

CONSENT CALENDAR AR 01

2015 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

1 **TITLE: MENDING A SHAMEFUL LEGACY**

2 **SPONSORING GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL: Committee on Native American Ministries in**
3 **partnership with Wilshire United Methodist Native American Fellowship**

4 **SPOKESPERSON: Loretta Milton**

5 **SPOKESPERSON'S ADDRESS: 4431 NE Ainsworth, Portland, OR 97218**

6 **SPOKESPERSON'S E-MAIL: ljmilton@yahoo.com**

7 **SPOKESPERSON'S TELEPHONE: 503 287-3992**

8
9 **LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDATION: 22 YES, 0 NO, 2 ABSTAIN**

10
11
12 Since the mid 20th century Native Peoples have experienced devastating displacement due to dam building on
13 the Columbia River. The losses inflicted on tribal groups (most notable the famed Celilo Falls fishing site
14 flooded by the massive Dalles Dam construction) are astonishing and can never be fully rectified. Fishing
15 communities, men, women, children, grandchildren continue to uphold ancient sustainable fishing practices in
16 harmony with their cultural beliefs and with maintaining a vibrant eco-system. Sadly, an ongoing disregard of
17 treaties and promises made to compensate people for the loss of their land and homes continues and is
18 evident by the substandard living conditions for these fishing communities. The U.S. government along with the
19 Army Corp of Engineers has repeatedly underfunded and pushed aside this promised housing compensation.
20 We believe that we as a country are collectively responsible for the injustices perpetrated upon First Nations
21 Peoples. Therefore, institutions such as the United Methodist Church, can be a resource for addressing broken
22 promises.

23 Author, Roberta Ulrich, has written extensively on this subject in her book, *Empty Nets*, as well as in a
24 recent editorial to *The Oregonian* newspaper of Nov. 16, 2014. She stated, "Congress should introduce
25 legislation providing authorization and money allowing the Corp to finish righting this decades-old wrong."
26

27 We propose that the Annual Conference petition our representatives and senators of the U.S. Congress
28 toward this end. We believe that this can be a step forward toward the "Act of Repentance Toward Indigenous
29 Peoples" put in place by the Church and continuing now and in the future.
30

31 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

32 **What will this action accomplish?**

33 Let our elected representatives know that upholding treaty rights and promises made with Native
34 Peoples is a moral and ethical issue that people of faith uphold.

35 **Why is it important?**

36 Social justice was paramount for Jesus in his ministry. He was a tribal man himself working amid the fishing
37 culture of his homeland. John Wesley carried forth this emphasis for justice.

38 **How will it be carried out? By whom?**

39 A letter has been drafted and reviewed by the Committee On Native American Ministries and the Wilshire
40 United Methodist Native American Fellowship. We will refer this letter to the Conference Secretary for
41 the purpose of petitioning our U.S. representatives and senators.

CONSENT CALENDAR AR 01

2015 OREGON-IDAHO ANNUAL CONFERENCE

- 1 How much will it cost? Where will the money come from?
- 2 The cost will be mainly for staff time, paper and copying.