

## NEJNAMC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE/CHAIR ANNUAL REPORT

2023

Time flies, whether you're having fun or working diligently at issues you are dedicated to addressing. As we come together for our annual meeting this year, I am sure that all of us have experienced how fast time can go by.

As an executive committee, we have focused on issues such as Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and the ongoing discovery of the bodies of Indigenous children at Indian residential schools, their repatriation and sharing the truth of the ongoing trauma caused by the program of "Kill the Indian, Save the Man."

As individuals, our executive committee members have shared other issues with each other over this past year, as we always do. Our Advocacy chair Ragghi Rain, and her co-chair Sherry Wack, have been very active in this work of keeping us informed and motivated to take action and spread the news of these issues to the broader NEJNAMC. Todd Warfield, our Communications chair, has also shared things with us, and I have shared issues facing Maine Indigenous people. Our secretary Jennifer Kerby has also shared when items have come to her attention, and has been very effective in her job as keeping our records straight.

Kae Wilbert, our treasurer, has been diligent in the difficult work of finances, and Bethany Printup Davis, our vice-chair, has had excellent input in our work while working as a music teacher and pushing toward earning her Masters degree.

One new endeavor we have begun has been our more-or-less quarterly Plan Of Action discussions via ZOOM. So far we have discussed the first

three items in our POA, and we hope to continue these discussions during the next year.

In addition, we have welcomed WPA CoNAM chair William Meekins and secretary RoBear Wilson to our executive committee meetings as we prepared for meeting in person once again. It is exciting to be able to come together in our first hybrid meeting, and so good to be able to see many in person. Thank you, William, RoBear, and the rest of the WPA CoNAM for all your work and dedication.

This year we will be going over nominations. It doesn't seem possible that that much time has passed. However, during our business time we will be outlining who is presently serving on the executive committee, who is leaving, who is willing to continue to serve if so voted, and who else might be willing to serve come next year. The executive members this term have changed since we last voted on the entire roster, so we will add that into the information shared when we take up the nominations piece.

We come together this year in a new reality. COVID seems to be here to stay, and the disaffiliations which loomed over us during the pandemic have come to pass. In addition, there is the cost of travel. How will the "new" United Methodist denomination organize itself, and what it will mean for us? There are many unknowns. Yet some of us on the executive committee have begun to brainstorm over new ways to positively move forward into our future as the NEJNAMC. We look forward to your partnership with us in this exciting adventure. *Aquiene ta Woliwini.* Peace and Thank You, Pat Parent, chair, NEJNAMC