

ITEM D.202
FOR INFORMATION

NATIVE AMERICAN DAY
SEPTEMBER 22ND OR 23RD (FALL EQUINOX)

Native American Day 2014 will be celebrated within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) on September 22, 2014. Check your planning calendar and www.pcusa.org/nativeamerican for resources. There will also be a Native American Day service at the Presbyterian Center Chapel on September 24. Members of the Advisory Committee related to the Native American Congregational Support office will participate in the worship and will hold their meeting the week of September 21, 2014.

Since 1994, Native American Day has appeared on the Presbyterian Planning Calendar as the day to recognize and celebrate the contributions of Native Americans/American Indians in the life of the church and community. Native American Day is recognized on the day of the Fall Equinox, which is either September 22nd or 23rd. The Fall Equinox is "harvest time" for many Native American tribes, and for centuries has been a time of celebration and preparation for winter.

The celebration of Native American Day gives recognition to the presence and contributions of Native Americans in our society and church today.

Native Americans have an active presence and identity within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Missionary work with Native Americans began in 1641 with the establishment of a mission among the Shinnecock tribe on Long Island, NY. The congregation still exists today and is led by a Shinnecock Presbyterian minister.

Native American churches are located from the Shinnecock on Long Island, New York, to Neah Bay, Washington, on the Makah Indian reservation, and from the Alabama-Coushatta in Livingston, Texas, to the Inupiaq at Point Barrow, Alaska. There is active involvement in ministry and support for these local churches and fellowships in twenty presbyteries within seven synods of the PC(USA). Two presbyteries, Dakota (non-geographic) and Grand Canyon each identify twenty-one churches and chapels within their bounds. The Synod of Alaska-Northwest has twenty-six Native congregations in its bounds. Ninety-five Native American congregations and chapels are located on reservations, and in rural areas. There are two urban congregations: Anchor Presbyterian Church, Anchorage, Alaska, in Yukon Presbytery, and Central Presbyterian Church in Phoenix, Arizona.