

**ITEM C.204**  
**FOR INFORMATION**

**Report from Cook Native American Ministries**

**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 ministry and progress of Cook Native American Ministries (CNAM) over the last several months.

Our founder, the Rev. Dr. Charles H. Cook, heeded God's call to go, sow and grow leadership within the Native community; so trained leaders in turn would enrich and strengthen their churches and communities. As CNAM is in its formative stage of becoming a foundation, we remain committed to this same call and mission. We are fulfilling our commitment by offering programs that enhance leadership skills, nourish souls, inform and empower leaders on topics relevant to the immediate needs of the Native church and community. Program content and resources are intentionally designed to be duplicated, shared and tailored; so attendees can offer similar training in their local area. This report will include stipulations set by the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board. Our focus areas will include:

- Overview
- Leadership Changes
- Winter Workshop
- Upcoming Summer Session
- Commissioned Ruling Elders (CRE) Program
- Financial Overview and Audit
- Planning and Organization
- Property Sale and Timelines
- PC(USA) Staff Representative
- Summary

**Overview:**

CNAM continues to be in transition while the property sale begins closing. However, a significant step has taken place in the past several months to fully transition to a foundation. An initial grant program has been established with numerous applicants. Initial response to the grant program will guide the organization's emergence from a degree-granting institution to the largest Native American Christian philanthropy, while maintaining support of our financial contributors. The unanticipated extended transition has presented the opportunity to respectfully close one chapter, and allowed the establishment of a firm base as we embark upon a new chapter in the life of CNAM and the legacy of Charles H. Cook.

**Leadership Changes:**

The Executive Director resigned for personal reasons. The Board of Directors accepted the resignation with regret. The guiding principles of leadership are found in Cook Native American Ministries Bylaws, which name the Chair to lead day-to-day operations. The Rev. Dr. Ron Lundeen, a board member, was

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called to oversee the Grant Program, Fundraising, CRE and other programs. Della Peña remains as Administrative Assistant. Adelita Mesa was re-called to part-time receptionist and assistant to Della. Ron Lundeen and Gary G. Metoxen provided day-to-day leadership to Cook Native American Ministries from 2009-2012. An Executive Director vacancy was announced, and we have received four outstanding applications. A Search Committee has been named to begin the process of selecting a person to lead CNAM. The committee will review all applications in March and hold interviews in April.

**Winter Workshop:**

Cook Native American Ministries affirmed and demonstrated our continued commitment to carry on Charles H. Cook's vision to grow and support Native American leadership. Cook Native American Ministries planned, promoted, coordinated and hosted the 2014 Winter Workshop on January 9-11, which had positive responses. The facilitators were as follows:

- Rev. Debbie Royals
- Rev. Martin Brokenleg
- Rev. Dr. Larry Norris
- Dr. Carrie Johnson
- Rev. Judy Wellington (worship leader)

This training event serves its purpose and shows we are still here and we are growing.

**Upcoming Summer Session:**

We are pleased that we were selected to receive the John C. Martin Award for "Teaching of the Bible" from the Presbyterian Mission Agency. We are certain that this partnership meets our vision to teach and reach more Native leaders to better serve their churches and communities.

The Rev. Judy Wellington, the Rev. Debbie Royals, and the Rev. Dr. Ron Lundeen will be planning and leading this session.

**Commission Ruling Elders (CRE)**

Cook Native American Ministries will coordinate and sponsor the CRE program for the next two years. We hope to identify a partner who will assume coordination and oversight. We will be in position to fund this program for several years. The 2014-2016 programs will be marked as CRE and Lay Leadership Training. Facilitators for CRE are:

- Rev. Dr. Larry R. Norris
- Rev. Martha Sadongei

Rev. Dr. Lundeen will be providing oversight and coordination.

**Financial Overview & Audit:**

CNAM remains debt free and its finances are under control. An agreement has been reached with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Foundation to manage our endowment funds. It is anticipated that approximately \$10,000,000 will be managed by the PC(USA) Foundation.

Walker & Armstrong, LLP, Certified Public Accounts and Advisors completed our 2013 Audit.

**Planning and Organization:**

CNAM is committed to the vision and legacy of Charles H. Cook. We intend to take his teaching nationwide through our grant program. We will finance our ministry with seed grants supporting grass-

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root projects and ministries for Native American churches and communities.

We were pleased that the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Foundation provided board training and fiduciary responsibility and demonstrated its commitment to support the Board financially and to assist with fundraising. An Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Committee is developing short- and long-term strategic planning with action steps, milestones, timelines and budget.

**Property Sale and Timelines:**

A historical decision was made to sell the Cook Native American Ministries property. After several offers we are positioned to close on the property. The developers are doing due diligence and waiting on the City of Tempe to approve development plans. The next meeting is scheduled for community input on February 20, 2014. The Chair of the Board will attend this meeting.

The sale price of the land is \$8,750,000, with \$120,000 non-refundable money.

**Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Staff Representative:**

We welcome the Presbyterian Mission Agency staff representative, Simone Adams-Andrade, who will attend CNAM's Annual Meeting in May 2014. We are also in communication with the PC(USA) Foundation to place an individual from their organization on our Board as an ex-officio member.

**Summary:**

When the decision to transition from a degree-granting institution to the Charles H. Cook Foundation was approved, we focused on what we needed to continue the rich tradition of Native ministry and ensure financial stability, while continuing to fulfill our mission.

We are pleased to be the only North American ministry devoted exclusively to the task of providing Christian leadership to Native American churches and communities. CNAM is perceived by its constituents as having steadfastly and resolutely pursued its educational mission with distinction. By many measures, its service is unique.

The Grants Program funded ten programs for 2012-2013 and seven new grants with three renewals for 2013-2014. It is expected that the number of programs in 2014-2015 will triple. The Foundation will be positioned to respond to critical issues in Native churches that involve education and youth and lay leadership. New opportunities to partner with communities and churches will emerge. All of this will be possible through the vision of one man, Charles H. Cook. We will work to keep that vision alive. The next several months will be a time when churches and communities will create programs and services that will strengthen Christian ministry. New life will be given to struggling ministries, and there will be an opportunity to become proactive in Native American ministries.

We give thanks to our donors for their support, and we are grateful for the Christmas Joy Offering (CJO) that sustains this ministry. We also give thanks to the Presidents Roundtable and the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board's recommendation that the 221<sup>st</sup> General Assembly (2014) approve the Institutional Relationship Agreement with the Historically Presbyterian Racial Ethnic Institutions, of which we are a part.

Very respectfully submitted,

Gary G. Metoxen, Chair  
Board of Directors