

PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY BOARD
April 15-17, 2015
Racial Ethnic & Women's Ministries Ministry Area

ITEM C.102
FOR ACTION

<i>FOR PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S OFFICE USE ONLY</i>			
	A. Finance		E. Corporate Property, Legal, Finance
	B. Justice		F. PC(USA), A Corporation
X	C. Leadership		G. Audit
	D. Worshiping Communities		H. Executive Committee
			J. Nominating Committee
			K. Governance Committee
			P. Plenary

Subject: **Cook Native American Ministries Report**

Recommendation:

That the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board vote to discontinue base grants from the Christmas Joy Offering to Cook Native American Ministries (now The Charles H. Cook Foundation), with thanksgiving for its many years of dedicated educational ministry, as the campus has been sold, and Cook has transitioned from a racial ethnic school to a foundation; and that Cook receive its final disbursement on August 21, 2015.

Background:

At its September 2014 meeting, the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board voted to:

Continue to disburse a base grant to Cook Native American Ministries (CNAM) from the Christmas Joy Offering until April 2015. CNAM will present a report on their progress in transitioning from an educational institution to a foundation at the April 2015 Presbyterian Mission Agency Board Meeting, and determinations about future disbursements will be made at the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board meeting in April 2015.

Cook received a base grant on February 20, 2015, and will receive a grant on May 22, 2015, with the last grant to be disbursed August 21, 2015. Cook sold its campus on July 23, 2014, and funds from the sale were transferred to an endowment fund at the Presbyterian Foundation, which now manages the proceeds.

On January 9, 2015, Cook Native American Ministries approved an amended bylaw renaming the organization the Charles H. Cook Foundation. As a foundation, Cook no longer meets the Institutional Standards for Participating in the Christmas Joy Offering. The Presbyterian Mission Agency honors the legacy of the Reverend Charles H. Cook, who founded the school, and values Cook Native American Ministries (formerly Cook School for Christian Leadership) and its mission to educate and empower Native Americans to be church leaders. In the history of the institution, Cook School for Christian Leadership offered associate degrees in pastoral care and Christian education, as well as theological education by extension courses. The newly established Charles H. Cook Foundation will provide grants to Native American educational and community ministries.

In 2008, Cook School for Christian Leadership began its transition from a racial ethnic educational institution to a Native American foundation. In early 2008, Larry Norris, former president of Cook

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School for Christian Leadership, attended the Discipleship Committee of the General Assembly Council (now the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board) and gave a presentation. From February 2008 to September 2014, Cook School for Christian Leadership (renamed Cook Native American Ministries) submitted Action or Information Reports, as well as Financial Reports, to each Presbyterian Mission Agency Board meeting. For six years, the Presbyterian Mission Agency's Leadership (formerly Discipleship) Committee has voted to continue base grants each academic year, awaiting Cook's transition from an educational institution to a foundation. A number of site visits were also conducted during this time.

Over the last few years, representatives from Cook have given reports sharing its strategic plan to transition from a school to a foundation at Presbyterian Mission Agency Board meetings. Isaac Curley was recently named as the Executive Director of the Charles H. Cook Foundation. The foundation has been established and grants will be provided to Native American educational and community ministries.

Charles H. Cook Foundation
Tempe, Arizona

Report to the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board

Mission Statement: *In response to the Christian Gospel, Cook Native American Ministries equips leaders to better serve their churches and communities.*

Introduction

The following report is an update on the work and progress at Cook Native American Ministries over the past several months.

In accordance with Institutional Standards for Participating in the Christmas Joy Offering, section I. D. 2., Cook Native American Ministries (CNAM) herewith was a non-degree granting institution that had an alternative educational model that was consistent with its mission to educate racial ethnic students. The Presbyterian Mission Agency Board approved CNAM for participation in the Christmas Joy Offering as it offered an active and enriching Commissioned Ruling Elders (CRE) program and an annual grants award in lieu of serving as an accredited educational institution. Descriptions of these two ongoing projects are provided in this report.

In alignment with strategic plans, our transition to becoming a foundation has taken a major leap with adoption of the Amended and Restated Bylaws on January 9, 2015. Please note that the amended document has been reviewed by legal counsel prior to its review and adoption by the Board. As a result of these adopted amendments, Cook Native American Ministries is now Charles H. Cook Foundation. Although the organization assumes the role of a foundation, the development of goals and tasks remains an ongoing process. Other changes include: The number of Board of Directors (BOD) has decreased from eleven to nine; the number of meetings has decreased from four to three meetings, which includes an annual meeting. In addition, the officers of the BOD must reside within a 50-mile radius of Tempe, AZ, (Amended and Restated Bylaws accompany this report).

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Audit

Walker and Armstrong, LLP, Certified Public Accountants & Advisors, completed the audit for the seven-month period ending December 31, 2013. (A copy of the complete financial audit is available upon request).

Current Financial Status

A Profit and Loss document covering income and expenditures from January through December 2014 is available upon request. Notably, the projected income fell short by nearly 15%. CNAM received quarterly payments totaling \$75,000 of the projected \$60,000 from UTE Mountain Distributions (stock from a deceased donor's estate.) However, the organization was apprised that it should anticipate a decrease in the upcoming fiscal year. Individual contributions, wills/trusts, and funds and endowments all experienced a decrease in its projected budget. Overall, income was under budget by \$35,891.

In reviewing expenses, we were overspent by approximately \$77,000. One of the contributing factors for the over-expenditures was the hiring of staff, which we had not projected. Additionally, there were two audits rather than one due to the changeover in the fiscal year from July-June and from January-December; plus unanticipated legal fees related to the sale of the land and property.

In regards to the corpus derived from the sale of the land and property, Cook Native American Foundation's Board of Directors received a comprehensive investment management review report from Tim Clark, Senior Vice President & Chief Operating Officer of New Covenant Trust Company. The portfolios are well diversified and within allowable tolerances of their asset target allocations.

Programmatic Updates

The Commissioned Ruling Elders (CRE) continued to provide educational services to elders from Arizona and California during this fall season. The second year of CRE certification courses were initiated in late November. The courses, "Faith Development and Spirituality" were held at the Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale on November 7-8, 2014, and led by the Rev. Judy Wellington (Pima/Dakota). Judy has a Master of Divinity degree from San Francisco Theological Seminary and has served in ecumenical community ministry and as an Associate Pastor for the Presbytery of Grand Canyon. The second-year courses will reconvene March 14 with "Polity" and during the month of June with "Reformed Worship, Liturgy, and Planning." The instructor for these courses is the Rev. Martha Sadongei. At this time, nine students are in the CRE program. The third-year courses begin in September 2015 with "Pastoral Care."

The CNAM Strategic Planning Committee has suggested continuing the CRE program for two more years. CNAM will continue working and supporting the program to ensure a smooth transition that includes developing and officially adopting a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between CNAM and the presbyteries of De Cristo and Grand Canyon. In mid-October an initial meeting took place with the Rev. Brad Munroe, Presbytery Pastor of the Presbyteries, to begin dialogue on the CRE transition, and to develop an MOU, which may lead to both organizations leasing office space in the same facility.

The winter and summer terms will offer training workshops at an unconfirmed date in late 2015 to include grant workshops and relevant courses to foster self-empowerment and to enhance the leadership skills necessary to run a successful ministry or project (the 2015 budget has designated \$8,000 for these purposes). The duties and responsibilities for planning, staffing and coordinating these trainings will, in all likelihood, be assigned to individual(s) rather than CNAM staff.

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The CNAM Grant Program commitments to increase the number of Native American leaders is evidenced by the 2015 grant awards approved for funding by the Board of Directors. A total of eighteen concept papers were received from organizations requesting a full grant, which is the first step of a two-step process. In following-up with the second step, fifteen (15) applicants received approval to submit a grant proposal. Fourteen were received and reviewed in mid-December by the Grant Committee. The committee included Board members, Dr. Michelle Hale, Gary Long, Rosita Tippeconnic and Isaac Curley acting as an ex-officio. The committee, upon completion of the vetting process, made its recommendations to the full board for funding approval at its meeting on January 9, 2015, which will be followed up with official notifications and signatures on a detailed agreement.

Dr. Michelle Hale and Isaac Curley will continue the Grant Committee's work to clarify and refine the application guidelines in preparation for the next Board meeting in May 2015. These updated and improved instructions and guidelines will also be available on the revamped website.

Website Revamp

A process to revamp the web site has been underway since October 2014. Approximately 80% of the work has been completed. CNAM has contracted with Mountain View Media, Scottsdale, AZ, for this work. Tim Clark, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of New Covenant Trust Company, offered assistance in developing the *Planned Giving* section of the website. The revamped website will launch within thirty days of this report. All associates and grantees will be respectively encouraged and/or required to provide a link to the revised Charles H. Cook Foundation website.

Visitors

Three noteworthy individuals who visited were former members of the Board of Trustees and Presidents of Cook College and Theological School: the Rev. Dr. Henry Fawcett (Tsimshian) resident of Dubuque, IA; Ralph Scissons (Shoshone) resident of Owyhee, NV; and Cecil Corbett (Nez Perce) of Scottsdale, AZ.

Staff

CNAM has two full-time staff: Isaac Curley, Executive Director, and Della Pena, Administrative Assistant, one-part time staff, Adelita Mesa-Receptionist/General Office, and one full-time temporary trainee, Melanie Begay. Nancy Fleming, our accountant, comes once a week; she is with Phocus Group/Seth Fink Accountants of Phoenix. Justin Sales, consultant, assists us with IT on a limited basis.

Summary

The Board of Directors and staff of Charles H. Cook Foundation are in an exciting historical period of transition. We remain thankful for a number of individuals and organizations, such as the PC(USA), which has graciously given of its time, knowledge and resources. We are grateful for the Christmas Joy Offering, which continues to sustain our ministry, and we remain committed to providing services to American Indian and Alaskan Native tribal communities.

Respectfully submitted,

Isaac Curley, Executive Director