**2022 EPAUMC CONAM ANNUAL REPORT**

**September 11, 2021** – Originally, we planned to have a table at Indian Steps Festival, but that was cancelled due to flooding from Hurricane Ida. So, we went to a live pow wow at Mauch Chunk Lake sponsored by The Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania. Again, we borrowed GNJ CONAM’s MMIW banner and poster and had our red dress installation. In addition to the MMIW tees, buttons and postcards, we also had tees and postcards promoting the October 6 event to honor the boarding school children.

In response to a request from Native American International Caucus (NAIC) for **October 6** to be designated as a Day of Truth Telling and Repentance regarding the Indian boarding schools, we offered a virtual event that opened with a beautiful and powerful song, *He Can Fancy Dance* by Cindy Paul, introduction by our secretary, Verna Colliver and liturgy written by Rev. Mary Johnson for the occasion. Boe Harris read a poem she wrote about the children buried at Carlisle, and CONAM members Barbara Revere and Mike Shifflet read two stories from people who had experienced Indian boarding schools.

**October 15, 2021** – Four EPAUMC CONAM members attended the NEJNAMC Annual Meeting on Zoom.

**October 26, 2021**— Sandi Cianciulli and Verna Colliver attended the Clarke Forum for Contemporary Issues at Dickinson College, to hear a presentation by Elizabeth Rule, American University, on “Seeking Justice for Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women.

**November 7, 2021** EPAUMC CONAM presented a Zoom program on Indian Boarding Schools. We started with a history of Carlisle Indian Industrial School since it was the first federal off-reservation boarding school and because it is in Pennsylvania. Carlisle became the flagship of the federal boarding school program. Our Co-chair, Sandi Cianciulli, who is also president of the Carlisle Indian School Project, narrated the slide show. After that we showed a video interview with Red Cloud graduate Maka Black Elk, who now works at the school. He talked about how the school has evolved to now honor Lakota culture and even has a language immersion program. We finished with photos and testimonies from 3 other Red Cloud School graduates. At Red Cloud Indian School’s 2018 high school graduation, as each senior received their diploma, families, friends, and school staff applauded all their extraordinary accomplishments. Together they earned nearly a million in college scholarships, and nearly 95 percent are going on to post-secondary education.

**March 5, 2022 Tools for Ministry Workshop – “Mitakuye Oyasin” (we are all one family) in Action: Native American Ministries Sunday and Beyond**

Here is what we planned:

*Looking for help in planning for Native American Ministries Sunday? Want to find resources or ideas on issues like Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, the boarding schools, voting rights or Indigenous ways of caring for the earth? Want to learn about intergenerational trauma, dealing with life issues of depression and suicide and how to develop healing relationships with our Native American brothers and sisters?*

*CoNAM will give information on a variety of issues that churches or groups may be passionate about and will provide practical tips on how to advocate for solutions, plan a program or launch a ministry project relating to a specific tribal group. The workshop may include breakout groups on a specific topic or issue that your group may want to focus on for NAMS or throughout the year.*

This event was all on Zoom and unfortunately, due to technical difficulties, instead of having 3 hours to present our material, we ended up with 80 minutes and lost many participants due to the 90 minute delay in getting things running.

**April 3, 2022 –** For our spring program we hosted Halay Turning Heart who talked about the Yuchi Language Project and the immersion school the Yuchi nation in Oklahoma has created to restore their traditional language, which is known as an Isolate, meaning it is not related to any other languages.

**April 28, 2022**—Jim Thorpe Sports Days. CoNAM members Sandi Cianciulli and Verna Colliver attended a reception and the opening event featuring guest speaker, Brig. General Joane Mathews, Wisconsin National Guard.

**April 30-May 1, 2022**—Pottstown Pow Wow—Verna Colliver, assisted by Bob Hinderliter, set up a table display offering T-shirts, buttons and postcards along with a Redress Display and MMIW information. The Pow Wow is organized by Ron Williams.

**June 11, 2022 - Indian Steps Festival** – EPAUMC CONAM had a table at this event on the west bank of the Susquehanna River across from Lancaster. We offered tee shirts, post cards and buttons with artwork promoting awareness of Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women, Boarding School Children and “Make America Native Again.” We also hung red dresses and had other printed information available.

**Change in leadership -** Since our co-chair, Sherry Wack, has moved to New York, she had to step down as co-chair, although she remains on the committee in an advisory capacity. Our new co-chair is Barbara Revere, a very valuable and passionate addition to our CONAM. We are truly blessed with dedicated members.