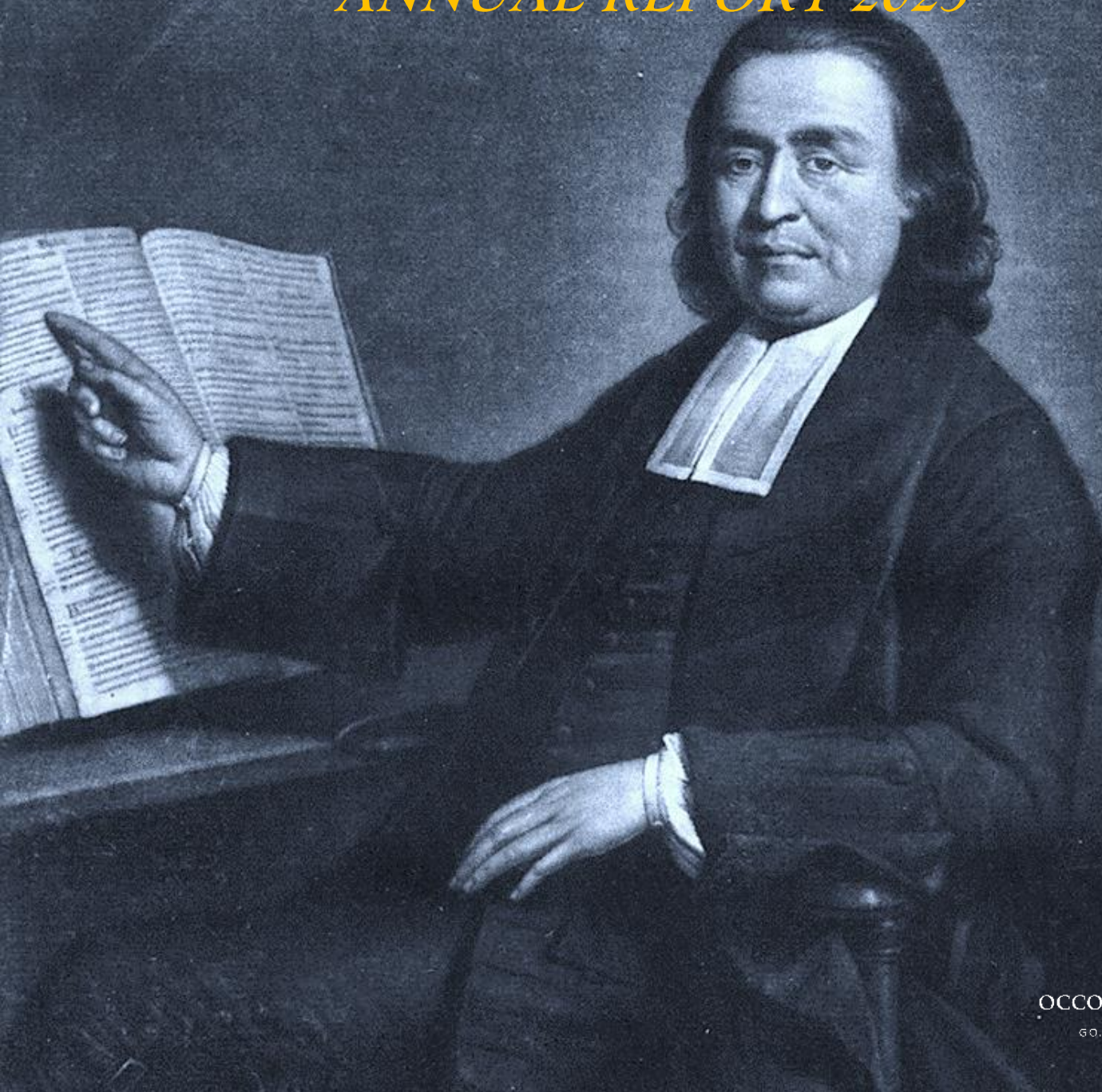


OCCOM MINISTRIES

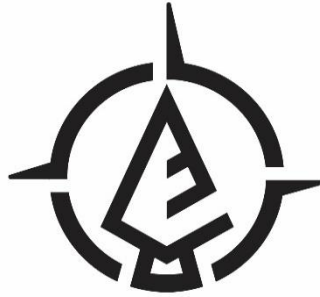
ANNUAL REPORT 2023



OCCOM MINISTRIES

GO. GATHER. GROW.

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OCCOM MINISTRIES

GO. GATHER. GROW.

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

2 TIMOTHY 3:16-17, ESV

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P.O. Box 471435

Lake Monroe, FL 32747-1435

Occom Ministries is a 501(c)(3)

non-profit organization.

EIN: 85-8019013080C-9

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OCCOM MINISTRIES
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

To Our Co-laborers in Christ,

The Lord is faithful. He has proven Himself again and again as we have striven to establish Occom Ministries. Although my wife, Regina, and I have been ministering under the name 'Occom Ministries' since the summer of 2019, we were finally able to establish the ministry as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization officially December 22, 2022. According to the IRS, Occom Ministries is celebrating its first anniversary, but according to kingdom standards, we have been around for more than five years.

The advantage to our non-profit status is that we are able grow and serve beyond the reach of the ministry's founders. With a board of dedicated members with their collected experience and wisdom, we are poised for growth and impact among the harvest in Indian country.

As we look forward to 2024, we are excited to see what the Lord will do with our meager efforts to expand His kingdom. Although some corners of our foundations have been laid, there is much more to be done. The Lord's faithfulness has been evident during this past year. We are trusting Him to continue expanding our foundational footprint and build on what has already been established.

All for the Kingdom!

In Christ,



Patrick Lennox, President



ABOUT

Occom Ministries is a three-fold ministry dedicated to building the church from the harvest among the indigenous peoples of North America. We recognize that Jesus has been at work for centuries among this diverse field. The Lord of the Harvest instructed us to pray for workers for the harvest. We could (and should) raise up more non-Native missionaries to go to the 1,200 tribes in North America, but we also recognize the Native workers who are already serving in their communities. We strive to equip them as they serve on the field the Lord has planted them.

We want to equip Native pastors to better lead their flocks and fulfill the Great Commission. We want to identify potential Native pastors and train them for every good work. Additionally, we want to help those Native disciples who may not feel called to the pastorate to discern the Lord's will for their lives, to discover the richness of God's Word, and to be more engaged and equipped to fulfill the Great Commission in their local church and community.

Training Leaders



We pray the Lord of the Harvest to send more workers to the ripe harvest field in North America, but we do not want to lose sight of those who are already on the ground serving among Native peoples. Occom Ministries seeks to support and train Native leaders in Native American and First Nations communities, whether they are already serving in the pastorate or are aspiring to the office of teaching elder.

Our annual **Native Pastors Gathering** is also another outreach ministry designed to encourage and equip pastors in their high calling to shepherd the flock of God. Pastors and their wives (if married) are invited to Florence, MS at the Twin Lakes Conference Center.

This three-day event has been our flagship ministry, which allows us to bring together Native pastors from all over the country, to learn, worship, pray, and forge new relationships with one another.



We stand ready to assist pastors, aspiring pastors, and teachers to pursue continued education. We are seeking to establish **The Samson Occom Institute for Biblical and Theological Studies** (a.k.a. Occom Institute), beginning as a certificate program utilizing Thirdmill for our core curriculum. Recognizing the life circumstances of so many Native pastors, we will offer distance education, and Lord willing, once our headquarters and discipleship center is complete, residency will be an option. Not only will this better equip pastors in their current position as shepherd over God's flock, but it will also give them better footing for further study in a seminary setting.

Growing Disciples

The Great Commission is about making disciples. The mandate by our Lord was given to the church, and it is primarily the work of the local church through the ordinary means of grace. Like any parachurch ministry, Occom Ministries seeks to encourage and equip Native churches in that process. We recognize that some Native pastors simply do not have the time to invest in their flock as much as they would like. So many Native pastors are bi-vocational, splitting their time between work, family, church, and the challenges in Indian country.

We want to help grow the Native Christian church by growing disciples and enabling them to better serve where they live and worship. We want to help strengthen the sheep of the flock, which we trust will help the pastor fulfill his call to lead the charge in the Great Commission in Indian country.

Our vision is to establish the **Occom Discovery Center**. As the name implies, ODC aims towards discovery. Above all, we seek to discover the glories of the Triune God who is as he has revealed himself in the Holy Scriptures. In light of that revelation, we seek to discover our place in his kingdom. God has gifted every believer. ODC seeks to help Native American/First Nations disciples of Christ discover their gifts and foster a vision to engage them in the kingdom. In this regard, ODC is a place to discover their calling in this world as ambassadors for Christ. ODC seeks to cultivate a Christian worldview that is both taught and caught, recognizing that changed lives are more influenced by the latter in community grounded in Scripture.



ODC is a place to serve young disciples where they are at in their walk with the Lord. Perhaps it is a “gap year” experience for some who are considering college or just their next phase of life. Perhaps their stay will be shorter for some of our proposed programs.

A bedrock conviction at ODC is that we as creatures created in the image of our Creator were created to create. ODC is a community that dares God’s people to dream. We are seeking those who are visionaries, makers, thinkers, tinkerers doers, happen-makers, craftsmen, artists, builders, and anyone else who wants to dare to dream and apply their gifts and talents to further the kingdom of God. All those who are timid, hurt, scared, curious, contrite, poor in spirit, meek, and willing to be shaped by the hands of the Potter, are encouraged to join us.



The discipleship program at ODC is not a Bible college, although we will have an academic element incorporated in the program, which will better equip a student who may be pursuing that route. Ultimately, ODC seeks to be a place where a Native Christians can come to getting a solid grounding in the gospel, to ask the hard questions, and to discover the God who is and their place in his kingdom.

Currently we have an offer to lease a piece of property in western North Carolina. At this point we are waiting for some legalities to be ironed out before we can commit to a lease. We also have pastors’ libraries offered to us upon completion of a study center, as well as two park model cabins awaiting us to take possession of them.



HOW IT STARTED

Occom Ministries was officially organized as a 501(c)(3) in December 22, 2022. The ministry was first imagined by Patrick and Regina Lennox sometime in 2018. After living and serving among Christian Native brothers and sisters from both sides of the U.S./Canadian border, it became clear that of all the ministry opportunities throughout Indian country, discipleship and especially leadership training is where they are called.

Since 2014, they have been serving with Mission to the World (MTW), the missions agency of the Presbyterian Church in America. They have served in Native America at various capacities, most notably as resident staff members at the Mokahum Ministry Center in Cass Lake, MN.

In 2019 they moved towards establishing Occom Ministries with our current three-fold ministry approach. In October 2020, Patrick and Regina organized the first Native Pastors Gathering in Florence, MS. Since that initial gathering, the Lord blessed three more annual events. It has served as our flagship ministry introducing Occom Ministries to Native American and First Nations pastors as well as those aspiring to become pastors. Recognizing the vital role of wives in the life of the pastor, we seek to serve them too.

In 2022, they decided it was time to organize as a non-profit. It would allow them to build and expand the various ministry initiatives, which require funding and more administrative demands beyond the scope of Mission to the World. Patrick and Regina continue as MTW missionaries serving on-loan to Occom Ministries. They derive no income from Occom. Currently all funds raised are for administration costs and ministry initiatives.

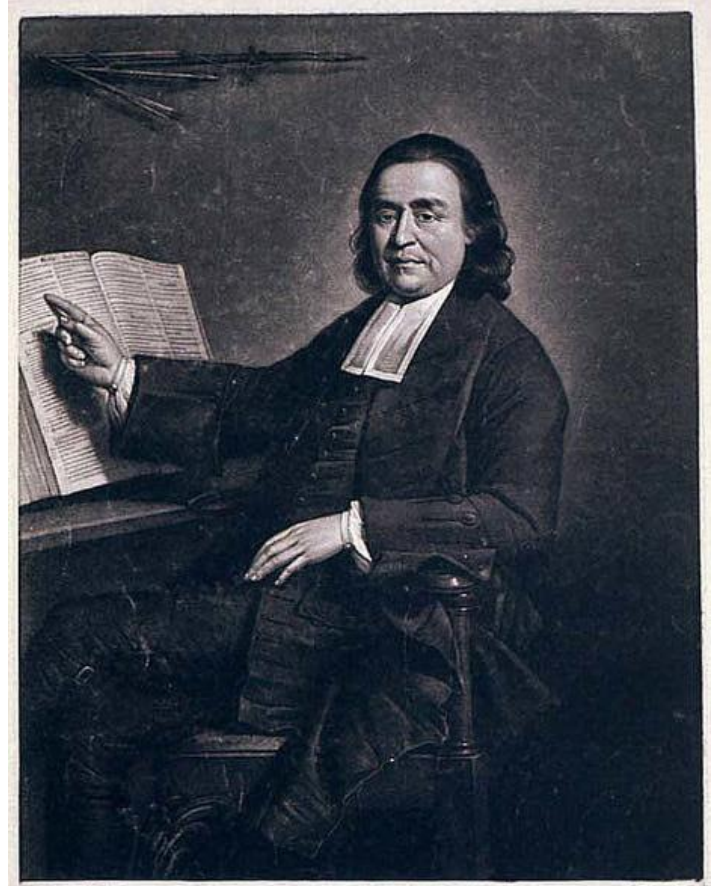


Rev. Samson Occom

The namesake of Occom Ministries is the Rev. Samson Occom (Mohegan, 1723-1792). Rev. Occom was the first Native American ordained Presbyterian minister. His driving desire was to give the gospel to Native people and provide them with education that would enable them to live in and thrive in their rapidly changing world.

He taught at the Moor's Charity School for Native Americans in Lebanon, CT. Later the school was moved to New Hampshire and became Dartmouth College, which did — for a short time — provide higher education to Native people, only without Samson Occom.

He was also the co-founder of the first Christian Native tribe, called the Brothertown Indians, which thrive today in Wisconsin. Although there are some very sad elements and disappointments in Occom's story, we find great inspiration in his commitment to the kingdom and Native people.



Our Board of Directors

Our founding board members have partnered with Patrick and Regina at various capacities throughout the years. All of them have a sustained and proven desire and collective wisdom to serve the Lord's people throughout Native America.

Patrick Lennox – President

Robert Good – Treasurer

Regina Lennox – Secretary

Christi McCullars – Legal Counsel

Mike Peifer – Director

Mike Ebert – Director

Billy Tallas – Director

Volunteer Staff

Therese Simson (Verity Bookkeeping) -- Bookkeeper



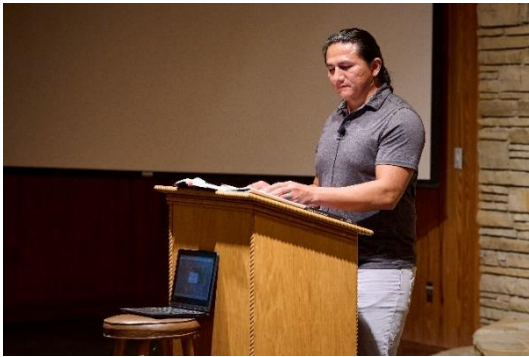
Ministry Report



Our first year as a legally organized non-profit was much like our first four years. We continued to establish and build upon relationships with our Native brothers and sisters throughout Native America. We held our fourth Native Pastors Gathering in October 2023. As in years past, this was a joint effort between Occom Ministries, MTW, and CHIEF Inc.

This year, Navajo, Cherokee, Choctaw, Kiowa/Mohawk, Crow, and Ojibwe brothers and sisters were in attendance. We had three first-time attendees this year. One pastor, Jim Bird (Cherokee), serves in Sisseton, SD among the Dakota people. In years past, he was unable to attend due to health issues. This year he took the bold step to come. We were blessed to have him there.

Notably, Billy Tallas (Navajo), a board member of Occom Ministries and a recent graduate of Phoenix Seminary (M.Div. 2023), led our worship during our time together. Billy is hoping to plant a church in his hometown, Broken Branch, AZ. He and his wife, Brianna, are new parents to Tyndale.



On the Road

This was a year of extensive travel. Patrick and Regina drove up the eastern seaboard of the U.S. to represent Occom Ministries at churches in Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Delaware, Virginia, and South Carolina, as well as conferences in Florida, Georgia, and Tennessee.

Pictured here is Rev. Joshua Tsavatewa (PCA, Sacred Road Ministries). Joshua served with us during our 2020 and 2021 Native Pastors Gathering. He came by to visit our booth at the 2023 PCA General Assembly.



ACTIVITY REPORT 2023

Occom Ministries Inc

Statement of Activity

January - December 2023

| | TOTAL |
|---|-----------------|
| Revenue | |
| 4000 Contributed income | |
| 4100 General Fund Donations - Individuals | 615.00 |
| 4500 In-kind donations | -38.31 |
| Total 4000 Contributed Income | 576.69 |
| 4800 Services | 38.31 |
| Total Revenue | \$615.00 |
| GROSS PROFIT | \$615.00 |
| Expenditures | |
| 6000 Office Supplies & Expenses | 0.00 |
| 6600 Computer Software & Apps | 315.00 |
| 6610 Donor Management Software | 131.63 |
| 7000 Bank fees & service charges | 10.90 |
| Total Expenditures | \$457.53 |
| NET OPERATING REVENUE | \$157.47 |
| NET REVENUE | \$157.47 |

Occom Ministries Inc
Statement of Financial Position
As of December 31, 2023

| | TOTAL |
|--|-------------------|
| ASSETS | |
| Current Assets | |
| Bank Accounts | |
| 1000 Business Checking (0881) - 1 | 3,001.84 |
| 1005 In-Kind Clearing | 0.00 |
| 1010 BMSH - Savings (0873) - 1 | 5.00 |
| Total Bank Accounts | \$3,006.84 |
| Other Current Assets | |
| 1300 Prepaid expenses | |
| 1305 Donor Software | 131.63 |
| Total 1300 Prepaid expenses | 131.63 |
| 1499 Loan To President | 19.00 |
| Total Other Current Assets | \$150.63 |
| Total Current Assets | \$3,157.47 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | \$3,157.47 |
| LIABILITIES AND EQUITY | |
| Liabilities | |
| Current Liabilities | |
| Accounts Payable | |
| 2000 Accounts Payable (A/P) | 0.00 |
| Total Accounts Payable | \$0.00 |
| Total Current Liabilities | \$0.00 |
| Total Liabilities | \$0.00 |
| Equity | |
| 3500 Temporarily Restricted Net Assets | 3,000.00 |
| 3999 Retained Earnings | |
| Net Revenue | 157.47 |
| Total Equity | \$3,157.47 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY | \$3,157.47 |

ADVANCING OUR MISSION IN 2024

We are eagerly praying and believing that the Lord will continue to bless our labors with Occom Ministries. There is so much yet to be done.

Organizationally, we need to grow. We are praying for volunteers and staff members. We will increase our efforts to identify and recruit additional staff, particularly in the areas of administration, communications, and development.

Occom Discovery Center – We are waiting on the Lord to open the promised property to us so that we can begin site planning and preparation. We also need to raise the necessary funds to achieve such a project. Although our hearts are geared towards the property in North Carolina, we have a contingency plan if the proposed property is not available this year. As mentioned above, there is a boundary issue that needs to be settled before we are comfortable signing a lease. We have specific criteria we are requiring for the location of our the Occom Discovery Center.

Occom Institute – We aim to have a certificate program mapped out and ready to receive students by 2025. We already have a partnership with Thirdmill utilizing their curriculum. We are searching for the right person to organize and implement the program.

Native Pastors Gathering – We have decided to hold off on a gathering in 2024. There are multiple reasons that led to that decision. It may seem like a step backwards, but it is actually going to enable us to move forward. The reality is that the planning and funding for the gathering takes a lot of time and effort. At this point, the other two ministry initiatives, Occom Discovery Center/Occom headquarters and the Occom Institute, need to get off the drawing board and onto the ground. Now that we are established as a non-profit ready to receive funding, we need to focus on these ministries.

We also need to increase follow-up with our NPG attendees. NPG is more than a three-day event once a year; it is a year-round ministry of encouraging and equipping Native pastors. We have multiple open invitations throughout Indian country. July 2024 is poised to be a heavy travel schedule visiting up to six reservations and other Native communities. Regarding the next gathering in 2025, we will return to the Twin Lakes Conference Center in Florence, MS. Also, as was our original intent years ago, we plan to hold smaller regional gatherings in different parts of the country where Native communities are more densely populated, e.g. Arizona and Alaska.

Using a castle metaphor, the Native Pastors Gathering is an established foundational cornerstone – more like a rampart. Now we must continue to expand the foundation for the Occom Discover Center and Occom Institute.



Will you join us by praying for us and generously supporting Occom Ministries?

Your prayers and financial gifts are what makes it possible for us to make disciples and equip leaders in Naïve America. We are grateful to the Lord for bringing us thus far. He has given us a blessed burden, clear vision, generous partners, and many ministry opportunities. We have every reason to believe the Lord stands with us ready to advance forward with his kingdom in Native America.

Zechariah 4:10 tells us not to despise small beginnings. We certainly have started small, still in our foundational stages, but the Lord's hand of providence has moved on our behalf since our inception.

We pray the Lord of the Harvest is burdening you with the need among the Native peoples of North America. The Lord has gone before us. We invite you to join us as we answer the call to raise up and equip Native pastors and make disciples among the nations.

Gifts can be mailed to

Occom Ministries, PO Box 471435, Lake Monroe, FL 32747-1435

Online gifts can be made by going to www.Occom.org/Give





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www.Occom.org

www.NativePastorsGathering.org



www.facebook.com/OccomMinistries

