



NAC Email NEWS

Winter 2010

News from the Native American Committee
South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church

**South Carolina United Methodist
Conference
Native American Committee
Annual Report
February 2010**

by Zan Tracy Pender – Chair, UMC SC Native American Committee

In Luke, Chapter 15, verses 1-7, we read the story of the “Parable of the Lost Sheep.” A shepherd loses one sheep, leaves 99 behind to go and recover the one lost sheep. He and his neighbors rejoice in the recovery.

As I reflect on this parable, I cannot help but think on the new journey that our committee is now undertaking. The Pee Dee Indians of Upper South Carolina and the Marlboro County Pee Dee Indians have submitted petitions to our conference requesting that the conference establish Native American Mission Churches in their communities. What an opportunity and trust has now been placed with us. Some of these individuals were involved with the United Methodist Church in the past and are now willing to return. This is the opportunity for healing and the recovery of some of our lost sheep. Additionally, we are working to reestablish Rocky Swamp United Methodist Mission Church in Neeses. This is a great journey that our conference is now upon and we pray for the inclusion of Native peoples in our conference. However, this is not the only task and accomplishments of our committee over the past year.

Once again, we increased the number of churches having Native American Ministries Sunday. This is a great accomplishment; yet, we are still only reaching about one quarter of our conference. Although Native American Ministries Sunday is in April, our committee will arrange for this special Sunday anytime during the year. We provide speakers for this Sunday. **To arrange a Native American Ministries Sunday, please contact the chair, Zan Tracy Pender, 803 905-5672.**

In February, we conducted our eighth Native American Representative training. There were 73 people in attendance. Most of these were first time attendees and we welcomed back some previous attendees. We continue to be encouraged by the number of new faces and new representatives. Our committee is working to get a new DVD release from the 2008 training. All District offices will have a copy so that representatives and churches may use the training especially if they could not attend. The 2007 version is already in District offices and at the conference office. As a reminder, *The Discipline* requires that every local church at charge conference designate by nomination and election a minimum of one person per charge (without regard to race or ethnic origin) as a Native American Representative for that church.

Our committee provides the training and the local church Native American Representative works with our committee in assisting with our projects and programs as well as establishing Native
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American Ministries Sunday in his or her church. We have our own offering envelope for this special Sunday. It has our logo and provides a summary of our mission and objectives. If your church needs offering envelopes, please contact Gail Corn at the conference office in Columbia.

We strive to continue to be good stewards of the monies provided through Native American Ministries Sunday. Fifty percent of the offering remains in our conference, and *The Discipline* directs the Native American Committee to properly utilize these funds for our mission. I am pleased to tell you that our committee is supporting itself. While ELCC continues to help our committee, we are accomplishing our mission through Native American Ministries Sunday offering and other donations. We continue to have a detailed operating budget which will help us monitor and use our funding appropriately. We have designated line items for special funding, such as donations for elder baskets.

This year, we spent \$3,687 in scholarships sending South Carolina American Indian families to the annual Native American Conference at Lake Junaluska in North Carolina. We provided \$1,300 in tribal assistance to several tribes including repairs to tribal buildings, supporting an after school program, a local food bank, a cultural event and restoring the culture.

We are proud to report that we had a successful, full Native American Salkehatchie Camp last July working with the Wassamasaw in the Moncks Corner area. There is the possibility we might have on-going relations with the Wassamasaw and tribes in that area. This next year, we are planning a camp with the Catawba in Rock Hill. We are seeking volunteers to help with building and home repairs as well as donations of repair material and monetary support. **If you are interested in participating contact Rev. Bart Sistare.**

We continue our Christmas Elder Comfort Basket project. We thank the conference churches for both the donations of elder baskets and the monetary support of over \$1,000 to purchase supplies to balance the donations in all baskets and to cover transportation costs to move the baskets to South Carolina Indian people throughout the state. We set a new record this year with 181 baskets. The cost break for each basket was \$30; thus, \$5,430 total in value. We are pleased that we did not exceed our budget in making this project successful again this year. A hearty thank you is sent out to Keepers of the Word who continue to work with us in completing this project. They also provided drumming this year at our Native American Representative Training.

Once again, we will have our annual Christmas Elder Comfort Basket. We will gather and make Elder Comfort Baskets throughout the year. We need small laundry baskets to be filled with non-perishable food items, laundry detergent, dish washing liquids, bath soaps, shampoos, hand/body lotions, toothpaste and brushes, toilet paper, tissues, health care products for men and women, facial care products, nail clippers, and Christmas candy. **If your church can assist, please contact our vice chair, Cathy Nelson, 843-835-8589.** Our committee also handles cash donations for this project that we use to cover gas expenses for pick up and/or delivery of the baskets.

Sarah Sanchez continues to publish our newsletter. If you would like to receive a newsletter, please let me know, and I'll provide the information to Sarah. We are thankful to her for the job that she does.

We have a new project that has come on line this year thanks to Sandy Nesbit. She agreed to become our new Native American Representative Email Group Manager and Communications Coordinator. She will keep our communications open with our trained representatives letting them know our needs and projects and well as questions (continued on page 3)

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and concerns from the congregations back to our committee.

There is one area that we continue to see assistance from all churches. We need an accurate count of American Indian people in our churches. In many instances, there are one, three, or more American Indians attending our various congregations. However, they are not being identified in charge conference reports. Yes, it is easy just to guess or go by what has been sent in previously. However, we are asking churches to identify those Native American members of their congregations. Three of our committee members, who are American Indians, are not identified as Native Americans in their own churches. Thus, we have room for improvement.

In conclusion, I cannot tell you the excitement about the continued growth and progress that our committee continues to reach. We are a role model for other Native American Committees throughout the general conference. We are looking forward to continuing our old endeavors as well as expanding our mission and presence as we move forward into the next decade. Thank you and God bless especially all of those who have contributed to make this past decade such a success.

May the Great Spirit watch over you as long as the grass grows and the water flows.

Special Event at Lake Junaluska

The Native American Religious Coalition of the Carolinas will have a special event at Lake Junaluska on March 25th and 26th. It is going to address who are the Indian people of the Carolinas, their needs and issues. The event will start at 3pm on March 25th and end at noon on March 26th. The cost is \$57.50 for the room and two meals (\$81.50 for single occupancy). If you are interested in attending, please contact Gary Locklear at (910) 734-4070, (910) 521-8600 or (910) 521-3160.

Native American Ministries Sunday It doesn't have to be in April.

One of the special worship Sundays in the church is Native American Ministries Sunday. For 2010, the projected date is April 11th. The South Carolina United Methodist Native American committee is asking that you place this special Sunday on your church calendar. It is not too late to celebrate it this year and definitely not too early to plan for next year. With only eight committee members, our calendars fill fast.

We can provide educational workshops or other worship opportunities outside of the Sunday morning worship, but we would like all churches to start with an official Native American Ministries Sunday presented by our committee, so that all conference members have the same background information.

The South Carolina United Methodist Native American Committee is here to help and assist you with this special worship Sunday. Although it officially falls in April, we are willing to work with a church to schedule this Sunday any time during the year with an open date on that church's calendar. November is also Native American Heritage month for the United States. **To arrange a speaker for Native American Ministries Sunday, please contact Z. Tracy Pender, Native American Chair, 803 905-5672.**



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**An American Indian
Affirmation of Faith
By Zan Tracy Pender**

I believe in Grandfather God, the Great Spirit, the creator of all life and the maker of Heaven, the universe and the Earth. You have always been, and You will always be there.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His son, the Man who walks on water, the Savior of all people, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit.

I honor thy father and mother, Father Sky and Mother Earth, acknowledging that I am a mere strand in the circle of life where all living things are connected. What I do to the web, impacts all things. I am only a tenant caring for God's land.

I believe in the Sacred Circle remembering all of its teachings promising to walk a good Red road keeping Grandfather God and Christ at the center of my life.

I shall follow the teachings of my ancestors. I will treat all things with respect. I will only take what I need and nothing more. I will honor all of my relations working for the equality of all. I will speak the truth and to the good of others. I will leave no tracks as I walk the Earth on life's journey.

I offer my confession to Grandfather God and Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of my sins and my life ever lasting. This is my solemn commitment as an American Indian, a human being, and my affirmation of faith. I shall now go forth and seek that all my brothers and sisters in the circle of life join me. Aho, Amen.



Looking for Scholarship Donors

The Native American Committee is seeking scholarship donors to assist South Carolina Indian people with opportunities to expand their knowledge and to be involved with Indian people throughout the southeast and the country. Scholarships will enable American Indians to attend the annual Southeastern Jurisdictional Association of Native Americans (SEJANAM) summer Indian conference at Lake Junaluska, NC, and the American Indian Scouting Association (AISA) seminar for Boy and Girl Scouts.

Checks or money orders payable to NAC (in the memo section write scholarship or the specific scholarship) may be sent to the conference office (attention: Gail Corn) or to the Native American Committee chair, Tracy Pender (803-905-5672), 2270 Clematis Trail, Sumter, SC 29150.

We Need Your Help

◦Please check and ensure your ethnic count submitted with the annual conference report is correct. Many churches have American Indians as part of their congregations, but they are not recorded. Please help us get this count correct.
◦We are looking for Native American Representatives who are willing to attend their District meetings to officially represent us and provide information about our mission and committee efforts. Please contact Tracy Pender, 803-905-5672.

Dates to Remember

American Indian Scouting Association
52nd annual seminar
July 17-21, 2010
Tucson, AZ

1st Annual Catawba Pow-Wow
April 17-18, 2010
Winthrop Coliseum
Rock Hill, SC
Info: Ronnie Beck 803-328-2427,
ext. 230 or 803-493-3907