



Native American Indigenous Ministries Update May 2023

You are receiving this update because you have expressed an interest in or support one or more of the Native American Indigenous Ministries (NAIM) congregations within the Reformed Church in America. This combined update will share with you the work God is doing through your support of NAIM congregations. Know that each letter may not include updates from every church. Thank you for your partnership in mission!



Jicarilla Apache Reformed Church

It's summer on the Jicarilla Apache reservation! That mean VBS, with assistance from Connections Church in the Denver, Colorado, area, and campfires for the community (providing the fire danger remains low). We will continue having Sunday morning services, Bible Studies, Sunday school, and ministries to the local jail and dormitory. We will encourage our congregation children to attend Bible camp and other children's Christian programming. If you are taking a SW road trip this summer, please stop by and visit us in Dulce, NM. We love to share the ministry!

Rev. Brad and Robin Kautz

Mescalero Reformed Church

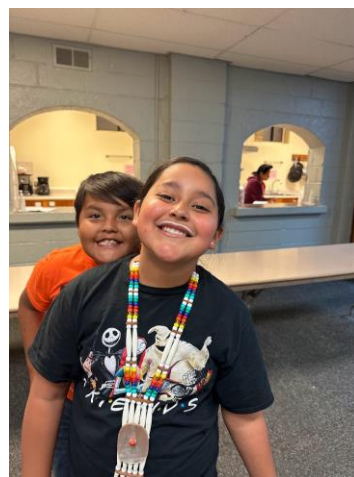
Greetings from Mescalero, New Mexico, and the people of Mescalero Apache Reformed Church! Miriam and I are excited to let you know that we are thrilled, delighted, and thankful to be back in Mescalero serving as their pastor after a brief time of retirement.

It has been a wonderfully busy time for the church with regular weekly ministry opportunities. This includes our youth group for grades 6-12, an after-school program for children in grades 1-5, as well as regular weekly Bible studies for women and men.

We've also had a group of Northwestern College students visit us for a week in March. They helped with some work around the church, as well as share in some ministry opportunities with our youth group.



Would you like to receive these updates digitally? Please email Kelli at kgilmore@rca.org to be added to the email list. You will receive more timely updates from the missionary you support and help us be good stewards of our resources.



Plans are also being discussed as we prepare for a summer of activities. We will have a VBS in June with some people from Michigan coming to help. We are planning for 80-90 children each day. Our youth group is looking forward to attending the Warrior Leadership Summit in Illinois in early July, and a handful of our youth are planning on attending Rocky Mountain High at Estes Park, Colorado, later in July.

I am grateful for the people from Mescalero who are taking on leadership roles within the church and I ask that you join me in giving God thanks for His many provisions.

Rev. Mark Vellinga

Winnebago Reformed Church

We are happy to introduce Rev. Justin Longcoy and his wife Amy, who joined us in November 2022 to serve initially as a six-month interim pastor. But, we have enjoyed them being among us so much that we recently extended his contract through May 2024 to minister here each Sunday and 2-3 days a week. Over the past few months, we have seen attendance gradually increase in numbers, for which we praise the Lord. Pastor Justin also completed a couple of courses at Little Priest Tribal College here in Winnebago, which has helped him become more acquainted with the community. He is exploring the requirements to seek ordination within the RCA. Another change is our Sunday School teacher for the past three years recently moved out of state, but another member of our congregation who had been feeling drawn to working with the children, stepped right up to fill the position seamlessly.



More exciting news is some much needed repairs and remodeling to our building. The present sanctuary arrived by train in 1947; a dismantled military chapel from south of Lincoln, NE, and reassembled on a basement built by volunteers. Due to special offerings and gifts in 2022-23, we were able to remodel all four restrooms in March, making two of them ADA compliant, repaired a faulty furnace and a broken sewer line, as well as replaced the gutters and downspouts at the parsonage. Another kind friend provided for a new picnic table for our summer after service coffee hour. The individuals and congregations who continue to care for us after 116 years continually amaze us with their shared blessings.

RCA Global Mission does not receive denominational assessments or covenant shares. We depend on the faithful generosity of churches and individuals.

Also, Elder Nancy Gillis, Deacon Tonia Keller, and member Reva DeCora were pleased to attend the first retreat of the newly reinstated NAIMC in Oklahoma City in April, and we all look forward to being in contact with our brother and sister Native churches on a more regular basis over the coming year, with hopes for a renewed family camp experience in the future.

Nancy Gillis, Elder/Worship Coordinator