The Advocacy Resource Team (ART) exists to carry on the work of the Annual Conference out in the world. We seek to transform the world through witnessing to God’s love, righteousness, and justice. While this is always a challenge, I believe that the churches of the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference are seeking to help people who need to know the love of God in our area. Ultimately, we are seeking to reach beyond the ministries of compassion that touch the poor and the poor in spirit. To do this, we need to embrace the justice of God. Jesus spoke of the coming of the Reign of God as one that would bring holistic peace, in Hebrew, Shalom. This peace is one that also includes justice as a key component. Not an enforced peace, like Pax Romana or modern day nuclear non-proliferation, but the “peace that passes all understanding,” the peace of Jesus Christ. This peace can only be achieved when justice is made real in our world. As our Bishop, Peggy Johnson, has said, “The goal of justice is not for me to win and for you to lose, but for us to find a way forward together. The goal of justice is not to continue to punish yourself or others, but to find a new freedom that energizes all of life . . . Justice is the real deal: the radical surgery that creates real healing. It demands our total involvement. And God is using it every day to change the world.” It is this call upon all of us that drives ART and helps give it the passion to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

The ministry of the ART is one that seeks to enhance the ministry of the local church through conference related activities, education, events, and opportunities. Empowering the local church and local ministries to make a difference wherever they are is at the heart of our outreach efforts to Delaware and the Eastern Shore of Maryland. ART is guided by John 10:10, “. . . I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” These words of Jesus inform the work of the Advocacy Resource Team as it continues its mission to the world with the love of Christ through advocacy, mercy, and peace-related ministries. Currently, we find ourselves in a transitional year. As we prepare for a new quadrennium under new leadership, there are numerous opportunities to address issues of compassion and justice in our area, including racism, death penalty abolition in Delaware, disability ministries, working for peace in the Middle East, human trafficking, fair trade, and so on. It’s a difficult time for many in our world but God’s promises are always with us.
You are invited to be part of this adventure too. If you would like more information or would like to join us on the team, contact the Bishop Felton E. May Conference Resource Center. We always are looking for more advocates to be about the work of Christ.

Tom Pasmore
Coordinator

COMMITTEE ON NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES-CONAM

Mission: The mission of CONAM is to serve God, the Creator, while being a resource, advocate, and educational body for Native American Ministries within the Peninsula-Delaware Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Section 1: Review of 2014 Goals

To participate in training events for clergy in the Annual Conference on how to relate to Native American issues and ministry. We have provided an active Native American presence at Nurturing Wholeness in Community retreats in the Conference as well as Bishop’s Mid-Winter Retreat.

To offer classes/courses for lay persons through district leadership programs such as Lay Academies and The Well regarding Native American issues and ministry. We continue to offer our resources for lay academies and other awareness and training events within our Conference and throughout the Methodist connection.

To provide speakers for Native American Ministries Sunday in particular and for Native American cultural awareness events in general. To work toward ensuring the best use of our speakers and their effective impact on local churches/communities. This is ongoing and a major goal of our committee. We are working to deploy our speakers in such a way that they have a positive impact on local churches and communities.

To continue to develop and strengthen partnerships between the two Native American Churches, Indian Mission UMC, Immanuel Union UMC and other congregations in the Conference. Our CONAM invites the two pastors from our Native American churches to be a part of our committee and encourages their
presence and input at our meetings as well as the Northeast Jurisdictional
CONAM annual meetings.

To expand the ministry of CONAM into other areas of the Peninsula-Delaware
Conference. CONAM continues to conduct programs in a variety of settings
such as schools, universities, civic organizations, camps, scouting events,
historical societies, libraries, Native American cultural events such as pow
wows and festivals.

To continue to promote the celebration of Native American Ministries Sunday.
This is a major goal of CONAM. We make available to the local congregations
resources, speakers, materials and ideas for having and conducting a service for
this special offering Sunday. We are encouraging our CONAM representatives in
each church or charge to help design a Native American Ministries Sunday
worship service.

To provide financial support for persons to attend Native American Family
Camp, Peg-Leg Flamingos, a youth leadership training, Native American lay
speaking school and other Native American awareness training events and
leadership opportunities. This is a major goal of CONAM and is ongoing.

To continue to seek to identify other Native American/American Indian tribal
peoples and those with Native American/American Indian heritage, living
within the boundaries of our Annual Conference. This is a major goal of
CONAM and is ongoing. Many people have self-identified through CONAM
presentations in their church. We encourage our CONAM representatives to
help identify Native persons within their church or charge.

To continue to provide representatives from churches/charges in our Annual
Conference CONAM. We shall continue to encourage District Superintendents
to follow The Book of Discipline, where at charge conference a person will be
named as representative to CONAM. Once representatives are made known,
CONAM will have a gathering session to inform representatives of their
responsibilities, bring awareness of CONAM, its purpose and responsibility
within our Annual Conference, and build relationships and partnerships with
CONAM representatives and their church or charge. Representatives are
encouraged to attend CONAM meetings. CONAM representatives will be
informed of meetings and special events through emails and CONAM conference
web page.

Section 2: Significant Events 2014
CONAM committee has supported and participated in the following events: Our members serve on many boards, teams, agencies and task forces within our annual conference and beyond.

**NURTURING WHOLENESS IN COMMUNITY LEVEL 1 & 2:** CONAM members have assumed leadership positions at these retreat experiences. Sharing history of Native people within the church, bringing awareness of ongoing historical trauma and unresolved grief experienced by many Native peoples as a result of continued racism, stereotyping, and depiction of Native people in unflattering ways, such as mascots and characterizing them in dehumanizing cartoons. We have expressed many ways in which racial division can be reconciled and how inclusiveness can lead to healing.

**NDN STIXS:** Is a group of children and their mentors that meet every Monday evening at the Nanticoke Indian Center to learn about positive relationships. We learn from them and they learn from us. The Nanticoke Indian Tribe and individuals of the community have encouraged us as a group, because we tend to focus on bettering our community by involving our children in community events. Our hope is to allow children from the community an outlet for their energy. We accomplish this by doing crafts and teaching cultural traditions. While exercising we focus on being healthy, singing and spending quality time with them. We want them to know that they have caring adults in their community that will be there to support them in good times and difficult times. These experiences allow them to have someone present that they can turn to, along with their parents, when they feel like they need support and guidance. It is our hope that they will benefit from the ongoing interaction with their mentors. Our prayer circle helps put an emphasis on praises and needs in community.

**NATIVE WRITERS WORKSHOP:** This is an ongoing event sponsored by NACP (Native American Comprehensive Plan). This workshop focuses on Native adults and youth, writing works for worship services, poetry, and stories that can be used by Native and non-Native people. Works from the Native writers is available for use through the NACP and GBOD (General Board of Discipleship) websites. Writers from this group have been asked to write for other agencies or events. This gathering is vital to preparing Native people to express their voices through writing. Many adults and youth from our CONAM and local Native communities have participated in this event.

**MOCCASINS ROCK:** Tennessee Annual Conference CONAM invites Ragghi
Calentine and boe harris as leadership to help plan and participate as workshop leaders for this annual event, held at Camp Benson, Tennessee. Many Native leaders from many conferences across the Methodist connection are part of this event. This event is open to Native and non-Native people of all ages. The focus of this event is to bring awareness of the Native culture and to educate participants about current Native issues. Participants experience traditional Native stories, lectures, talking circles, workshops, Native crafts, traditional drum and flute music, traditional tribal dances and open mic evenings to share their gifts and talents. Personal stories from participants have expressed life changing experiences from this week end. Being in leadership for this event has led to invitations for Ragghi Calentine and boe harris to be workshop leaders and speakers in other annual conferences across our Methodist connection.

NATIVE AMERICAN FAMILY CAMP: NAIC (Native American International Caucus) Ragghi Calentine is chairperson of family camp. This event is open to Native families across the Methodist connection with emphasis on education, experiencing the tribal people who live in the area where the camp is held, workshops on current Native issues, activities for all age groups and fun. This gathering is an opportunity for Native peoples to come together in fellowship and support of one another. This event is crucially important to the Native traditional concept of community and extended community.

NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRY SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS: Many of our committee members have taken part in many churches throughout our conference and other conferences celebrating this special Sunday. We thank the churches for their invitations, contributions and dedication to the ministry of CONAM.

NANTICOKE TRIBAL DANCE TROUPE: CONAM members and many of the NDN STIXS are members of this dance troupe and share stories, music, traditional dancing and cultural traditions at various events throughout the Northeast.

EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE: Our CONAM and EPA CONAM are in partnership and support of each other. Many of our CONAM members have traveled to churches in EPA area to share in Native American Ministry Sunday services and participated in their annual conference.

SPIRIT LAKE RESERVATION, NORTH DAKOTA: A member of CONAM joined with group from Aldersgate UMC in Wilmington, DE to participate in helping the Spirit Lake Ministries repair homes and help with providing Sidewalk
Sunday School to the children and youth in the communities of Spirit Lake Dakota Reservation.

UNITY RUN: Running has always been an important part of life for Native People, not only for hunting but for carrying messages to other villages. Running has deep roots in spiritual traditions for Native people, it keeps us healthy and in balance with the world around us. More importantly, it promotes a spiritual connectedness with the Creator God. The Unity Run will encourage each of us to remember our rich heritage and take pride in each other's gifts. Runners will offer prayers as they sacrifice their bodies, energy and time in making this journey for family, friends and community. We are still here and will continue to be here for all future generations. Two years ago a grant was acquired from GBGM (General Board of Global Ministries) to fund a Unity Run, an event to unite three federation tribes, two of Delaware and one from New Jersey. Unity Run committee meets every month, plans and implements activities for the three communities. Nanticoke history and language class, Elders stories, Easter egg hunt, Shawl project, Ribbon shirts and their history, Pow Wow etiquette, Swing set project were among some of the 2014 events. In October the actual run took place with all three tribal chiefs leading the walk run. It was a great success and the 3rd annual run will take place again in October 2015.

PEG-LEG FLAMINGOS: Peg-Leg Flamingos grew out of the 2011 gathering of Native American Youth. The youth envisioned a new symbol that is fun but reflects the challenges of the 21st Century. What would be more challenging than being a flamingo with a peg-leg? From that humorous question, we realized that flamingos are a threatened species. They survive by living as a community. We can, too. They share in the raising of their young as we do. Healthy flamingos getting proper nourishment are a wondrous pink, but unhealthy flamingos' feathers turn pale. If we stay in an unhealthy group, we become like them. In a world out of balance, flamingos stand on one leg and fly above threats. As future leaders we learn to not give up, to stand and rise above challenges! Flamingos are all of the colors of the Medicine Wheel; yellow, red (pink), black and white for they are connected to the earth. We are like them. We are strong, balanced and connected in community with Creator God. We are threatened, but we will survive! During the month of October 2014, Peg-Leg Flamingos traveled to Gretna Glen Camp, Lebanon, PA. There the youth began their journey of understanding a piece of their history and the challenges they will face as they work towards becoming leaders. Our hope and prayers are that each
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and every one who has walked this path understands the important part they are in God's encircling world. We are the Peg-Leg Flamingos.

CONAM REPRESENTATIVE TRAINING EVENT: It is the goal of CONAM to have an annual representative training event. This event is to offer opportunities for representatives to learn of CONAM ministries and ways in which they and their churches and charges can participate in a Native American Ministry Sunday worship service and learn of Native culture and traditions.

WEST VIRGINIA UNIVERSITY: CONAM members Ragghi Calentine and boe harris were invited to share in WVU's annual Peace Tree Ceremony. The invitation came about because two university professors are also on West Virginia's Annual Conference Conam and knew us from annual Northeast Conam meetings. Our stay was a week with meeting with faculty and students from various departments and lecturing in several Native American Studies classes. We also participated in a healing ceremony, for the University has lost many students during this last school year.

Section 3: Committee members participation in other vital General Church ministries:

NAIC: Native American International Caucus. Ragghi Calentine and Brett Jackson, Kayleigh Vickers (Nanticoke Tribal young adults) are representatives to this General Church caucus.

NACP: Native American Comprehensive Plan. Ragghi Calentine, boe harris and Kayleigh Vickers (Nanticoke young adult), are representatives for this quadrennium.

UMCom: United Methodist Communications, Ragghi Calentine is a board member for this quadrennium.

NEJCONAM: Northeastern Jurisdictional Committee On Native American Ministries. This is an annual event and we send representatives each year.

Section 4: Goals for 2015

CONAM shall continue to make our voices and presence known within our conference and beyond, being a pathway to awareness and education. We shall
continue to bring awareness of historical trauma and unresolved grief and how the continuance of racism prevents reconciliation and the healing process of Native people.

CONAM will continue to encourage our conference to fulfill the position of CONAM representative in each church or charge to our conference committee. CONAM will plan events for committee members, representatives and conference communities that bring awareness of Native peoples. CONAM will continue the journey with our Bishop and conference leadership to bring awareness of the Act of Repentance and paths to forgiveness, reconciliation and healing.

CONAM wishes to thank all those that have invited us to be a part of their Native American Ministries Sunday worship services, gatherings and events. We look towards many more invitations. We appreciate all the financial support that our churches and charges have given us so we might continue our ministry.

In His Service,
Ragghi Calentine CoChair
boe harris CoChair