

Guidelines for use of Committee on Native American Ministries (CONAM) special funds (adopted January 22, 2024)

I. Background:

The United Methodist Church of the Upper New York Conference Committee on Native American Ministries (CONAM) seeks to advocate for ministry with and by Native Americans and educate all regarding the rich and diverse culture, history, and traditions of Native Americans. A gap in knowledge exists in The United Methodist Church, in congregations and other United Methodist entities, relative to comprehending concepts of Native American life, cultures, languages, spirit, values, contemporary issues, and such. We affirm the sacredness of indigenous people, their languages, cultures, and gifts to the Church and the world.

A special offering is taken on a designated Sunday generally in April to support vital ministries and churches in the Native American communities which will partner The United Methodist Church of the Upper New York Conference with existing native ministries to develop new programs on behalf of Native Americans.

II. Announcement of grants:

Funding is available for Native American United Methodist church programs/events or community programs/events endorsed by the Native American church in The United Methodist Church of the Upper New York Conference and/or CONAM that “seek to advocate for ministry with and by Native Americans and educate all regarding the rich and diverse culture, history, and traditions of Native Americans.”

III. Purpose of programs/events:

Programs/events, whether they are sponsored by the Native American Methodist church in the Upper New York Conference or if they are endorsed by the Native American Methodist church and/or CONAM, should address issues confronting native communities. Examples of such issues include but are not limited to child abuse, boarding school trauma, Murdered Missing Indigenous Women, elder abuse, drug and alcohol abuse and any ministry programs sponsored by the Native American Methodist church or endorsed by CONAM.

IV. Availability of funding:

Requests for funding can be made at any time; however, grants can only be funded once a year based on the date of funding of the initial request. For example, if a request is funded in June, another request for the same program/event cannot be made until the following June.

V. Amount of funding:

Grants of up to \$2000 per program/event will be awarded.

VI. Application procedure:

All requests must be submitted on the existing CONAM grant form which is on The United Methodist Church Upper New York website, listing under [Native American Ministries](#).

VII. Grant review and approval:

All grants must be reviewed and approved according to the guidelines in Section III. of these guidelines by a majority of CONAM members. Approved grants must submit a written report at the conclusion of the project describing how the funds were used to achieve the goals of the project. Further, if a grantee does not submit a final report, they will not be eligible for another grant until the required report is submitted.

VIII. Acknowledgement:

All grantees are to publicly acknowledge the support provided by CONAM.