

W05Eastern PA UMC Conference

CONAM Report prepared for NEJNAMC

10/07/22-10/05/23

The EPA CONAM has 15 members that are committed to ending racism within the Indigenous Community. We have monthly meetings except for 2 months in the summertime. Please see below the activities of EPA CONAM within the last year.

- 10/7/22-Three members attended the yearly, virtual NEJNAMC one day meeting; Sherry Wack, Verna Colliver, and Barbara Revere
- 11/6/22-Yearly Fall Conference Event was held at Camp Innabah with Ron Williams presenting on “The Doctrine of Discovery: Enabling Oppression and Exploitation.” Ron is of Southern Ute and Navajo descent and is a member of CONAM. The meeting started with smudging, a blessing of the four winds, and ended with the Blanket Offering. A light supper followed the presentation.
- 11/9/22-CONAM was invited by the Reverend Diana Esposito who serves as a College Chaplain with the Open-Door Ministry located at Drexel University as guests to hear a presentation by the Drexel Indigenous Student Association with President Skye Harper on the false narratives of Thanksgiving and sharing some of his culture and experiences. Three CONAM members attended the events, Rev. Robert Coombe, Verna Colliver, and Barbara Revere
- 12/22-Ron Williams was given a small donation going towards his trip to the Pine Ridge Reservation where he delivered clothes, food, and hardware supplies. Bob Hinderliter was given a small donation for Christmas presents for the Lumbee tribe in North Carolina. Bob travels yearly to the Lumbee Reservation to deliver children Christmas presents.
- 03/04/23 and 3/18/2023- CONAM members Verna Colliver and Barb Revere did two presentations for Toolbox on Ministry on “How to Develop a Land Acknowledgement.
- 3/08/23-03/12/2023-CONAM member Barbara Revere attended the “Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference Immersion Experience’ in Oklahoma City, OK
- Resources to local Churches for “Native American Sunday” were emailed to the CONAM mailing list and Churches.
- 04/20/23-Jim Thorpe Sports Day-CONAM member Sandi Cianciulli attended the event where the Guest Speaker was Nedra Darling. Nedra is a distant relative of Jim Thorpe and is the executive producer of the biopic of Jim Thorpe, “Bright Path Strong.”
- 04/30/2023-The annual Spring CONAM Conference Event was held at Camp Innabah with the DVD streaming of “Home From School,’ which is a documentary of the Boarding Schools catastrophe. Prior to the DVD presentation there was a smudging ceremony and the Blessing of the “Four Winds.” A light supper was served after the presentation.

- 05/6-7/2023-Pottstown Pow Wow-Four CONAM members participated in the POW Wow and had a CONAM display table. This is the POW WOW that CONAM member Ron Williams does yearly. CONAM participates in the “Red Dress Display” honoring the MMIP. The members participating in the events were Verna Colliver, Rev. Bob Coombe, Joy Frazier, and Bob Hinderliter.
- 05/18-20/2023-EPA UMC Annual Conference-The Greater New Jersey and Eastern PA UMC CONAM’s jointly did a video “land acknowledgement” together that opened the Annual Conference session. CONAM had a booth at the Conference with a table for resources and giving away Indigenous candy. The Red Dresses were displayed.
- 06/20/23-Drew University presentation, via ZOOM by Sandi Cianciulli and Verna Colliver to Dr. Merel Visse’s class on Indigenous Health. Sandi showed her power point that she created for the Carlisle Indian School project. Terri Leone, a MDiv candidate at Drew met Verna at Annual Conference and asked her for a presentation to her class on Indigenous Health.
- 10/03/23-Eastern PA CONAM presentation to the West Chester UMC Women in Faith about the work our Eastern PA CONAM does. Verna Colliver, Joy Frazier, and Barbara Revere did the presentation.
- 10/05/23-The American Buffalo Advanced Screening was held at the Willow Valley Communities Culture Center, Willow Street PA. Sandi Cianciulli participated in a panel discussion after the screening.