



NAIC Native American Caucus of The United Methodist Church

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United Methodist Church Board of Church and Society
Attn: Rev. Dr. Susan Henry-Crowe, General Secretary and
Bishop Sally Dyck, President Board of Directors
100 Maryland Ave N.E.
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Rev. Dr. Henry-Crowe and Bishop Dyck,

Greetings in the name of the One and Only in whom we live and move and have our being. We have recently learned of the decision to terminate Rev. Neal Christie from his critical position at the Board of Church and Society. As representatives of Native American and Indigenous people and ministries throughout the United Methodist connection, we must express our extreme alarm and distress over this decision.

Rev. Christie has been a faithful and reliable advocate, guide, and friend to Native American ministries since his first days serving on the Board. We have relied on his wisdom, commitment, and energy as we have worked together to serve and provide life-giving and transformative ministries throughout the church. When many throughout the denomination have sought to overtly or covertly to minimize the extensive needs and contributions of Native American and Indigenous people for a host of reasons, Rev. Christie has continually fought on our behalf. The Native American and Indigenous communities of our denomination are always the last considered, consulted, and supported. Yet, Rev. Christie consistently used his position and the resources of the Board to maximize our ministries and our people's strengths and assets.

We beg you to reconsider this decision. Of course, we are all painfully aware of the increasing financial constraints at work on all levels of our denomination and its ministries. We simply ask that you prioritize and hold true to the commitments of supporting Native American and Indigenous people at the Board of Church and Society and find a way to continue Rev. Christie's position. We would be deeply dismayed by the impact of further broken promises to our people.

As always, we remain hopeful of all that Creator is doing in our lives and the world to uplift and heal so many who are hurting from the oppressive and harmful acts of well-intentioned Christians.

Members of the Executive Committee of the Native American International Caucus of the United Methodist Church