



**NAIC  
Native American International Caucus  
of the  
United Methodist Church**

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**NATIVE AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL CAUCUS  
POSITION STATEMENT ON THE NECESSITY OF FULL INCLUSION  
March 25, 2021**

With great thanks to the Northeastern Jurisdiction Native American Ministries Committee (NEJNAMC) for their fine work and dedicated efforts for preparing these words, the Board members of the Native American International Caucus (NAIC) affirm the full inclusion of LGBTQIA2S+ persons to be an authentic expression of the Gospel perspective that all are created in the image of God. Our perspective relates to the realities of “Two Spirit” persons in First Nations Peoples and communities who may be members of our churches.

Full inclusion means the removal from the UMC Book of Discipline all negative or discriminatory language related to LGBTQIA+ people as well as specifically endorsing same gender marriage and the ordination of persons who identify as LGBTQIA+. Two Spirit, also signified as “2S,” is a modern Pan-Indian, umbrella term used by some Indigenous North Americans to describe Native Peoples in their communities who fulfill a traditional third gender ceremonial role. It was claimed in 1990 by the Indigenous Lesbian and Gay International Gathering in Winnipeg to distinguish and distance Native American/ First Nations Peoples from non-native Peoples concerning perspectives on sexual and gender diversity.

Our NAIC statement is derived from a larger document resulting from two years of research and conversations recently presented at a special meeting of the NEJNAMC. RoBear Wilson, Chairperson Western PA CONAM, and Dr. Ellesa High, chairperson of the WV CONAM and NEJNAMC secretary, researched, wrote and presented the larger position paper to the NEJNAMC.

Approved March 25, 2021