DEAR PASTOR,

The core of our spirituality is how we treat people.

That seems a fitting introduction to a brief planning e-book for Native American Ministries Sunday, celebrated across the United Methodist connection on the Third Sunday of Easter.

In this e-book, you will find an introduction to this churchwide Special Sunday, background information on the observance, a list of helpful resources and 10 ways to make your congregation’s celebration more meaningful on this Special Sunday and throughout the year.

We hope you will find this a useful resource. For additional help, please check out www.umcgiving.org/nams and the other links in the e-book.

Most importantly, be sure to include Native American Ministries Sunday on your calendar, both to educate and inform your congregation and to encourage members to give generously.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Executive Secretary of Native American and Indigenous Ministries, General Board of Global Ministries
A former Native American seminary scholarship recipient, today he is executive secretary of Native American and Indigenous Ministries, General Board of Global Ministries.

“What we do not realize is that, either by practice or by silence, the church has played a role in ... the history of Native persons of this continent,” added Kernell, a member of the Seminole Nation in Oklahoma.

Through Native American Ministries Sunday, United Methodists play a positive role by empowering Native American pastors, congregations and seminary students to worship and serve Jesus.

Kernell told editor Holly McCray of the Oklahoma Annual Conference that he would like to see the church move “to another place of awareness, to be more affirming,” connecting with indigenous people in mutual respect.

“The core of our spirituality is how we treat people,” Kernell said.

Through generous United Methodists like you, Native congregations — like New York’s Onondaga Nation United Methodist Church and Nebraska’s Native American Sacred Winds — are equipped to worship and serve as only they can.

“FOR YEARS, THE PERSPECTIVE OF INDIGENOUS CULTURES OF THIS CONTINENT HAS BEEN ALL BUT IGNORED,” SAID THE REV. GLEN CHEBON KERNELL JR.

“IT IS NOW TIME FOR PEOPLE OF FAITH TO UNDERSTAND THE TRUE INCLUSIVITY OF GOD’S CREATION.”
ABOUT
NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY

Historically, United Methodists celebrate Native American Ministries Sunday with an offering on the Third Sunday of Easter. U.S. congregations are to observe this churchwide Special Sunday on this date or on another date appropriate to the local church.

According to the 2016 *Book of Discipline* (Par. 263.6), “this Sunday serves to remind the Church of the gifts and contributions made by Native Americans to our society.”

YOUR GENEROUS GIFTS ON NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY SUPPORT:

Native American seminarians and help strengthen, develop and equip Native American rural, urban and reservation congregations, ministries and communities, as well as annual conference Native American Ministries.
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CHOOSE YOUR OWN WAY TO CELEBRATE:

Native American Ministries Sunday is more than a special offering; it is also an opportunity to recognize the gifts and graces of Native Americans. Here are 10 ideas for your observance.
1. Contact your annual conference Committee on Native American Ministries about inviting a guest speaker to your church. Work with your annual conference CONAM and your bishop to bring awareness to Native American ministries.
Design a worship service using The United Methodist Hymnal to sing Native American hymns or hymns with Native American translations such as:

- “Amazing Grace,” with verses in Cherokee, Navajo, Kiowa, Creek and Choctaw (378)
- “Great Spirit, Now I Pray,” a Kiowa prayer (330)
- “Heleluyan,” from the Muscogee (Creek) tradition (78)
- “Jesus Loves Me,” with a Cherokee verse (191)
Enrich your worship experience by using:

- “Prayer to the Holy Spirit” (329) from *The United Methodist Hymnal*
- “Kiowa Hymn: A Call to Worship” (184) from *The United Methodist Book of Worship*
If your congregation or charge does not have a designated person to represent Native American concerns in the local church, assign one. (See the *Book of Discipline*, Par. 654.) Work with your annual conference cabinet secretary to add the designated person’s name to the charge conference form.
Learn about the "Acts of Repentance toward Healing Relationships with Indigenous Peoples" session that was hosted at the 2012 General Conference and at 2012 annual conference sessions across the United Methodist Connection.
Notice who your neighbors are. If you do not think you have Native American neighbors, **look again**. Once you discover the Native Americans in your area, learn their stories.
Plan a Bible study or small-group study to explore sections of the **United Methodist Social Principles** and *United Methodist Book of Resolutions* that pertain to Native Americans.
Use Native American Ministries Sunday resources to help with planning the Special Sunday celebration.
10. Visit and worship with members of a Native American United Methodist church. To find a congregation near you, visit our website.
LEARN MORE AT

www.umcgiving.org/nams

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, www.gbhem.org
General Board of Global Ministries, www.umcmission.org
For additional NATIVE AMERICAN MINISTRIES SUNDAY resources:
www.umcgiving.org/nams

Order free print materials online or call toll free 888-346-3862.

Visit our website for Native American Ministries Sunday stories to share with your church members.

Download the Native American Ministries Sunday Pastor and Leader’s Kit to share videos, infographics and other resources with your congregation during worship or to use as discussion starters in Sunday school.

Share Native American Ministries Sunday Mission Moments in worship and use Newsletter Nuggets to enrich your online or printed newsletter.

The Rev. Carol Lakota Eastin, whose heritage is Lakota, Yakima and Shawnee, contributed to this list. She co-wrote an Acts of Repentance study guide.