

## EPISCOPAL COUNCIL OF INDIGENOUS MINISTRIES

### Membership

Mr. Frank L. Oberly, <i>Chair</i>	Oklahoma
The Rt. Rev. Carol Joy Gallagher, <i>Secretary</i>	Southern Virginia
Mr. Malcolm N. Chun	Hawaii
The Rt. Rev. Andrew H. Fairfield	North Dakota
The Rt. Rev. Mark L. MacDonald	Alaska
Mr. Robert McGhee	Alabama
The Rt. Rev. Steven T. Plummer	Navajoland Area Mission
The Rt. Rev. Creighton L. Robertson	South Dakota
The Rev. Canon Michael Smith	Minnesota
The Rev. Robert Two Bulls Jr.	Los Angeles

### WORK SUMMARY

A special gathering of about 100 Native American Anglicans and representatives from dioceses involved in Native American work met in July 2001. The Rt. Rev. Steven Charleston convened the meeting with the Assistant to the Presiding Bishop for Program, Ms. Sonia Francis who provided logistical support. Clarity, understanding, and a better working relationship among Native American Anglicans, the Episcopal Council on Indigenous Ministries (ECIM), and the Episcopal Church Center was the meeting's purpose.

This prayer offered guidance. "O God, help me to get ready to meet with my brothers and sisters in Denver. Clear my mind of past hurts. Calm my spirit so that I may reach out to them with an open heart. Show me the path to new relationship. Forgive me for my mistakes as I forgive others for theirs. And bless the ministry with our Native American people that it may grow and serve them for years to come, through Jesus Christ, in whose Name I pray. Amen."

From this historic gathering on Native American ministry and the clarity it provided, the consensus was that ECIM has been the voice for Native American Anglicans and it should continue in this role. ECIM was directed to meet to do work given by General Conventions since 1991.

At the November 2001 meeting, convened by the Chair, work accomplished included: a by-laws revision; grant approvals for programs in dioceses with indigenous ministries; reviewing scholarship programs and studying ECIM's relationship with Council and the Episcopal Church.

In February 2002, ECIM became a committee reporting to Council. In June 2002, the Indigenous Theological Training Institute (ITTI) was approved to administer scholarship funds for indigenous peoples, held in trust by DFMS. ITTI is an independent 501(c)(3) corporation which provides theological education training for indigenous communities in the Anglican Church.

ECIM involvement continues in programs that are meaningful for indigenous peoples, including:

- Decade of Remembrance, Recognition and Reconciliation (1997-2007): In November 1997 the Native American communities and the Episcopal Church in Jamestown, VA, signed a "new" Jamestown Covenant. ECIM continues its support of this decade's importance.
- Wintertalk: annual gathering of Anglican lay workers, priests, bishops, youth, elders, academics and national church staff working with indigenous groups in the United States and Canada. At it, concerns and issues are shared while the program, social and religious needs of indigenous peoples are identified.
- Mountains and Deserts Regional Ministries: Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, and North California network.
- Paths Crossing Anglicans: indigenous and non-indigenous congregation reps. meet to form partnerships.
- Strong Heart Ministries: national native youth organization and Urban Indian Coalition.