

## CONAM 2016

CONAM continues to struggle with the challenge of engaging the conference in the challenging work of listening and learning about the history, harm and historical trauma experienced by Native Americans in YAC. The massive learning and changing that needs to happen in YAC is daunting and the CONAM members have spent many hours in learning and conversation within CONAM and with tribal members from several tribes. There is a palpable sense of caution from tribal members as these discussions have been approached, the relationships will be slow in coming, but seeds are planted.

CONAM members have also continued educating themselves on the history and current challenges, as well as expert opinion on healing historical trauma. Working to learn more about the Doctrine of Discovery has brought conversations and planning for future collaboration with the Sisters of Loretto, the Indigenous Law Institute and Colorado Quakers among others. The Doctrine of Discovery is at the core of the genocide of millions of Native Americans in the United States and continues to negatively impact Native Americans today.

CONAM has a link on the website to post information and has been reading and watching videos, movies in order to make recommendations. This resource list for YAC will be posted on the website soon. Additionally, the link includes a grant request form for Native American Sunday funds.

Currently, there are two Native American Ministries in YAC, The Blackfeet Parish and the Sheridan FUMC NAM. In 2016 \$3100 was given to the Blackfeet Parish, \$500 was given to supporting Standing Rock, and \$300 to support the Birney Verteran's PowWow.

CONAM members traveled to Standing Rock to learn how to support the tribes. Upon returning, we consulted with multiple people from several tribes and learned that our best support would be prayer.

YAC includes many tribes and our goals for 2017 are a reasonable expectation of what we can accomplish. It includes conversation with two Circuits and within two tribes. We have also planned trips to two conferences NCAP; Native American Comprehensive Plan and NAIC; Native American International Caucus. The purpose of these trips is for collaboration with other CONAMS across the country and Native people within the church. CONAM recognizes that the historical trauma of Native American people needs to be addressed both within and outside of the church. CONAM has attended the national CONAM meetings in the past and benefited from the conversations with other CONAMS and Native Americans within the church. CONAM will continue dialogue about having time at Annual Conference to focus on this work. Additionally CONAM will plan a meeting/retreat for CONAM members and the potential new CONAM members that have identified their interest in becoming CONAM members. We will hope to chart our course in uncharted territory!