

## **Pen-Del CoNAM 2023 Report to Annual Conference**

Iwiinitu and greetings to our many Relatives throughout this part of Turtle Island.

We are grateful to have resumed meeting in person this last year with thanks to Grace UMC in Georgetown for their continued hospitality. It is good to be in one another's presence. To accommodate many different schedules, we meet one month in person from 10am-12noon and then alternate the following month with a 7pm Zoom meeting. Everyone is welcome any time! Our meeting schedule can be found on the Pen-Del website CoNAM page.

Our work of educating, supporting and advocating for Native American culture, concerns, challenges and contributions continues on many fronts. Here is a brief review of some of our efforts from the last year and looking ahead:

**The Great Tree of Peace at Pecometh** – a continued work of the 2016 Act of Repentance. This past year, CoNAM members and Pecometh staff discovered the Great Tree of Peace planted in 2017 had been eaten by deer. Pecometh now has plans underway to replace it with another Eastern White Pine while working with CoNAM members to create a picture board explaining the significance of the tree as a symbol of the Conference's commitment to the Act of Repentance along with some history and current roles of the First People in the area.

**Kutikikowakanum, Our Nanticoke Language** – The Nanticoke Language Project is coming to its fulfillment this year, after three long years and a three decade period of prayer, as we look toward the publishing of the first handbook with CD to help with audio learning of the rekindled language. Get your copy and learn one of the First Languages at the Nanticoke Pow-Wow, Sept 9 & 10, 2023 in Milton, DE.

**Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives** – Plans are underway with the Lenape people and Cheswold UMC to sponsor a Community Walk and Day of Remembrance to honor the many First People who have gone missing or murdered from their families with little to no law enforcement investigation or recognition. We care for the families whose hearts are broken.  
<https://www.naicumc.com/mmiw-awareness--resources.html>

**Native American Boarding School** – Healing for Our Children; Justice for Our Communities Continued efforts at education and awareness of deep historical trauma resulting from the forced taking of Native children to Boarding Schools for over five generations. Methodism across the nation was actively engaged in supporting and managing these schools. It is past time for Truth-telling and accountability. Sign on now to an Action Alert to advocate for the establishment of the Federal Truth and Healing Commission.  
<https://bwcaction.org/reintroduce-and-passage-legislation-to-establish-a-truth-and-healing-commission/>

**Unity Run and NDN STX** – these two inter-related ministries bring together children, youth, adults and Elders of the three Tribes with educational and cultural awareness programs and direct services, like food ministries and help with accessing health care services.

**Ebenezer Methodist Church** (aka Forrest Methodist Church) – working in partnership with Rev. Kenneth Anderson of Dale Memorial UMC to save and restore this historic site sacred to African Americans and Lenape families, located in Townsend, DE.

<https://www.pen-del.org/committeonnativeamericanministriesconam>

**Celebration of Rev. David Wilson’s installment as Bishop** of the Great Plains Annual Conference, the first Native American Bishop in the UMC after waiting and promoting many qualified candidates over the last 180 years. [www.naicumc.com](http://www.naicumc.com)

**Guidelines for a Welcome by the Original People vs. Land Acknowledgment** – offered by CoNAM Chair Ragghi Rain in conjunction with the Native American International Caucus (NAIC). <https://www.pen-del.org/committeonnativeamericanministriesconam>

**Camperships for Native American Family Camp** established for local Tribal members to attend this national gathering, this year in upstate New York, July 2023.

**Local Young Adults Training to become leaders of Peg-Leg Flamingos**, a national Native Youth Leadership Training program. Many of our local Tribal youth who attended this program are now young adults, preparing to take on new roles as mentors and leaders for the next generations. [www.naicumc.com](http://www.naicumc.com)

**Identify and engage Native American Ministries Sunday Representatives** at every local church with the kind help of Pen-Del Conference Program Assistant, Christine Trott.

<https://www.pen-del.org/committeonnativeamericanministriesconam>

**Conference Land Resolution from 2019** – Engagement with Nanticoke Tribe to set expectations and procedures with wise help from Bill Westbrook, Conference Treasurer.

<https://www.pen-del.org/committeonnativeamericanministriesconam>

**Review and update of Pen-Del website CoNAM page** with the generous help of Pen-Del Communications Coordinator, Doug Lanter.

<https://www.pen-del.org/committeonnativeamericanministriesconam>

Continued participation with and contribution to the Northeastern Jurisdictional Native American Ministries Committee (NEJNAMC), the Native American International Caucus (NAIC), GCORR (General Commission on Race and Religion), the Inter-Ethnic Strategy Development Group (IESDG), the Connectional Table of the UMC and many others.

Waniishi for your continued support of Native American ministries here in our own Pen-Del Annual Conference and throughout the denomination through the Native American Ministries Sunday Special Offering. We look forward to visiting with your congregation soon and seeing you at one of the many local Tribal events throughout the year. *Ragghi Rain, Chairperson*