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**DRAFT MINUTES: 2021 NEJNAMC Annual Meeting – October 15, 2021 via Zoom**
Attending: Patricia Parent-NE, Suzanne Duchesne-EPA, Sherry Wack-EPA, Verna Collier-EPA (alternate), Cynthia Mosely-GNJ (afternoon session), Breanne McFarland-NE, Sue Bynam-NY (guest), Patty Richardson-NY, Elaine Winward-NY, Brooke Conklin-UNY (guest), Sharon Schmit-UNY, Kae Wilbert-UNY, Naomi Bowyer-WPA, William Meekins-WPA, Neil Straub-WPA (guest), Ro Bear Wilson-WPA, Kerry Jevsevar-WPA (guest), Tracey Brown Dolinski-WV, Ken Krimmel-WV, Ragghi Rain Pen-Del, Jennifer Kerby Pen-Del. Additional guests: Anna Layman Knox-GCORR, Giovanni Arroyo-GCORR, Neil Christie-NAIC, Tony Love-NEJ Multi-Ethnic Center, Becky Parsons-Global Ministries, David Calhoun-NE Conference Cabinet Rep.

**Morning Session 10-11:30am**
**Welcome** offered by NEJNAMC Chairperson Patricia Parent.
 **Devotions** offered by Sharon Schmit: reflections from Psalm 51:10 and “Braiding Sweetgrass” by
Robin Wall Kimmerer, Potawatomi Nation, Distinguished Teaching Professor of Environmental Biology at SUNY, founder and director of the Center for Native Peoples and the Environment.

**Rollcall** was taken by Kae Wilbert (above).
 **2021 Agenda** was approved after a motion by Breanne MacFarland and 2nd by Ken Krimmel.
 **2020 Minutes** **of the NEJNAMC Annual Meeting** were approved with corrections and minor adjustments after a motion by Kae Wilbert, 2nd by Breanne MacFarland and are available online at <https://www.nejnamc.org/2020.html>.
 **2020-2021 Finance Report and the 2020 Audit** were presented (both available online at <https://www.nejnamc.org/executive-committee-reports.html>). Balance as of 9/30/2021 was $12,972.26. Some minor corrections were made to the report, with details available for review. *Treasurer Kae Wilbert recommends that all members and friends begin recording personal time and money spent on NEJNAMC related activities so that a record of in-kind donations can be maintained for potential future grants*. Motion to approve both reports came out of committee, 2nd by Sharon Schmit and approved.
 **Nominations:** 1) Current Communications Committee Chair Suzanne Duchesne needs to step down and nominates Todd Warfield (NE) for the position. They have been working together for the last year and Todd is ready and willing to take on the position and the work (THANK YOU TODD!) Motion made by Suzanne Duchesne, 2nd by Kae Wilbert. Approved. Words of appreciation and gratitude are offered for Suzanne’s impressive work in getting our website and social media up and running so effectively!!! 2) Additionally, the office of Secretary is open due to Ellie High’s need to resign given health struggles. Jennifer Kerby volunteers for the position of Secretary. Naomi Bowyer volunteers for the position of Treasurer if Kae Wilbert wants to take on office of Secretary. Kae indicates she will stay on as Treasurer; the Finance Committee makes note of Naomi Bowyer’s willingness to serve for a future time. Motion to accept Jennifer Kerby as Secretary made by Sherry Wack, 2nd by Suzanne Duchesne and approved.

**Rev. Tony Love of the NEJ Multi-Ethnic Center** spoke briefly on the recent history of the Center whose purpose is to break down the barriers of racism and build up cooperative efforts among ethnic communities and congregations within the UMC. Grant money was given to each Annual Conference in 2020. Now the Center is focused on rebuilding better relations with ethnic organizations. Questions were asked as to what rebuilding better relations might look like and Rev. Love indicated that work is still in the initial stages. The Center’s website is currently being reworked; Rev. Love will provide updates when it becomes available. NEJNAMC has a representative seat on the Center’s Board; in the past this person has been the Chair of NEJNAMC. After discussion, motion made to continue the Chairperson as NEJNAMC’s representative with Vice-Chairperson to serve as needed and Sharon Schmit to serve as Alternate as needed. Motion by Jennifer Kerby, 2nd by Breanne MacFarland. Approved. Contact Rev. Love at tlove@bwcumc.org

**Welcome extended to Rev. Giovanni Arroyo from GCORR (General Commission on Race and Religion) and to Rev. Neal Christie representing NAIC (Native American International Caucus)

Chair/Executive Committee Report** offered by Chairperson Pat Parent highlighting the year’s activities and accomplishments (available online at <https://www.nejnamc.org/executive-committee-reports.html>.) Motion to approve by Sherry Wack, 2nd by Ken Krimmel. Approved.

**Morning session closed at 11:44am** with prayer offered by Sharon Schmit.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Afternoon session opened at 1pm with devotion** offered by Kae Wilbert using the Litany Prayer written by Rev. Mary Johnson for the Justice for Our Children, Healing for Our Communities movement. Bracelets with orange, white and red beads were sent out to all meeting registrants; if you did not receive one, please contact Kae Wilbert at kw91@rochester.rr.com. The Litany is available online at <https://www.nejnamc.org/2021-reports.html>.

**Conference CoNAM reports** are all available online at <https://www.nejnamc.org/conam-reports.html>. Pat expressed thanks to all members for their reports and their ministries throughout the year. Additionally, the listing of Roles and Responsibilities of CoNAM and CoNAM Representatives are online at <https://www.nejnamc.org/conference-conams.html>. The Pen-Del CoNAM report was shared as one opportunity for engaging Annual Conference participants in ways beyond written reports.

**Advocacy Committee Report** was offered by Sherry Wack and Ragghi Rain with a copy of the report available at <https://www.nejnamc.org/executive-committee-reports.html>. This year has seen a huge amount of advocacy efforts for which we are grateful for Sherry and Ragghi’s leadership. The recently established Facebook page and Twitter account developed by Suzanne Duchesne are also tremendous resources for all NEJNAMC members and friends to utilize.

**Rev. Neal Christie of NAIC (Native American International Caucus)** shared an informative report regarding advocacy work being done by the caucus in cooperation with many partners, including NEJNAMC. In addition to the excellent work on seeking justice and healing for Boarding School trauma, he emphasized four areas: 1) Supporting the Truth and Healing Commission initiated by US Congress/UMC Board of Church and Society - working to hold Bishops, seminaries and all boards and agencies accountable to the work of restoration and reconciliation, 2) Continued work publicizing the need for initiatives concerning MMIWG, no current legislation pending, 3) Need to further educate and advocate for how the nation designates days; e.g. Indigenous Peoples’ Day vs. Columbus Day and how the nationally sanctioned day of Thanksgiving is marketed, continuing myths and exploitation of Native people, and 4) work on Doctrine of Discovery to shift the church’s and nation’s mindset and worldview regarding the long reaching impact and harm flowing out from this policy and practice for Indigenous People; NAIC in partnership with Methodist Federation for Social Action (MFSA) and Kairos Palestine has begun and continues work on five webinars focusing on the Doctrine of Discovery, past and present impact. (See link and info at <https://www.nejnamc.org/upcoming-events>.)

**Question regarding the dates for Justice for Our Children, Healing for Our Communities** was raised by Sharon Schmit. Ragghi Rain emphasized both dates of Sept 30 and Oct 6 and all days are appropriate for observing and advocating around Boarding School travesties.

**Communication Committee Report** offered by Suzanne Duchesne and available online at <https://www.nejnamc.org/executive-committee-reports.html>. Suzanne summarized that she would continue caring for social media posts while newly elected Todd Warfield will maintain the website. You can contact Todd at pennacook@gmail.com with any suggestions, articles or resources to add to the website. Contact Suzanne at Rev.Dr.s.duchesne@gmail.com with pictures or events for Facebook or Twitter.

**Plan of Action Subcommittee Report** offered by Ro Bear Wilson with thanks to the subcommittee team who worked on it together. The plan was edited by the Executive Committee members and is found at <https://www.nejnamc.org/plan-of-action.html>. Due to time constraints, Patricia Parent recommended a subsequent meeting to review, discuss and decide on the POA. William Meekins emphasized the need for action and decision at any subsequent meeting. Motion by Sherry Wack for the NEJNAMC to meet on Saturday, Jan. 8 at 9am (plan for 2 hours), 2nd by Sharon Schmit. Approved. Subsequent motion by Ro Bear Wilson to accept the 7 objectives as currently listed with Kae Wilbert 2nd and approved. Consensus indicates the POA is a guiding document so that not all strategies need to be assigned or time-lined to approve.

**Concluding items:** 1) Inquiry about a “protocol” was made. Pat Parent suggested it would be addressed at a later date. 2) Inquiry about when the 2021 Annual Meeting minutes would be available with Jennifer Kerby committing to have them available by the end of the week.

**Motion to close the meeting** at 3:25pm made by Kae Wilbert, Sherry Wack, 2nd and approved following a closing prayer by Sherry.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jennifer Kerby, Secretary, October 16, 2021. Additional documents will be sent out in the upcoming weeks with updated contact list and minutes from the February 2021 NEJNAMC meeting on the Full Inclusion statement.

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