

Committee on Native American Ministry

The Committee on Native American Ministry (CONAM) continued its mission to make disciples for Jesus Christ by: 1) supporting Native American ministry and outreach; 2) promoting awareness of these ministries and of the Native American community residing within the bounds of our Annual Conference; and 3) developing leadership among the Native community and among those giving leadership to Native American ministry.

The CONAM is very active with the Northeastern Jurisdiction Native American Ministries Committee (NEJNAMC). In 2016, the Annual conference was held in Wheeling, WV. The conference was a great success with 10 Conferences representative.

In Maryland, the month of November has been designated as Native American Month. This year, the “kick off” was held in at Salisbury University in Salisbury, Md. The Baltimore-Washington CONAM was represented by Pastor Daniel Kutrick and Robert Willash.

CONAM has two major ministries. One is a prison ministry whose purpose is to let the Native American inmates know that we love and care for them and their spiritual life by sending 10 copies of INDIAN LIFE MINISTRIES, a Native American Christian newspaper which is published bi-monthly. Currently we are sending subscriptions to three prisons for males in Maryland and one prison for females in West Virginia.

The second major outreach ministry is the continued support of the WINS program that is sponsored by the American University in Washington, D.C. The program offers classes and internships for qualified Native American students during the fall, spring, and summer sessions. This year, we sponsored a student at the 2014 Summer Session, and served as their mentors and contacts away from home. We also had representatives at their Pow Wow, special luncheons and dinners and other activities. CONAM also provides an emergency fund for students who may have to return home because of a crisis or who have issues while in the D.C. area.

The CONAM Webpage on the Baltimore-Washington Conference website is a good place to keep current on Native American issues within the Conference. The webpage can be accessed at www.bwcumc.owg/ministries/conam.

One of our goals for 2015 was to have the CONAM contact person's name for each church on the Churches in our Conference. It is very important to know the contact so that CONAM can keep each church informed about its work in the Baltimore - Washington Conference as well as the work in the Northeast Jurisdiction and the General Church. With God's grace and guidance, we will continue to be the voice for the Native American community. We will continue this effort in 2017.

We need to continue to focus on reconciliation as one of our goals in 2017 as we endeavor to bridge the gap between Native Americans and all races.

This year we have been re-forming under a new chair; without the support of the previous chair and the other members, our progress would have been very rocky. Our meeting schedule has not been consistent but we are looking to setting up a regular meeting schedule, at least quarterly.

CONAM is small but hardworking and we encourage anyone who would like to join a small, mission-driven committee, to come and share their gifts in ministry and mission.

We give thanks to the Great Spirit for all the opportunities we have been given and eagerly anticipate building on what we do. Please continue to support the Native American Ministries Sunday Offering, half of which supports the ministry that we do and the other half goes to the General Conference to support other Native American ministries within the church.

Respectfully submitted;

Pastor Daniel T. Kutrick
CONAM Chair