

## **Native American Ministry Strategic Plan**

### **Introduction:**

This document is our Strategic Plan for the years 2006-2010. This is a working document that will undoubtedly evolve during this period. There are a number of ministries that we have already begun and are currently involved in. It is our intention to continue to implement and support these ministries. Dates are listed for those ministries that we are envisioning and hope to begin in the years ahead. We will report on their progress as they become reality. It is likely that there will be other ministries that come to our attention and that we will want to support. These will be incorporated into our Strategic Plan as we implement them.

- I. VISION - To have a Native American Ministry within the Kansas East Conference that is spiritually alive and growing.

### II. MISSION

1. To identify, connect and empower Native People in local churches.
2. To celebrate and provide specific opportunities related to Native American ministries for all persons in the Kansas East Conference.
3. To enrich the life of the Kansas East Conference with the traditions, culture, and spiritual values of Native People in order to live out the Gospel's call.
4. To promote and encourage churches to observe Native American Ministries Sunday.

### III. PLAN OF MINISTRY

1. Establish a cooperative relationship between the Kansas East Conference (KEC) and the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference (OIMC). This will include bishop to bishop and cabinet to cabinet contacts.
2. Establish a working relationship with Native American related congregations and fellowships within the boundaries of the KEC.
  - a. Seeking to be supportive of the current ministries of these congregations and fellowships.
  - b. Providing a funding source for specific Native American related programs.
3. Encourage and facilitate communication and working relationships with KE congregations and fellowships that are engaged in, are seeking to be engaged in, or are interested in, Native American ministries.
  - a. Seeking to be supportive of the current ministries of these congregations and fellowships.
  - b. Providing a funding source for specific Native American related programs.
4. Resource those churches that celebrate Native American Ministries Sunday.
5. Facilitate awareness of the Native American Comprehensive Plan of the general church, and interpret this plan to the congregations and fellowships of the KEC.

### IV. HOW WILL WE STRUCTURE OURSELVES TO ACCOMPLISH THESE MINISTRIES?

1. What staff will we need?
  - a. The Committee on Native American Ministries (CONAM) will continue to provide planning, guidance and implementation.
  - b. We do not anticipate the employment of staff persons. However there are numerous resource persons who will be utilized in the implementation of this Plan of Ministry. These will include:
    - 1) Bishops of the KEC and OIMC.
    - 2) District Superintendents of the two conferences
    - 3) Director of Connectional Ministries (KEC)
    - 4) Director of Programming Ministries (OIMC)
    - 5) Director of the Native American International Caucus

- 6) Director of the Native American Comprehensive Plan
  - 7) Native American Communications Director
  - 8) National United Methodist Native American Center
  - 9) Designated persons in our local congregations and fellowships
  - 10) Designated persons in Native American congregations and fellowships
  - 11) Clergy and persons under assignment (KEC and OIMC)
2. What facilities will we need?
    - a. We do not anticipate the need for any independent facilities or buildings.
    - b. We would expect to use those facilities provided by our local congregations and fellowships as needed.
    - c. We would expect to use those facilities provided by the KEC (e.g. Camp Chippewa and Forest Park).
  3. What financial support will we need to underwrite these ministries, staff and facilities?
    - a. We currently receive moneys from the special offering for Native American Ministries Sunday.
    - b. There are special grants we could apply for which could be used for specific ministries and programs.
    - c. There may be donations and contributions from local congregations and fellowships that could be used for specific ministries and programs.
    - d. There may be charitable contributions from local tribal nations and their organizations for specific programs.

V. WHAT IS THE TIMELINE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS PLAN? (Timeline is in parentheses. Dates listed are target dates to begin.)

1. In order to establish a cooperative relationship between the KEC and the OIMC we will:
  - a. Encourage regular conversations between the two bishops. (on-going)
  - b. Encourage awareness in the KE Cabinet of the appointment situations in the OIMC congregations. (2006-2007)
  - c. Encourage awareness in the KEC of the ministries and program needs of the OIMC congregations and the KE Native American Fellowships. (2006-2007)
  - d. Maintain a presence and/or presentation at meetings of the KE Annual Conference and the OIMC Annual Conference. (on-going)
  - e. Encourage the KE Bishop and the District Superintendents to attend the OIMC Annual Conference. (on-going)
2. In order to establish a working relationship between CONAM and the Native American congregations in the KEC and OIMC we will:
  - a. Support specific ministries and programs that involve
    - 1) OIMC congregations (on-going)
    - 2) KE congregations and fellowships (on-going)
    - 3) Haskell University (on-going)
    - 4) Native American ministries in local prisons (2007)
  - b. Seek to have non-voting representatives from OIMC congregations and KE Native American fellowships meet with CONAM on a regular basis. (2006)
3. In order to establish a working relationship between CONAM and the KE congregations that are interested in Native American ministry, we will continue to:
  - a. Develop information channels/links concerning Native American ministries and programs. These could include
    - 1) Developing a web site (2006)
    - 2) Publishing a newsletter (2007)
    - 3) Including information in conference and district e-mails (2006)

- b. Provide information about OIMC churches and KE fellowships and about those programs that are funded by CONAM (2006-2007)
  - c. Suggest program possibilities that local churches might be interested in supporting. (2006-2007)
  - d. Provide regular information to District Superintendents and to DCOM's. (2006-2007)
  - e. Seek to have a working relationship with local and district UMW groups, UMM groups, and UM Youth groups. (2007).
  - f. Seek to have a learning event in each district. (2007-2010)
  - g. Provide updates of Native American events, Native American worship opportunities, and local tribal concerns. (2007)
  - h. Provide an on-going list of Native American literature (books, magazines and newspapers). (2006)
  - i. Establish and maintain a current list of contact persons in local congregations who would receive information from CONAM (2007)
4. In order to be a resource to those congregations celebrating Native American Ministries Sunday we will:
    - a. Start in January of each year sending information to local churches that would
      - 1) Provide suggestions about how congregations could celebrate this day. (2007)
      - 2) Provide a list of speakers and worship materials. (2007)
    - b. Provide information concerning where CONAM moneys (both locally and nationally) go and the kinds of programs they support. (2007)
    - c. Invite congregations to send bulletins and/or pictures of their celebrations for our files. (2007)
  5. In order to promote awareness of the Native American Comprehensive Plan, we will continue (2006-2010) to:
    - a. Encourage persons in local churches to learn about and to respect Native American "spiritual practices".
    - b. Encourage those in local churches to learn of the current needs and issues of local tribal nations.
    - c. Encourage persons in local churches to learn about, appreciate, and respect Native American traditions, customs and life-styles.
    - d. Provide information concerning the Native American Comprehensive Plan of the UMC and why it is important.
    - e. Seek to overcome ignorance and negative stereotypes of Native Americans.