

Act of Repentance 2012
Progress Report
December 28, 2009

Since the 2009 Fall Board of Directors meeting, much has happened in relation to our Act of Repentance work. General Secretary Stephen J. Sidorak, Jr. has spent much time and energy with many General Church boards and agencies including the General Secretaries Table, the Connectional Table and the Council of Bishops explaining the importance and mandate to the General Commission on Christian Unity and Interreligious Concerns (GCCUIC) from General Conference 2008 for a 2012 Act of Repentance for Indigenous Persons. A proposal explicitly detailing plans for each year leading up to 2012 was submitted to the Connectional Table. As a result of this submission, the World Service Contingency Fund granted \$150,000 for this entire project.

Now that financial support for the project is assured, the GCCUIC Board of Directors Ad Hoc Task Force on Act of Repentance 2012 will meet by conference call in early January 2010. Carol Lakota Eastin and Blenda Smith co-chair this ad hoc task force. Betty Gamble, interim associate general secretary, will staff this project. Further updates will follow after that call.

Since listening is the first step in understanding, work has already begun. Carol Lakota Eastin has led various listening sessions including the National CONAM (Council on Native American Ministries) Training Conference. Betty has attended and listened at Family Camps (Native American International Caucus Leadership Academy). She also attended the Fifth Parliament of the World's Religions in Australia. Betty and Blenda visited the Northern Cheyenne Reservation for listening sessions. Betty has a listening session planned for February with the Sámi people in Norway.

Look for more updates on this vital project in the weeks to come.

Carol Lakota Eastin & Blenda Smith
Co-Chairs
GCCUIC Board of Directors Ad Hoc Task Force
on Act of Repentance 2012