

Class Schedule

NACOS typically offers at least four classes per year. The spring session is offered in March and May, and the fall session in September and October. Classes begin at 9 A.M. on Tuesday and end at noon on Thursday. This gives our students adequate travel time for Sunday services.

Meet a Graduate

Pastor Tom John, Grand Traverse Band of the Chippewa, served Indian churches in Wisconsin and Michigan over the course of 30 years. Chairperson of the Indian Workers Conference, Tom played a key role in creating NACOS. In 2010 Tom became the first graduate of the Course of Study and continues to serve on the advisory board! NACOS is the fulfillment of a dream of many Indian pastors.



Advisory Board

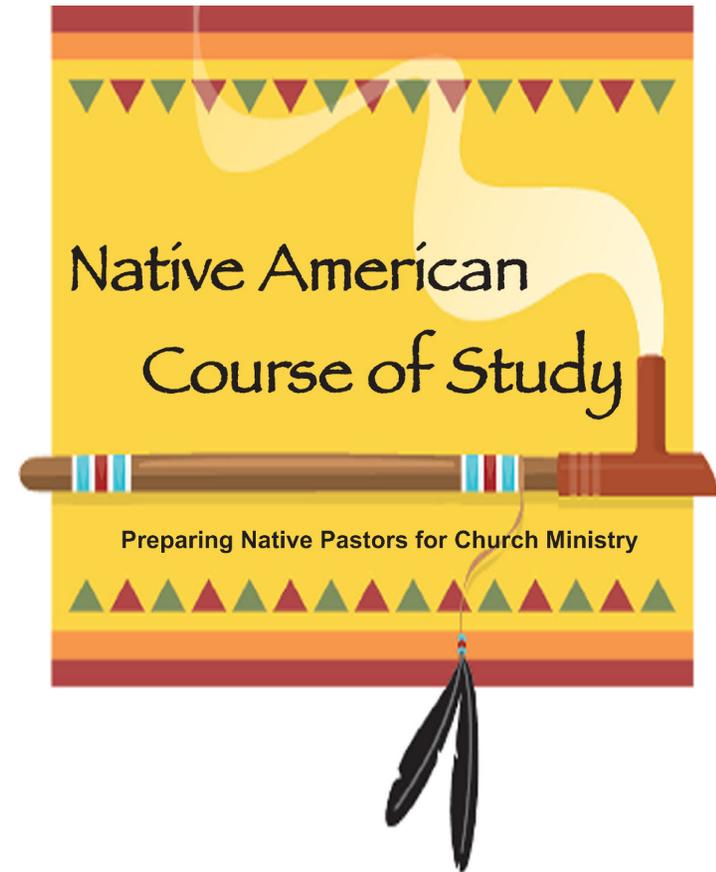
The Advisory Board consists of ordained Elders, Deacons, Local Pastors, and Laity. It also includes representatives from the Methodist Theological School in Ohio (MTSO), the Native American Comprehensive Plan, and Conference leadership.

Faculty

Teachers are selected who are uniquely experienced in Native American ministries. Most teachers are American Indian and are recruited from across the country.

Meeting Locations

Classes have been held in Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, North Dakota, Minnesota, New Mexico, and Arizona permitting cultural experiences throughout the United States. Transportation assistance is provided as available by annual conferences and COS scholarships.



**A NATIONAL SCHOOL FOR
NATIVE AMERICAN LOCAL PASTORS
OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**
Accredited as an Extension School through
The Methodist Theological School in Ohio
for full-time and part-time Local Pastors
Approved by the General Board
of Higher Education and Ministry

www.umcnacos.org for current courses.

Mission

NACOS educates and trains American Indian Local Pastors in the United Methodist Church for effective ministry in a local church and within the connectional body of the United Methodist Church. The school uniquely prepares students to work cross-culturally, or in American Indian churches, anywhere in the United States.

Culturally Interpreted Christianity

The goal of NACOS is to provide students entering ministry a well-grounded, Christian theological education that embraces Native American Indian values and characteristics, such as:

- Traditional spirituality and cultural practices
- Community over the individual
- Interdependence rather than Independence
- Priority of family needs
- Extended family and tribe
- Generosity
- Respect of the Earth
- Oral tradition of communication

Economically Feasible

The cost of a theological education often is prohibitive for many Native Americans. NACOS strives to keep costs low, supports housing and meals for the student while at the school, and assists with the cost of books and transportation as needed.

Contextually Relevant

Education affects more than just the mind. It involves the entire person: family, ministry context, tribe, and environment. NACOS learning experiences bring all of these elements together for application by the individual in community relationships with Christ, the Church, and one another.

Communally Comfortable

There is an intimate atmosphere in NACOS class structure. Learning is grounded in scripture and U.M. theology. It is conversational and experiential. NACOS focuses upon course work, but worship, enjoying nature, and sharing in each other's lives also are integral to the overall experience. Writing tutors are provided when needed.

The full significance of NACOS is revealed in a statement one of our students made after attending several courses, "For the first time in my life, I am an Indian and a Christian, and I do not feel that I am betraying one or the other."

Director

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It is my pleasure to welcome you to the NACOS community. I am certain that your experience will be stimulating, challenging, and enjoyable, for we are a part of the Body of Christ. We minister and support one another through Christ's community of faith. I pray that you will grow spiritually, intellectually, and emotionally as we walk the Jesus Road together.

May God's grace and blessing rest



upon you and draw you further into the Circle of his love
in Jesus Christ.

Fred

Fred A. Shaw (Shawnee heritage)