

## **Committee on Native American Ministries, CONAM**

Truly this committee is blessed. So much has happened in 2008. First of all, a great big thank you to all the Kansas West Churches that gave so generously to Native American Day, April 6, 2008. You have allowed us to carry out our vision. "Our vision is to develop faith communities in facilities wherein Native Americans may bond and worship the Lord and our God using their traditional and cultural ways"

Pastor Stephanie Wall-Brown announced her plans to move to Orlando, Florida. We were extremely sad by this. She was a great leader and showed compassion to our Native people. She attended our meetings and gave us direction on decisions that we needed to make. Pastor Cheryl Bell has been a great instrument guiding us in communication with our UM churches. She also attended a great deal of our meetings.

One of our committee members, the pastor of the Wichita Indian UMC, Oklahoma Indian Mission Conference, Pastor June Thomas resigned. Pastor Michael Eddy replaced her in June. He became an active member of our committee. We appreciate his attendance and the ideas that he brings to the table.

Radical hospitality often requires us to see things from new perspectives. We sent four committee members to Albuquerque, New Mexico for the Native American Women in Ministry Conference. This was held September 18, 19, 20, 21, 2008. This event was for clergy and laity. It was a gathering for healing, nurturing and wholeness. Some of our committee members have not experienced so many Native American women in the ministry. It was an honor for them to attend and be among Native women in the ministry. The four committee members attend The Wichita Indian UMC. Jo Ann Star, who is the Sunday School Superintendent, at the Wichita Indian UMC had this to report. "As Native American Women we have much to offer and much to accomplish, which means there is work to do among ourselves and all of our People on many levels for the Kingdom of Christ."

### **Radical Hospitality Beverly Van Horn, Chairperson**

Our project this year, "Keeping All God's Children Warm for the Winter" was a success. Here is a short synopsis of the event that was in the Connection paper.

The Committee on Native American Ministries held their first annual "Keeping All God's Children Warm for the Winter" project. The event took place, December 10, 2008, at the Mid American All Indian Center in conjunction with the annual children's Christmas party. A total of 68 grade school children chose a matching set of gloves, scarves, and a stocking hat. Also, 28 toddlers were given mittens and headbands. The committee members made the scarves from flannel material. The children were very grateful to receive the winter apparel. We told the children that Jesus loves them.

We plan in 2009 to start on this project early. We most likely will make scarves again. The children enjoyed picking out the different colors and themes of the scarves. We noticed that teenagers needed the winter apparel too. We may extend our target age group to include high school.

1 We granted college scholarships of \$250.00 each to five students. The recipients were: Michael  
2 Rowe, Rachel Womack, Seth Harshberger, and Stephanie Harshberger, Nikki Soliz. These  
3 recipients must hold a 3.25 grade point average.

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5 The Native American Elders Council was granted \$1000.00. This group believes a strong Indian  
6 community benefits everyone and that as Elders we have unique opportunities and responsibilities  
7 to create and maintain that strong community.

8 Some of their events are Nursing home dance demonstration programs, Thanksgiving dinner and  
9 heritage workshop.

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11 Our committee has joint meetings with the Kansas East Conference, Committee on Native  
12 American Ministries. These meetings are held in Emporia, Kansas. We report our activities, share  
13 ideas, and discuss how we might become a catalyst for CONAM communication and networking in  
14 our Jurisdiction.

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16 We are working on a couple of new projects for 2009. Lunch & Learn: one hour presentation on  
17 various subjects. The target audience will be various groups from just women to men & women,  
18 children, teenagers. It depends on the topic. The second project is called "Phoebe-A messenger of  
19 Hope for the Community" This project will bring awareness of community resources to sustain a  
20 young women's life and for her family now and in the future. Please pray for our committee to be  
21 successful in these undertakings.

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24 **Board of Church and Society**  
25 **Aaron Madondo, Chair**

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27 Hospitality involves serving and welcoming people beyond the facility doors.

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- We co-sponsored peace lectures in Newton with KIPCOR Kansas institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution.
  - Along with the Peace and social justice Center in Wichita We sponsored an art essay with school age children. Through this project we were able to help children and those that saw the display think about the relationship of peace and justice. This gave us an opportunity to work hand and hand with the public schools in Wichita.
  - We have had an ongoing relationship with Uganda Project, providing support for a ministry that serves children with AIDS in Uganda.
  - We worked with Kansas East to address the issue of children's insurance needs in Kansas.
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39 We see education and awareness as important components to our work and have worked to be  
40 involved in both areas. The following projects are a result.

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- Creation Care awards encourage churches to think about their use of resources. We are happy to give Creation Care awards to seven churches and pray that we can give many more of these in the coming year.
  - We made *The Social Principles* available at annual conference and encouraged churches to study them.
  - We encouraged every church to donate at least one dollar per member to support Global AIDS Fund.
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1 We have set two particular areas of focus for the coming year in an attempt to dovetail with the four  
2 quadrennial foci of the general church.

- 3 • We understand that poverty is a major root or aggravation factor for needs that fall under  
4 the umbrella of church and society. Therefore we are making that our primary focus for the  
5 coming year. We will offer education about poverty in Kansas and in the world through  
6 workshops in different areas of the conference. We will also encourage churches to use *What*  
7 *Every Church Should Know About Poverty* and other books about poverty issues in their own  
8 study groups.
- 9 • We want to continue to encourage churches to work with the Social Principles as study  
10 materials and as inspiration for creative ministry. We are developing a process by which  
11 churches can earn awards for their study and practice of *The Social Principles*.

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14 **Open House Month Resolution**  
15 **Marketing & Communications Council, Jeff Slater, Chair**

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17 WHEREAS, Open House Month is an opportunity for United Methodist congregations to ReThink  
18 Church and find radical new ways to welcome their neighbors into Christian community. It provides  
19 our people an opportunity to “Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors” to those who are seeking  
20 connection and community

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22 AND WHEREAS, the Kansas West Annual Conference and its churches are called to invite  
23 through radical hospitality and find new ways of being the church in their communities;

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25 AND WHEREAS, Christ’s greatest commandment calls us to engage the people in our  
26 communities and share God’s love and Open House Month is a one way for congregations, as  
27 communities of faith, to share God’s love with their neighbors,

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29 BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that September be celebrated as “Open House Month” in the  
30 Kansas West Conference and each congregation be encouraged to:

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32 • attend a ReThink Church training and using the new resources with the  
33 congregation;
- 34 • consider ways to offer radical hospitality in being the church in the community;
- 35 • prepare the congregation for “Open House Month” by providing or participating  
36 in welcoming training using “Igniting Ministry” materials available from United  
37 Methodist Communications, Cokesbury and the United Methodist Resource  
38 Center;
- 39 • pray for our church, that through the messages broadcast and the welcoming  
40 demonstrated, people without a spiritual home will become Christian disciples.

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43 **Marketing & Communications Ministries Report**  
44 **Kathie Monroe, Council Secretary**

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46 The Marketing and Communications Council continues development as an Area Communications  
47 Office. Kansas East Communications Commission and Kansas West Communications Council

1 continue to meet twice annually to develop projects that will benefit Kansas United Methodists and  
2 promote the United Methodist Church. Communications resources are being developed for  
3 churches of both conferences, including interpretive materials for the conference budget. This year  
4 marks the beginning of a four-year cycle of promotion for every part of the conference budget.

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6 The Area Communications Office focuses energies on projects that benefit area, conference and  
7 district ministries. We continue to convey conference vision and develop an awareness of resources  
8 available to local churches. Expansion of video projects continues in both conferences.

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10 The Kansas West Conference continues to develop electronic resources for local churches, clergy  
11 and lay leadership. Using matching grant funds, we participate in the United Methodist Church  
12 “Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors” Campaign with television advertising at Christmas,  
13 Easter and in the fall. We are excited about working with Igniting Ministry in 2009 - 2012 with pilot  
14 programs before release to all United Methodist churches. More than 20 congregations will  
15 participate as test churches and provide data to the national Igniting Ministry campaign surveys  
16 annually beginning this year.

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18 Kansas West Connection is now featuring full color publications and a revised publication schedule.  
19 The publication was redesigned to make better use of space and reduce printing and mailing costs. A  
20 reader survey in 2008 indicates strong continued support for this ministry and for providing  
21 information about the positive things happening in local churches across the conference.

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23 Communications and Marketing Ministries are committed to providing excellence to United  
24 Methodists and citizens of Kansas and will continue to grow these ministries.

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