

COMMITTEE ON NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES

(CONAM)

September 13, 2021

MEETING MINUTES

Attendance: *Bill Konrardy, Cindy Saufferer, Paula Gaboury, Kathy King, Dawn Houser, Lyndy Zabel.*

Meeting took place over BlueJeans and began at 1:35 pm. Kathy King offered an opening prayer.

OLD BUSINESS:

Diaper Drive Distribution – Currently there is \$5,159.03 in the diaper drive money. Discussion ensued regarding this mission opportunity. This money was a part of the 2020 Annual Conference Love Offering. Because of Covid it was difficult to distribute diapers. Many of the reservations have been shut down due to Covid in an effort to protect the Elder's. In protecting Elders, the community is protecting culture and language as the Elders are those who pass the Native culture and language on to the next generation.

Action:

1. Kathy King will be in discussion with the Native American Student Advisor at Mankato State University to see if they would prefer a check to distribute diapers to Native American Students or if they would prefer to have diapers provided to them.
2. Dawn Houser – Will work with the schools associated with Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe and the Native American Charter School south of McGregor and associated with many Fond du Lac Tribe families. She will inquire about whether they would prefer us purchase diapers or give them cash to distribute diapers as they are needed.
3. Dawn Houser will inquire with Guy Sederski about the Indian Magnet School in St. Paul about a diaper distribution.

NEW BUSINESS:

Drum Purchase / Vision – CONAM purchased a Ceremonial Drum that can be utilized at any gathering within the Minnesota Annual Conference. The drum must first be woken up. It was thought that CONAM would gather first to participate in an initial drum waking ceremony. A discussion ensued regarding the usage of the drum at Annual Conference. Perhaps during a worship service. Paula suggested that we contact a Native drum group that would come to Annual Conference to offer a teaching about the symbolism of the drum and its' use in ceremony and explain some of the songs that are sung around the drum. Everyone agreed this would be a good idea. Lyndy offered that the next Annual Conference will most likely be a hybrid or all online depending on what happens with Covid cases. We will need to be in touch with the Annual Conference Planning Committee to offer the use of the drum.

Mini Retreat - It has been a few years since CONAM gathered together. The group contemplated where to have the retreat that would be centrally located. Northern Pines, Koronis, Migiziwaadiswan, or someplace in St. Cloud was discussed. Ultimately, it was recommended that CONAM gather at Migiziwaadiswan (Eagles Nest) located at, 2510 Highway 73, Cromwell, MN 55726 for this retreat. Two sets of dates were a possibility, October 7th and 8th or October 21st and 22nd. Dawn will check to see if this date will work for Migiziwaadiswan. Also, Dawn shared that Guy Sederski contacted her to share that Janet Larson and her husband would like to donate a pipe from Pipestone to CONAM. This retreat will include the gifting of this pipe by Janet and her husband, a drum learning lesson and assistance in the waking of the drum by Terry Kemper. Dawn will check

to see if Terry Kemper will also provide a teaching on the Sweat Lodge. When the details of the Mini Retreat are set up, Dawn will forward all the information to the members of CONAM by email.

Conference Website / CONAM Tab – It was discussed that this really needs to be updated. Kathy is going to take a look at the information and work with Karla Hovde from the Conference Office. When she gathers more information, she will send information out to the committee for input. Thank you, Kathy, for taking this on.

Healing Minnesota Stories Tour of Sacred Sites – Dawn shared that this was a tour that the most recent Shmita group attended. It was impactful and helpful to the clergy who participated. Only two of our committee have not been on the tour. Hopefully, this can happen this fall, before it gets too cold outside. Bill shared that some of the members of Healing Minnesota Stories would like to establish an Ojibwe tour of sacred sites. This would be good.

General Information -

1. Bill shared that Hopeful Earthkeepers are working on a Land Acknowledgement. Dawn shared with the group that she had been receiving information about their meetings but had not attended. Further explaining that she offered the Land Acknowledgement at Annual Conference a couple of years ago as an example. However, Land Acknowledgments should not be offered by a Native American person. The Land Acknowledgement is something that the Native American Person receives. She shared she will be happy to review the Land Acknowledgement they create to be certain it is not offensive to anyone.
2. Cindy inquired about the “First Nations Version: An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament”. A few members have it ordered and are waiting for it. Others had heard of it. Bill put a link in the chat for this new version of the New Testament.
3. Cindy also inquired as to whether or not there is a North Central Jurisdictional CONAM. Lyndy thought there was and that Jerry DeVine, from the Michigan Annual Conference, may be the Chair of this committee. Dawn indicated that she knew Jerry and would find out.

With thanks and appreciation, the meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by: Dawn Houser, CONAM Chair