



Advocate

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Support of Standing Rock and the Water Issue

The Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference continues to be in support to the Standing Rock Tribe of North and South Dakota and to well over 2,000 persons from around the country, mostly Native, are encamped at the Prayer Camp at Cannonball, North Dakota as temperatures are quickly declining.

OIMC members have been able to travel to Cannonball to assist with the distribution of supplies and support to the campers who have been there since April. As many as 250 tribal flags have been raised at the site and support continues from all over the world. Persons from over 40 countries have been there to support the efforts to preserve water.

The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe of North Dakota first learned about the Dakota Access Pipeline in 2014, through indirect contact with other entities. The nearly 1,200-mile pipeline would cut through the Standing Rock treaty lands and through their ancestral burial grounds, according to the tribal Chairman, Dave Archambault, II.

And, just a half-mile from the reservation boundary, the oil pipeline would cross the Missouri River, which provides drinking water for millions of Americans and irrigation water for thousands of acres of farming and ranching lands.

When I first visited last August, there was much going on. Lakota spiritual leaders would greet visitors and offer prayers throughout the day in various languages and also through the smoking of the pipe. People of all ages are at the camp. School is held throughout the week for the children. Youth are playing basketball and volleyball. Kids are swimming in the river. People of all ages are racing horses in the back of the camp. It is truly a beautiful site of solidarity through community. But, all have gathered for one purpose; to protect the water.

Three of us from The Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference came to see first-hand what was going on since the mainstream press has given little coverage to this historic event. We brought supplies for the camp that is feeding thousands of persons each week. We listened to stories of the people and were moved by the people who are insistent and committed to sticking with this until the end.

I felt it was important that a Conference made up of Native churches should be present to offer support and to be in solidarity with the people. Time after time those speaking would remind those listening that this issue of protecting water is not an issue just for Standing Rock. It is an issue for all people up and down the Missouri River. It is an issue for the farmers and ranchers who would lose fertile land to the pipeline. It would ultimately affect all Americans.

Since that time I have worked to help other church leaders become more aware of the situation. I was pleased to meet with Bishop Bruce Ough of the Dakotas who visited Cannonball early and offered support and issued a statement of solidarity with the people. There are many United Methodists from that area who have been there to help and advocate. General Secretary of the General Board of Church and Society Susan Henry-Crowe and General Secretary Erin Hawkins of the General Board of Religion and Race, both have visited the site and have offered support as well.

During the last visit, the tribe discussed moving the camp across the river to their own reservation land to prepare for the winter. There is no water or electricity at the site. Most is run on generators. The new camp site will be able to provide more for the campers to endure the tough winter. The campers will be there till at least January and maybe longer.

The UMC of Apache will travel to Cannonball in late November to prepare meals for the campers for a few days. The church will be collecting supplies and are looking forward to the opportunity to provide for others and to be a witness and light.

The courts have ruled that the pipeline can continue and the tribes are still working on means to stop the pipeline. There continue to be other protests near the camp and persons continue to be in prayer for a favorable outcome.

The people of Standing Rock solicit prayers. If persons are interested in helping, there is always a need for various kinds of supplies and help at the camp site. Funds can be sent to the OIMC office and through PayPal on the OIMC website. Thank you for those churches and individuals who have given support to help the cause.

Service Celebrating the Assignment of Bishop Nunn, November 6

A celebration service for the assignment of Bishop James Nunn as the bishop of the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference will be held at 4:00 p.m., November 6, 2016 at Angie Smith Chapel on the Oklahoma City University campus. Everyone is invited to attend this time of celebration for the appointment of Bishop James "Jimmy" Nunn to the Oklahoma Area.

Bishop Nunn comes to us from the Northwest Texas Conference where he served as the Director of Administration and Mission (Connectional Ministries) and prior to that Director of Church Development. He is a graduate of McMurry University in Abilene, Texas and earned his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry from Asbury Theological Seminary.

Bishop Nunn and Mary have two grown children, Michael and Jaime and her husband Scott Montgomery.

An offering will be taken in support of "Water is Life." Checks may be made payable to O.I.M.C.



Bishop James and Mary Nunn

Bishop will also preside over the service of Holy Communion.

A meal will be served immediately following the service in the room adjacent to the cafeteria. OCU is located on NW 23rd between North Classen and North Pennsylvania.

Plans are under way for this year's UMC #GivingTuesday!

#GivingTuesday has challenged individuals and communities to make the world a better place through generosity. On November 29, 2016, United Methodists will join hands to support the work of Advance projects and missionaries to transform lives on UMC #GivingTuesday. Every gift made online through The Advance at www.umcmmission.org/give on November 29, 2016, will be matched up to \$1 million.*

* Global Ministries will allocate matching funds dollar for dollar up to the first \$1 million in gifts to Advance projects received online on November 29, 2016, between 12:00 a.m. and 11:59 p.m. CT. A maximum of \$2,500 per individual gift to a project will be dispersed as matching funds. A project may receive a maximum of \$25,000 in matching funds.

UMC #GivingTuesday will be on November 29, 2016, between 12:00 a.m. and 11:59 p.m. CT. The time zone for the day of giving has changed to Central Time.

As you may remember, last year more than \$6.5 million was raised online in one day through The Advance on UMC #GivingTuesday. It was a wonderful sign of commitment and extravagant generosity, highlighting the impact of thousands of United Methodists coming together to transform the world.

UMC #GivingTuesday is part of an international movement to extend the spirit of giving thanks into the Advent season. It offers an opportunity to start off the holiday season by giving instead of getting by, supporting organizations that are transforming the world.

Please mark November 29 on your calendar and be prepared to participate in UMC #GivingTuesday! Advance Numbers for Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference are:

Parish Partners #583634-4
Native American Children's Fund #583581
Church Extension #583633-3.

I have anticipated with great joy the service of installation in the OIMC Conference. I am writing this reflection prior to the service to meet the publishing deadlines. But based on the wonderful reception and welcome that you have extended to Mary and me, I owe many expressions of thanks; in fact, they number more than I can recount. I wish to express my gratitude to Oklahoma City University for hosting the event, to the worship planning team, those who participated in the service and to everyone who hopes to attend. I also acknowledge the many gifts, cards, and words of welcome and hospitality that we have enjoyed since being your bishop.

It is great to be in OIMC!

As I reflect on what it means to be in a new role and context for ministry, I recalled another experience I have had over the years. While the gravity of the example bears little resemblance to the real challenge, I liken the new experience to being in a new rental car for the first time.

Sometimes I get a car and when I pull into the gas station, I drive in the wrong way. The gas tank is on the wrong side, so I must drive around in a large circle, come in the other direction, and try to look dignified in the process.

One of the worse experiences I recall was searching for the release for the gas tank. I looked all over the car. No release. I grew more and more irritated. While I was not in a pressing hurry, I realized that seconds of my day were ticking away as I looked in vain for the release.

I finally remembered that some cars did not have interior releases, went and pressed the gas cover and it popped open. I filled up the car with gas and drove sheepishly away.

As I motored down the road, I began to reflect on the challenge I had just endured. In retrospect, the question I used to begin the process



Bishop James "Jimmy" G. Nunn

was flawed. I was asking myself, "where is the release for the gas tank?" It led me on a futile search.

As I worked through the problem of finding the release, I realized that my problem was not to find a release; rather, my newly framed question became, "how do you access the gas tank?"

Without thinking about the process, I had learned to reframe the question. I needed to learn how to access the gas tank for the type car I had. It was irrelevant whether the car had a release or not.

In Romans 12:2, Paul writes, "Don't be conformed to the patterns of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds so that you can figure out what God's will is – what is good and pleasing and nature." (CEV).

Entering a new role in life and ministry is a great time to reframe the questions, test assumptions, and challenge presuppositions we have. What are the questions you are asking these days? Do our questions need to be reframed?

Blessings
Jimmy Nunn

Conference Youth Mission Project

“Stop Hunger Now”

December 10, 2016

Set-up Time: 9 a.m.

Start Time: 10 a.m.

SHN DFW Warehouse

807 S Great Southwest Pkwy

Grand Prairie, TX 75051

We will be packaging 1,296 bags of a high protein, vitamin rich, rice based meals. We will need 35 people to make this mission project work; therefore not only all youth are welcome but also adults. Come and assist our youth in this mission project. For those that wish to spend the night and attend worship at Dallas Indian UMC, the church is offering their facilities; you would need to bring your own bedding. Please call the conference office or email Josephine Deere at jdeere@oimc.org if you plan on attending by November 23rd. Remember we need 35 people!

UM Student Day!

November 27 is our opportunity as The United Methodist Church to nurture the dreams God has planted in the hearts of the next generation.

The gifts shared on United Methodist Student Day support scholarships for United Methodist students in your community.

Your church can make a big difference in the life of a college student. Here are some fun and easy ways to welcome college students who visit your congregation. They'll appreciate your efforts and your church will be enriched by their participation.

* Connect with the United Methodist campus ministry closest to your congregation to ask how the church may be more hospitable to the students.
* Send birthday cards or words of encouragement throughout the year.
* Create "care packages" for students before finals week or actually any time.

* Adopt a student for a year, inviting them to meals and calling to be sure they are all right.

* Make a personal phone call to a student who attends your church on Sunday morning

Those who received 2016 Indian Missionary United Methodist Foundation Inc. (IMUMFI) Scholarships from the conference are: Bailee Allen, Skye Dixon, Danny Le and Julia Spottedbird. Congratulations to these students and we wish them well in their endeavors.

In memoriam

Derith "Tina" Boyiddle
July 11, 1958 - August 31, 2016
Wife of Lay Missioner, Mike Boyiddle

Tina Boyiddle passed away August 31, 2016 at her home in Carnegie, Oklahoma. Tina was born July 11, 1958 in Carnegie, Oklahoma to Joseph Wheeler, Jr. and Leona TsatTine Wheeler.

Tina attended Carnegie schools and graduated with the class of 1976. Tina was a member of Botone Memorial UMC. She loved athletics and helping her grandchildren and their fundraisers. Tina was known for her frybread and meatpies.

Tina is survived by her husband, Mike, of the home. Two daughters: Melinda Boyiddle of the home and Michelle Autaubo and husband Matthew of Anadarko, Oklahoma. Grandchildren: MaCalin, Kade and Kamren all of Anadarko; Brother, Elwin Wheeler and wife Cauldia of Andarko; Sister Vera Buffalomeat of Carnegie and a host of other relatives and friends.

Tina was preceded in death by her parents; brothers Harlan Joe Wheeler and Herschel Wheeler; sister Carolyn Guoladdle; and nephew Joe Guoladdle.

Funeral services were held Monday, September 5, 2016 at the First Baptist Church in Anadarko. A Wake service was held at Botone Memorial UMC Sunday, September 4, 2016. Interment was at Samone Cemetery, Carnegie.

Conference United Methodist Women 2017 Officers



L-R: Charlotte Gooday, Nominating; Carmen Svitak, Chair of Nominating; Patricia Waysepappy, Spiritual Growth; Rowena Beach, Treasurer; Tina Ontiveros, Secretary; Paula Woodrow, Vice-President, Pat Dye, President.

Hands and Hearts Across Cultures

Percilla UMC, Percilla, Texas, members are receiving tremendous blessing by ministering to a small church in Oklahoma.

Never underestimate the power of a T-shirt. That's a lesson that Percilla United Methodist Church (PUMC) is learning firsthand.

Carolyn Huntsman, Certified Lay Minister in the East District, assigned as pastor to PUMC, says before she met the Rev. Dr. David Wilson, Superintendent of the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference (OIMC), her church had never been involved in any mission outreach. After hearing Dr. Wilson speak, Carolyn felt led to suggest to her congregation that they send a love offering to the OIMC each month. "Being a very small church, the offerings were never a lot, but at least we started doing something," shares Carolyn. That was a baby step in the right direction.

When an opportunity to purchase printed church T-shirts became available, the Percilla congregation remembered the great boost in morale that they all experienced the first time they were able to afford printed tees. With that in mind, they voted to provide 20 shirts to a small Indian congregation.

Working with Dr. Wilson and OIMC, they decided to send "I love my church" T-shirts to Weleetka Indian Fellowship Church in Weleetka, Oklahoma — a "new start" church in the Muscogee-Creek Nation area. Weleetka UMC had closed and the District Superintendent had offered the beautiful sanctuary to OIMC to start a new Indian fellowship in that location.

"Dr. Wilson says that the church teaches tribal hymns, fitness classes and Sunday school for their youth," adds Carolyn. Upon arrival of the shirts, Pastor Dave Dunson sent a photo of his congregation wearing the shirts, along with a Thank You letter to the Percilla congregation. "He says the youth are planning a trip to the Oklahoma State Fair and they can't wait to show off their new shirts!" Another bonus, the Oklahoma congregation is inviting Percilla to visit



Rev. David Wilson and Carolyn Huntsman

them — something Carolyn hopes to make a reality in early 2017.

Sue Wright, member of Percilla says that she and the other members are excited about their continued work with OIMC. "We thought we couldn't afford to support a mission outreach, but somehow God stretches our funds!"

Dr. Wilson says, "The Percilla Church has had a relationship with OIMC for the past three years. It began through a connection with the pastor, Carolyn Huntsman who had a deep interest in Native Americans and OIMC." Carolyn is proud of her members for supporting a ministry in Clinton, Oklahoma for Native American children and a ministry for native girls in the foster care system, sending birthday gifts each month to the girls in the home, and supporting OIMC through Parish Partners as well.

Adds Dr. Wilson, "We have been amazed at the outreach and support of Percilla and we appreciate everything they have done. It is a reminder that it doesn't matter how small a church is, they can do meaningful things, regardless of size." Carolyn adds, "Percilla is proud to be helping others outside of our church through ministry with our brothers and sisters in the OIMC!"



Weleetka Fellowship attendees

Building has begun on Chihowa Okla UMC

After four years of delay, construction of the Chihowa Okla UMC at Durant, Oklahoma has started. Volunteers from several local churches, organized by First Broadstreet UMC in Kingsport, Tennessee arrived in Oklahoma in late September and after two weeks, completed the enclosed building along with the roof.

The two volunteers' teams were made up of about 40 persons from several states, including Tennessee, Louisiana, Colorado, Arkansas, Maryland and Texas. Danny Howe, VIM Project Director from First Broadstreet worked hard to get the building to where it is today. This is one of about ten projects the church has completed in OIMC, mostly in the Southeast Region.

Rev. Wilson said he was amazed to see the organization of the team at work and the joy they exhibited while building the project. "They were an amazing group made up of people of all ages and professions," he said, "They are truly a group that lived out the gospel of Jesus Christ by the work and service they provided for Chihowa Okla," he said.

Wilson said one of the amazing parts of this project was that it was led at the local level by laity of the church. The church currently has no appointed pastor. "It is a reminder of the importance and service of laity in the local church," he said.

The church is very excited about the 6,500 square foot building that is located on North First Street less than a mile from Southeastern State University. Durant is the home of the headquarters of the Choctaw Nation.

It took many groups to get the project to this place. The Choctaw Nation donated the land four years ago under former Chief Greg Pyle. After much consultation with the city of Durant and the church, permits were cleared and the work will progress over the coming months.

There is still much to be done at the church. Volunteers are needed over the next several weeks and months to finish the work. Electricians, plumbers, and persons experienced with building are needed. For more information, contact Josephine Deere at the OIMC office.



The first work team to arrive to start the building process.



Chihowa Okla UMC, Durant, OK

Percentage of Apportionments and Insurance received as of October 2016

Church	Aptmnt %	Ins. %	Church	Aptmnt %	Ins. %
Angie Smith Memorial	100	92	Bethel Hill	50	92
Billy Hooton Memorial	0	8	Big Lick	100	75
Clinton Indian CCC	-	100	Bobb-Myers	100	100
El Reno Fellowship	16	8	Boiling Springs	100	100
Mary Lee Clark Memorial	90	83	Bokchito	19	8
Norman First American	100	100	Cane Hill	100	100
Pawnee Mission	10	0	Chihowa Okla	50	50
Ponca Indian	40	92	Choctaw Academy	100	100
Wichita Indian Mission	75	100	Dallas Indian	67	31
All Nations	-	42	Goodland	51	83
Arbeka	0	0	Goodsprings	0	100
Big Cussetah	100	100	Goodwater	50	100
Broken Arrow Indian	98	100	Grace Indian	81	69
Bryan Chapel	-	0	Hampton Chapel	49	42
Canterbury Chapel	100	0	Johnson Chapel	63	100
Choska	51	46	Kulichito	80	83
Christ	38	75	Kullituklo	38	100
Concharty	100	100	Mitchell Memorial	100	100
D.D. Etchieson	100	100	Nanih Chito	82	79
Davis Chapel	100	100	Old Cedar	100	100
Fife Indian	100	100	Pennington Creek	0	0
Grant Chapel	14	42	Seeley Chapel	100	100
Haikey Chapel	100	100	St. Paul Talihina	83	83
Honey Creek	73	100	Sulphur Springs	100	100
Kahbeah Fellowship	-	83	Tohwali	100	100
Kaney Chapel	100	100	White Sand Bennington	100	16
Lawrence Indian	48	42	Whitesand Valliant	0	8
Little Cussetah	100	100	William Anderson	100	100
Mutteloke	66	100	Yasho	100	80
New Hope	69	83	Botone Memorial	12	83
Newtown	74	100	Cache Creek	100	100
Pickett Chapel	100	100	Cedar Creek	0	0
Seminole Hitchitee	100	100	Hunting Horse	25	100
Springfield	21	67	JJ Methvin	58	75
Springtown	100	100	Little Washita	100	100
Stilwell	100	83	Mt. Scott Comanche	76	70
Thlophlocco	100	82	Mt. Scott Kiowa	100	100
Tulsa Indian	100	83	Petarsy Mission	0	0
Weleetka Fellowship	-	100	Sherwood Tsotigh	73	0
Wewoka	100	100	UMC of Apache	0	100
Yeager	0	0	Ware's Chapel	100	100

Special thank you to those that have paid both apportionments and insurance in full.

Take care of yourself during the holidays

The holidays can be especially stressful, and many people experience depression during this time of year. Sometimes we get so busy that we forget to take care of ourselves. Plan now to set aside time for self-care during the holidays.

5 Simple Ways to Care for Yourself

1. Eat healthy foods.
2. Listen to your body, and get rest.
3. Spend time with God. Pray about your concerns. Read an inspiring devotion.
4. Exercise as often as you can. Walking is good for your soul!
5. Limit the number of activities you participate in during the holidays.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas from David, Linda, Dennis and Josephine!

Welcoming our visitors

With the holidays upon us, many of our churches may experience an influx of visitors. Following are five ways that you may consider in following up with the visitors:

1. Give them a call. A simple phone call shows a lot about pastoral care.
2. Write thank you notes. A hand written thank you is a special way to show someone you care that they visited.
3. Face-to-face. Invite them to have coffee someplace.
4. Door deliveries. Leaving a card or welcome gift at someone's door shows your church is a welcoming place and you go out of your way for them.
5. Social Media. Keep people informed online.

Conference Calendar

November

- 5 NE Region Youth Rally, New Hope UMC, 10 a.m.
- 5 SE Region UMW Mini Mission, SE Region Center, 9:30 a.m.
- 6 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS
- 6 Consecration Service for Bishop Nunn, OCU Chapel, 4:00 p.m. meal follows
- 7 SW Region Trustees/Finance Meeting, SW Region Center, 6:30 p.m.
- 10 Cabinet, Conference Office, 9:30 a.m.
- 10 Central Region Ldrship Team Mtg., Norman FAUMC, 6:30 p.m.
- 11 VETERAN'S DAY, CONFERENCE OFFICE CLOSED
- 12 North District World Thank Day, NE Region Center,
- 12 SE Region Children Advent Study, SE Region Center, 10 a.m.
- 19 NE Region Trustee/Reg. Ldrship Team Mtg., NE Region Center, 10 a.m.
- 19 SE Region Trustee Meeting, SE Region Center, 9 a.m.
- 19 SE Region COLCM, SE Region Center, 2:30 p.m.
- 20 SW Region 3rd Night Revival, Little Washita UMC, 4:30 p.m.
- 21 SE Region Pastor's Thanksgiving/Christmas, SE Region Center, 7 p.m.
- 22 SW Region Pastor's/Spouse Banquet, SW Region Center
- 24 THANKSGIVING - CONFERENCE OFFICE CLOSED
- 25 Thanksgiving Holiday - Conference Office Closed
- 27 United Methodist Student Day - Special offering taken

December

- 2 NE Region Pastor's Gathering, TBA, 6:30 p.m.
- 3 SE Region UMW Christmas Program, SE Region Center, 9:30 a.m.
- 3 SE Region Youth Christmas Gathering, Tohwali UMC, 6 p.m.
- 5 Central/SW Region Trustee/Finance Mtg., SW Region Center, 6:30 p.m.
- 6 Cabinet, Conference Office, 9:30 a.m.
- 9 Central Region Pastor's Christmas, TBD, 6:30 p.m.
- 10 SE Region Children Christmas Party, SE Region Center, 10 a.m.
- 10 Conference Wide Youth Mission Event, Dallas, Stop Hunger Now
- 10 North District UMW Christmas Gathering, Angie Smith Memorial UMC
- 16-17 NE Region Youth Christmas Overnight, NE Region Center
- 17 SE Region Trustees Mtg., SE Region Center, 9 a.m.
- 18 SW Region 3rd Night Revival, Cache Creek UMC, 4:30 p.m.
- 25 MERRY CHRISTMAS!
- 26 Christmas Holiday - Conference Office Closed



Bishop Bruce Ough of the Dakota's Conference and Rev. David Wilson visit with Phyllis Young, Standing Rock Sioux and one of the camp organizers, during their visit to Cannonball in support of Standing Rock and the water issue.

Pastoral Change

Rev. Murray Crookes from North Oklahoma City Fellowship to Angie Smith Memorial UMC, affective November 1.

The Advocate is published six times a year by the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference of The United Methodist Church. For subscription information, contact the office at 3020 S. Harvey, OKC. OK. 73109. Phone: 405-632-2006; Fax: 405-632-0209. E-mail: jdeere@oimc.org