**Western Pa Annual Conference Committee on Native American Ministries Report**

**To Northeastern Jurisdictional Native American Ministries Committee**

**October 3, 2022**

We are seeking to become aware of Native American realities in our area both in our congregations and beyond. Our increased awareness will become a basis for us to assist our churches to become aware. We are discerning the shape and scope of our role as a CONAM as we seek to align ourselves with Native folks in our area who are both in and beyond our churches. We intend to avoid further colonization as we step forth. We will make mistakes and have failures, yet we trust we will learn from them.

We are attentive to paragraph 654 of the Book of Discipline which gives us the mandates to:

* Coordinate the promotion of Native American Ministries Sunday
* Determine the distribution of the Native American Ministries Sunday Offering
* Monitor Native American Ministries within the Annual Conference

**OUR JOURNEY THIS YEAR**

**PARTICIPATING THE CONFERENCE “INTERSECTION OF FAITH AND RACE--TOWARD AN ANTI-RACIST CHURCH SUMMIT”**

## Our CoNAM is on the planning team for this summit to be held Oct 20-22, 2022. We are providing Mark Charles to be the speaker at the opening plenary. Mark Charles is the author of [Unsettling Truths: The Ongoing, Dehumanizing Legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery](https://www.amazon.com/Unsettling-Truths-Dehumanizing-Doctrine-Discovery/dp/0830845259/ref%3Dsr_1_1?crid=1DL1N5DL1TS04&keywords=unsettling+truths+mark+charles&qid=1664795192&qu=eyJxc2MiOiIxLjQwIiwicXNhIjoiMS4zMiIsInFzcCI6IjEuNDYifQ%3D%3D&sprefix=unsettling+truth%2Caps%2C69&sr=8-1). We are also doing a workshop during which we will focus on Native American Ministries Sunday and our relationship with Council on Three Rivers American Indian Center. One morning we will offer a land acknowledgement and be led in an appropriate morning ceremony by Miguel Sague Jr. Miguel is the author of CANOA and the appointed official medicine man of COTRAIC.

**CONNECTING WITH NATIVE FOLKS BEYOND OUR CONGREGATIONS**

We continue to work with and strengthen our relationship with the Council of Three Rivers American Indian Center and with the Caney Indigenous Spiritual Circle. Both members of COTRAIC and the Caney Indigenous Spiritual Circle serve on our CoNAM.

**NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY and OFFERING**

We advocate for our congregations to accent Native American Sunday and to receive the offering. Near Thanksgiving we will do another blast sharing possible resources for worship and study and encourage churches who have not received the offering to do so. We prepared bidding prayers as one resource for our congregations.

AS of August 31, 2022 we have received a total of $7077.87

$3538.94 has been disbursed to GCFA

This is an increase over the previous year

**OUR MISSION VALUES AND PRIORITIES**

We continue to base our work on our adopted position stating our MISSION/VALUES/PRIORITIES. It is below.

**WE MAINTAIN A FACEBOOK PAGE**

**NEJNAMC 2023 (4)????????**

If GNJ wishes to try one more time for a face to face gathering, we can push ahead to 2024.

We will continue growing as a CONAM. Our team enjoys working together and engaging in the challenges that need to be addressed.

Respectfully submitted

Western Pa Conference CoNAM

William B. Meekins Jr, Chair

**MISSION, VALUES, PRIORITIES**

**WESTERN PA UNITED METHODIST CONFERENCE**

**COMMITTEE ON NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES**

**MISSION:**

Embracing the vision of “Beloved Community”, The Committee on Native American Ministries is creating awareness and engagement with First Nations People by gaining a deeper understanding as we focus on building relationships with Indigenous people. We encourage our United Methodist congregations and the broader community to join us on this interfaith journey.

**VALUES:**

* Ecumenical and Interfaith engagement
* Avoid cultural misappropriation
* Authentic Relationships
* Intentionally anti-racist/de-colonization
* Trust
* Commitment to learning, reflection, transformation
* Accepting our responsibility

**OUR WORK**

Our primary focus is to build relationships with Indigenous families and communities in Western Pa that may lead to healing and greater sharing of “beloved community” together; this requires identifying and connecting to Indigenous folks in and beyond the boundaries of the United Methodist congregations.

Organizing events and opportunities for learning, growth, and experience and doing advocacy with and on behalf of Indigenous people are avenues to be used.

Participating in the United Methodist Northeast Jurisdiction CONAM is beneficial to our work.

**GUIDELINES FOR GOVERNING OUR FUNDS TO THESE ENDS**

Our limited funds are prioritized and allocated to fulfill the mission and work described above.