



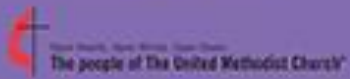
NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY

Through your generous gift today, you empower and support Native American seminarians.



"I boldly told the bishop, I can help the church become self-sufficient and develop Native leadership."

– THE REV. CALVIN HILL, BLACKFEET UNITED METHODIST PARISH, BROWNING, MONTANA



"And hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us."

– Romans 5:5, NRSV



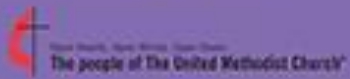
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YOUR GIFT ENCOURAGES ASPIRING LEADERS WITHIN
THE NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY, EDUCATES
SEMINARIANS AND EMPOWERS OUTREACH WITHIN THE
NATIVE AMERICAN CULTURE.

Since 2014, the Rev. Calvin Hill has served the Blackfeet United Methodist Parish in Montana.

"When Sheri and I came to Browning," recalled Hill, full-blooded Navajo from Arizona, "we felt like we were coming home.

"I knew I wasn't coming to introduce Jesus to the people," he said. "They already know him. I wasn't coming to save and fix the people either. They're not lost, and they're not broken."

Three congregations – Browning, Babb and Heart Butte, with about 100 members each – form BUMP. The parish has a unique, rich resource. In 1882, the U.S. government gave the Blackfeet Methodist Episcopal Church 340 acres "to cultivate self-sustainability as evangelical Christians." The land hadn't been worked for more than a century.

Today, the congregation leases the property to a local rancher who, in exchange for free use of the land, teaches the Blackfeet people how to work with livestock as well as other skills.

"That is a hook for me to teach about stewardship," Hill explained. They learn about husbandry, ranching and veterinary medicine. The initial group of 40 or 50 grew to more than 1,000 participants of all ages.

BUMP is a family parish. Every August, the parish hosts an intertribal camp meeting and teaches lay speaking. Results are evident. Two Blackfeet women are beginning the clergy candidacy process.

Delighted with BUMP's "phenomenal" growth, Hill credits God 100 percent. "Relationships are all God-given," he said.

"Our people need real factual hope in their lives in order for self-sustainability to take effect. We must develop a mission that will promote a beneficial Christian lifestyle that equips for a life of holiness and stewardship of the talents God has given."

YOUR GIFT TODAY MATTERS

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