

November is National Native American & Alaska Native Heritage Month

Native American/Indigenous Ministries in the Episcopal Church

Part 1 of 2

We commit ourselves before God and in celebration of the mission and witness of the Episcopal Church. In so doing, we honor one another as we begin again the long journey that has brought us this far. With God's help, in the love of Christ, and under the direction of the Holy Spirit may we journey longer still in friendship and in faith.

—Excerpt from the Jamestown Covenant,
General Convention Resolutions 1997-A035, 2003-C008, and 2007-D046

Since 1954, the Office of Native American/Indigenous Ministries (NAIM) (www.episcopalchurch.org/native_american.htm) has worked for the full inclusion of Native Peoples in the life and leadership of the church. This is a goal NAIM shares with you and welcomes you as a partner to:

- guarantee that Native Peoples are fully recognized and welcomed into congregational life through education, advocacy, and leadership development;
- create influential leadership roles in the church for Native Peoples;
- develop a national support system for continued remembrance, recognition and reconciliation of all Native Peoples;
- develop a network of leadership and educational resources to empower Indigenous people to prepare for mission and ministry in the Episcopal Church;
- provide resources, advocacy, and support to Native American theology students through the Indigenous Theological Training Institute.

Executive Council Committee on Indigenous Ministry

Established by Executive Council in 1969, the National Committee on Indian Work and its successor body, ECCIM, have served the Episcopal Church's ministry to, for and with the Indigenous peoples of its dioceses for 32 years. The General Convention of 1997 designated 1997-2007 as "The Decade of Remembrance, Recognition, and Reconciliation for welcoming Native Peoples into congregational life and developing an outreach partnership among urban Native Peoples." ECCIM is an advisory committee to the Office of Native American Ministries.

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Indigenous Theological Training Institute

The Indigenous Theological Training Institute [ITTI] is a non-profit organization formed in 1996 to specifically address the need for more indigenous (Native American, Native Alaskan, and Native Hawaiian) leadership in the Episcopal Church. Based, in part, on the work of the Maori people of Aotearoa, New Zealand, ITTI works to assist both current leadership and emerging leaders with theological education that is both relevant and culturally sensitive to indigenous individuals and communities. ITTI strives to assist indigenous individuals with scholarships for theological education at seminaries and theological study programs, to train lay leaders within community settings, and to be a vehicle for indigenous theological thought through its First Peoples Theology Journal.

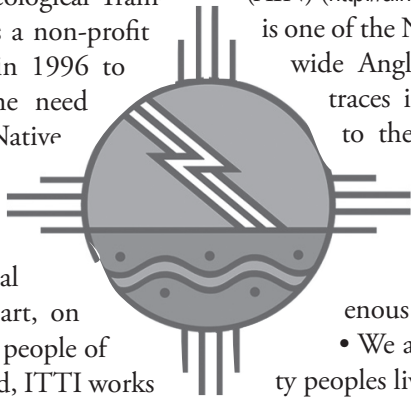
For more information about ITTI, contact the ITTI office at 800-818-0466.

Anglican Indigenous Network

The Anglican Indigenous Network (AIN) (<http://ain.anglicancommunion.org/>) is one of the Networks of the worldwide Anglican Communion. It traces its historic beginnings to the 1991 General Convention of the Episcopal Church in Phoenix, Arizona.

The Anglican Indigenous Network Aims are:

- We are indigenous minority peoples living in our own lands.
- We are committed to the Anglican tradition while affirming our traditional spirituality.
- We have discovered that we have many things in common: a common spirituality, common concerns, common gifts, common hopes.
- We believe that God is leading the Church to a turning point in its history and that the full partnership of indigenous peoples is essential. Therefore we pledge to work together to exercise our leadership in contributing our vision and gifts to transform the life of the Christian community.



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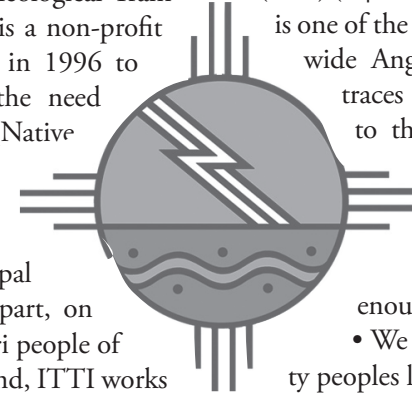
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Creator, we give you thanks for all you are and all you bring to us for our visit within your creation. In Jesus, you place the Gospel at the Center of this Sacred Circle through which all of creation is related. You show us the way to live a generous and compassionate life. Give us your strength to live together with respect and commitment as we grow in your spirit, for you are God, now and forever. Amen.

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