

Upper New York CONAM Report
NEJNAMC
October 2023

The Upper New York CONAM continues to meet via zoom 4-5 times annually, with one face to face meeting.

This year our face to face meeting was held at Ganondagan State Historic Site in Victor NY in August. Being exhibited at that time was an International WamPum exhibit. Hosted by Ganondagan were artifacts from 300 years ago loaned by the Musee de Quai Branley in Paris France. These artifacts were gifts from the Haudenasaunee people among other Native groups to the French court. Also one belt, that research shows, was a declaration of war so was probably given here and later transported to France. This six month 2023 exhibit provided a time of healing and bonding not only between French executives and Haudenasaunee representatives, but between Native groups here that were warring during the time period.

CONAM had a guided tour of the exhibit, the gallery and the bark longhouse on the property.

CONAM continues to support our three Native American UMCs: the Four Corners UMC on the Cattaraugus Territory, the Onondaga Nation UMC on the Onondaga Nation Territory, and the Hogansburg UMC on the Akwesasne Territory. Two churches currently have a pastor in attendance at least once monthly. Hogansburg UMC has a Mohawk lay speaker with support from a pastor for communion. All continue to worship weekly together

CONAM gifts the churches with a generous amount each fall to help with heating costs to keep the church open throughout the cold months.

We are celebrating a new bishop who is completely supportive and interested in our work. NAIC Family Camp was hosted in our conference this summer and our new Bishop attended for a morning, making the 2 hour drive. Two CONAM members attended the highly successful NA Family Camp, met new friends and renewed old friendships.

We annually have a CONAM table at annual conference, highlighting MMIWG with many red dresses on display. We also had out our 2 postcards of the beautiful paintings by Paige McNatt. I got to meet Paige at family camp this summer. So proud of her work and her contribution to NEJNAMC.

Kae Wilbert
UNY CONAM chair
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