

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON INDIGENOUS MINISTRIES

Membership

Ms. Jasmine Bostock, *Chair*, 2015
The Rt. Rev. Michael Smith, *Vice Chair*, 2015
The Rev. Canon Mary Crist, *Secretary* (since 2014), 2018
The Rev. Rachel Taber-Hamilton, *Secretary* (until 2014)
Mr. Richard Ackley, 2018
The Rt. Rev. David Bailey, 2015
The Rev. Anna Frank, 2015
Ms. Carmine Goodhouse, 2015
Ms. LaCinda Hardy-Constant, 2018
The Rt. Rev. Mark Lattime, 2015
Mr. Frank Oberly, 2015
The Rev. Eulogio Quito, 2018
Ms. Wilma Standing Bear, 2015
The Rt. Rev. John Tarrant, 2015
The Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori, *Ex Officio*
The Rev. Gay Clark Jennings, *Ex Officio*
The Rev. Canon John Floberg, *Executive Council Liaison*
Ms. Sarah Eagle Heart, *Staff*

Summary of Work

Mandate: To recommend policy to the General Convention and Executive Council, raising concerns of Native Americans and Indigenous peoples in other countries where The Episcopal Church is present: (1) help the church respond to the spiritual needs of Indigenous peoples in all countries where The Episcopal Church is present; (2) help the Church to combat racism as it uniquely affects Indigenous peoples in all countries where The Episcopal Church is present; (3) help the Church to respond to the violation of treaty rights of Indigenous peoples in all countries where The Episcopal Church is present; (4) and help the Church find a way to fund Indigenous ministries and ministries with Indigenous peoples.

The ECCIM continued its work, as referred to by the 77th General Convention, to “examine the impact of the Doctrine of Discovery.” Eight areas of interest were identified: (1) Leadership development, including pastoral skills, (2) Healing of social ills (such as alcoholism, domestic violence, and teen suicide), (3) Reconciliation (as with boarding schools), (4) Youth ministry, (5) Women’s ministry, (6) Indigenizing Christian worship space, (7) Advocacy and (8) Environmental concerns.

The Bishops’ Native Collaborative began to offer hybrid, online-residential courses such as, “A Christian Response to the Repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery” and “Preaching and Praying the Scriptures.” The BNC also established partnerships with Episcopal Divinity School, Nashotah House Theological Seminary, Seminary of the Southwest through the Iona Initiative, the Diocese of Montana, Christ Church Cathedral of Cincinnati, and the Mission Enterprise Zones.

New Opportunity Grants for Native ministry were awarded to seven dioceses in the amount of \$75,000 per year for each year of the triennium. ECCIM conducted its work utilizing the Five Marks of Mission and the Baptismal Covenant.

Meetings: ECCIM met three times face-to-face during the triennium, including at the organizational meeting in St. Louis, MO; in Tulalip, WA; and in Salt Lake City, UT. These meetings were supplemented with five conference-call meetings.

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions are offered by ECCIM to the 78th General Convention:

A025: SUPPORT NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES ENGAGING AT-RISK TEENS

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That the 78th General Convention authorize establishment of a rapid response to Episcopal Ministries that are engaged in intervention to prevent an ongoing crisis in communities such as teen pregnancies, gang violence, school drop-outs, (LGBT) suicides; and be it further

Resolved, That the Executive Council’s Committee on Indigenous Ministry’s Subcommittee on Adolescent Ministries develop and administer a support system and financial resources that the Church can provide to these local communities; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention request that the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation for the triennium for the implementation of this resolution.

EXPLANATION

According to the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention, suicide was the second leading cause of death for American Indian/Alaska Natives between the ages of 10 and 34 in 2009. American Indian/Alaska Natives are twice as likely to experience feelings of nervousness or restlessness as compared to non-Hispanic whites.

Violent deaths — unintentional injuries, homicide, and suicide — account for 75 percent of all mortality in the second decade of life for American Indian/Alaska Natives. While the overall death rate from suicide for American Indian/Alaska Natives is comparable to that of the white population, adolescent American Indian/Alaska Native females have death rates at almost four times the rate for white females in the same age groups.

Rates of HIV/AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases are higher for American Indian/Alaska Natives than for the general population. Furthermore, in 2007, the preliminary birth rate for AI/AN teen girls (age 15-19) was 59.0 per 1,000, up 7 percent from 55.0 in 2006 and well above the national birth rate of 42.5 per 1,000.

A026: DEVELOP LOCAL MODELS OF ESTABLISHING YOUNG MEN’S MINISTRIES IN INDIGENOUS CONGREGATIONS

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That the 78th General Convention support dioceses and congregations in their efforts to develop ministry among young men in Native American communities; and be it further

Resolved, That the Executive Council’s Committee on Indigenous Ministries administer funding for, and gather models of ministry among, young men that encourage active participation in God’s Reign in the Church and in the world; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention request that the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation for the implementation of this resolution.

EXPLANATION

In many of our communities, men have abdicated their responsibility in the home, public forum, and faith communities. This is very prevalent in our Native American communities, where the role of males was undermined by the Europeanization of the Native peoples. Our government intentionally targeted Native males in order to make them subject to the white power structure. Native religious practices were restricted. Traditional means of support were destroyed. Dependency on government handouts, restriction of mobility through the Reservation system, and housing manipulation were implemented. Democracy was introduced as a governing model, ignoring the models of leadership development and selection already successfully in place.

The Church has an opportunity to impact these injustices through granting funds for programs of leadership development and participation in Christian religious practices that return the dignity of every human being, including the Native males who were, and in some cases are still, being stripped of their self-respect. This is evident by high rates of unemployment, substance abuse, domestic violence, and incarceration. If these programs are going to be successful, they must be developed from within the affected communities. It would be our goal to share the learning from the leadership programs with the Church in order to impact other vulnerable populations.

A027: DEVELOP AND SUPPORT TRIBAL COLLEGE CAMPUS MINISTRY

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That the 78th General Convention support dioceses and congregations in efforts to develop ministry among students and staff in Tribal Colleges; and be it further

Resolved, That the Executive Council's Committee on Campus Ministry collaborate with the Provincial Campus Ministry Network and the Episcopal Church Center staff in developing models of ministry that connect the local faith community and the college campuses; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention request that the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation for the implementation of this resolution.

EXPLANATION

Currently there are 32 fully accredited Tribal Colleges and Universities (TCUs) in the United States, with one formal candidate for accreditation. Three are in Associate Status. These TCUs offer 358 programs in total, including apprenticeships, diplomas, certificates, and degrees. These programs include 181 associate degree programs at 23 TCUs, 40 bachelor's degree programs at 11 TCUs, and 5 master's degree programs at 2 TCUs (AIHEC).

Located mainly in the Midwest and Southwest, TCUs service approximately 30,000 full- and part-time students. According to fall 2010 enrollment data, 8.7 percent of American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) college students were attending one of the 32 accredited TCUs. AI/AN students constituted 78 percent of the combined total enrollment of these institutions (2010 Review of Federal Agencies' Support to Tribal Colleges and Universities). The percentages of AI/AN students attending TCUs are increasing yearly. According to a study by the National Center for Education Statistics, the number of American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) students enrolled in TCUs increased by 23 percent between 2001 and 2006.

TCUs are both integral and essential to their communities, creating environments that foster American Indian culture, languages, and traditions. They are often the only postsecondary institutions within some of our nation's poorest rural areas. TCUs serve a variety of people, from young adults to senior citizens, and from American Indians to non-American Indians. They also serve as community resources for crucial social services and add hope to communities that suffer from high rates of poverty and unemployment. And

overall, TCUs have developed programs where students are achieving. The American Indian College Fund reports that 86 percent of TCU students complete their chosen program of study, while fewer than 10 percent of AI/AN students who go directly from reservation high schools to mainstream colleges and universities finish their bachelor's degree.

A028: SUPPORT INDIGENOUS THEOLOGICAL TRAINING

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That the 78th General Convention requests the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance to consider a budget allocation for each year of the triennium for support of the Bishops' Native Collaborative, Indigenous training for Province IX, and for other Indigenous ministry training programs under the direction and supervision of the Office of Indigenous Ministry and the Executive Council's Committee on Indigenous Ministries of The Episcopal Church; be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention support the ongoing development of the Bishops' Native Collaborative to train and equip leaders and their faith communities in pastoral theology to effectively work with families and individuals; and be it further

Resolved, That Indigenous people be encouraged to develop and share these resources; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention directs the Executive Council's Committee on Indigenous Ministries to seek ways to collaborate with the Dioceses of Oklahoma, Iowa, Montana, Wyoming, Minnesota, Hawaii, Fond du Lac, Olympia, Los Angeles, Western North Carolina, Ecuador Central, Central Gulf Coast, Western New York, Central New York, Long Island, Northern California, Rio Grande, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, and others with Native members for purposes of theological education.

EXPLANATION

The Bishops' Native Collaborative is a consortium of the Niobrara School for Ministry, Hooghan Learning Circle, North Dakota School for Ministry, David Salmon School for Ministry, Father Paul Mather School for Ministry of the Dioceses of Alaska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and the Navajoland Area Mission. Its goal is to provide training for lay and ordained leaders by sharing resources for theological education based on, but not limited to, the seven subject areas listed in Canon III.5(g) of The Episcopal Church. Training for the indigenous peoples of Province IX responds to the recent and increasing expansion of 10,000 Episcopalians, most notably among the Kichwa people of the Diocese of Central Ecuador.

A029: PROTECT HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIMS ON INDIAN RESERVATIONS IN MONTANA AND NORTH DAKOTA

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring, That the 78th General Convention calls for the protection of all victims of human trafficking, particularly women and children, by providing necessary attention to their physical, psychological, and social needs using approaches that respect victims' rights and integrity; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention urges members of The Episcopal Church to support governmental hearings, legislation, and action to promote the recovery and reintegration into society of victims of human trafficking; providing a safe, dignified, and sustainable way for trafficking victims to reintegrate into society and lead a normalized life; and be it further

Resolved, That the 78th General Convention affirm the continued participation of The Episcopal Church in the Indigenous groups of the United Nations dealing with human-trafficking issues, particularly, though not exclusively, the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women and the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, for the purposes of education, advocacy, and collaborative partnerships; and be it further

Resolved, That the Episcopal Church conduct an educational campaign to make the public aware of the impact of human trafficking on Indigenous people, particularly, but not exclusively, in Montana and North Dakota; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Convention request that the Joint Standing Committee on Program, Budget and Finance consider a budget allocation for the triennium for the implementation of this resolution.

EXPLANATION

U.S. Senate Hearing entitled, “Combating Human Trafficking: Federal, State, and Local Perspectives” before the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Monday, September 23, 2013:

“Congressional findings are that Native American and Alaska Native women are raped 34.1 percent, more than 1 in 3, in their lifetime; 64 percent, more than 6 in 10, will be physically assaulted. Native women are stalked more than twice the rate of other women. Native women are murdered at more than ten times the national average. Non-Indians commit 88 percent of violent crimes against Native women.

With the recent wide-range impact of extractive industries such as oil fracking and pipelines is predatory economics at its worse for the Fort Berthold Nation in North Dakota and Fort Peck Reservation in Montana. With the fracking of the Bakken formation ... [there] has been a doubling and tripling of numbers of sexual assaults, domestic violence and human trafficking incidents since 2008.

Within Northeastern Montana ... Groups of men from the man camps use free access to drugs and alcohol as a method of coercion for young native women to ‘get in the car’ and go party. This has resulted in 11 young Native women ranging from the ages of 16-21 years of age reporting rape, gang rape and other sex acts; the majority of these victims are afraid to report due to fear and shame.”

Budget

ECCIM hopes to meet face-to-face three times during the next triennium. This will require \$18,200 for 2016; \$18,200 for 2017; and \$18,200 for 2018, for a total of \$54,600 for the triennium.