

## EPAUMC CONAM REPORT TO NEJNAMC OCTOBER 2021

EPAUMC CONAM was grateful that we had been using ZOOM for our winter meetings for several years. This made the transition to all virtual meetings and events easier and our schedule did not really change. We always have 2 programs – one in the fall and one in the spring, plus we offer a class in March at the conference-wide *Tools for Ministry* workshops and we also have a presentation at Annual Conference in May. All of our programs are recorded and available on our conference website.

In 2021 we were happy to be able to have tables at in-person Pow Wows in May and again in September.

Here is a run-down of what we did in the past year:

**November 8, 2020** - We partnered with CNA (Coalition of Native and Allies) for a Zoom program on *Race-Based Mascots*. It was well-attended (about 30 some) and we received good feedback.

**March 13, 2021** – Our CONAM member Gary Jacobella gave an excellent presentation called *Christopher Columbus: It's Time to Know the Truth! Helping your Church to Learn the True Story of Indigenous Peoples*. I learned things I never knew before.

**May 5, 2021** – We had 2 events this day – an in-person Pow Wow where we promoted awareness of MMIW by selling postcards, buttons and tee shirts featuring beautiful art created by Paige McNatt, Nanticoke/Lenape from New Jersey. We spoke to many people about this issue. Many thanks to GNJ CONAM who lent us their MMIW banner and poster. As always we included our red dress installation.

**May 5, 2021 4:00pm** – We presented a Zoom program called *We Are Still Here: Outstanding Native Americans Today* that highlighted the work and contributions of current Native people in the arts, politics, business, medicine, advocacy, sports and the military.

**May 28, 2021** – For our annual conference Bishop Peggy Johnson strongly suggested that since the conference was virtual, instead of presenting a resolution on Indigenous Peoples Day as we had planned, we should make a short video about a subject close to our hearts. So with the help of Thom Whitewolf Fassett we created a 7 minute power point video about voter suppression in Indian Country.

**Serptember 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.



Finally, for **October 6** we have planned a virtual event that will open with a beautiful and powerful song, introduction by our secretary, Verna Colliver, liturgy written by Suzanne Duchesne for the occasion, Boe Harris reading a poem she wrote about the children buried at Carlisle, and 2 stories from people who had experiences the boarding schools. We are allowing time at the end for discussion.

The EPAUMC conference has been very supportive all of our efforts.