As you have heard, today we are celebrating Native American Ministries Sunday. Did you know that more than 20,000 Native Americans are part of The United Methodist Church? Our offering directly supports Native American congregations, equipping them to minister authentically with their communities, while honoring creative expressions of culture and heritage.

In the Dakotas Annual Conference for example, this offering has supported a culturally appropriate vacation Bible school experience that includes a food pantry and clothing closet and provides job opportunities for Native Americans to lead the camp.

Native American-led United Methodist ministries serve the people who worship on Sunday mornings and expand into the community to respond to trauma among indigenous people that may be manifested in domestic violence, alcoholism or suicide.

The offering also supports scholarships for Native American students like the Rev. Stephanie Escher who now serves as a hospital chaplain. She is a member of the Turtle Mountain Chippewa tribe. The Native American Seminary Award, funded by the United Methodist special offering, helped her manage the costs of studying for a Master of Divinity degree at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary.

(Contact your annual conference office to learn how this offering is used in your conference.)

We have a collective opportunity to live out our commitment to “The Way” with specific action. In our offering of love to God who first loved us, may our gifts multiply and overflow this world with justice, peace and love until all are whole.

Please be part of the transformation. Please give generously.