

November 3, 2019

Mission Moment

On Monday, October 14th, there was a symbolic celebration for Indigenous People's Day in Millsboro at Cupola Park, as the Nanticoke Indian Tribe held a dedication for its new historic marker.

Members of the Nanticoke Indian Tribe say the marker is symbolic of their hopes for the future and harmony among all people. Their rich history is worth saving and preserving, with hopes that their history will never be forgotten.

Bishop Peggy Johnson sent a letter on behalf of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference that was read during the event, showing support for the native people.

It reads in part:

"We, the clergy and laity of the Peninsula-Delaware Conference of The United Methodist Church, extend our deepest appreciation to the Nanticoke Indian Tribe for this historic monument; whereas this marker documents the history of the settlement and her peoples; the life challenges of those peoples including struggles to preserve their property and their way of life.

Whereas, this historic marker is also a spiritual marker to preserve a memorial in gratitude for past faith, assurance in the present and hope for the future especially during life's difficulties.

Therefore, be it resolved that we embrace our brothers, sisters, their families and friends and pray that the tender ministry of the Lord will bring them hope today, tomorrow and in the days to come."

November is **Native American Heritage Month**, a time to celebrate rich and diverse cultures, traditions and histories and to acknowledge the important contributions of Native people. It is an opportunity to raise awareness about the unique challenges Native people have faced historically.

As United Methodists, let us celebrate the many contributions of Native Americans to our community and to our church, not only during **Native American Heritage Month**, but every single day.

