocacy tools were also shared to focus on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and Anti-Racism work. All this can be found at www.nejnamc.org.

The 2021 year saw the affirmation of our statement of Full Inclusion of **LGBTQIAS2+** persons, a comprehensive reworking of our website, the approval of an Action Plan for the quadrennium and many special guests representing multiple UMC agencies and organizations attending our virtual Annual Meeting.

In 2022, we began quarterly virtual meetings to connect our local CoNAMs with one another around Action Plan objectives with some good attendance and conversation. Our Annual Meeting focused on Native American Boarding School Trauma and Healing with special guest speaker, Mr. Pete Hill, from the Cayuga Nation.

In 2023, we were grateful to gather again in person at our Annual Meeting hosted by the WPA CoNAM in Pittsburgh, PA. Special guest speaker Rev. Carol Lakota Eastin led us in two workshops – one addressing Trauma and Self-Care and the second on strengthening our Committee with a priorities and values clarification session. We were also honored to visit the Council of Three Rivers American Indian Center and learn of their extensive history and services within and beyond the greater Pittsburgh area.

2024 brings a new leadership team and a renewed commitment to strengthen our local CoNAMs with intensive consultations and visits. We look forward to having representatives at General Conference, attending the Jurisdictional Conference and holding our fall Annual Meeting in EPA. In all this, we give honor to Creator and seek to continually raise awareness of Native presence and teachings.

2024 Executive Committee:

Todd Warfield, Abenaki
Interim Chairperson
New England

Cynthia Mosley,
Nanticoke Leni Lenape
Interim Vice Chair
Greater New Jersey

Rev. Jennifer Kerby, Non-Native
Interim Treasurer
Peninsula-Delaware

Breanne MacFarland, Non-Native
Interim Secretary
New England

RagghiRain, Eastern Cherokee
Advocacy Chairperson
Peninsula-Delaware