



Intergenerational Arctic Ministries (IAM) February 20, 2019

Shared Exec Experience:

Before 2018 our executive presbyter was working 80% of full time (FTE) for the presbytery. Beginning in March 2018, he began working full time, dividing his time ½ for the presbytery and ½ for Intergenerational Arctic Ministries (IAM). In addition, Melissa O'Malley, our office manager, agreed to be hired by IAM to work more hours, with the extra time paid by IAM.

Financially, this has been a benefit to the presbytery, reducing the percentage of the exec's salary and travel fees to 50% of a fulltime position. In 2018 this came to a savings of \$40,000 in our presbytery budget over the ten months it was in effect during 2018, and will rise to \$48,000 savings for the full year of 2019.

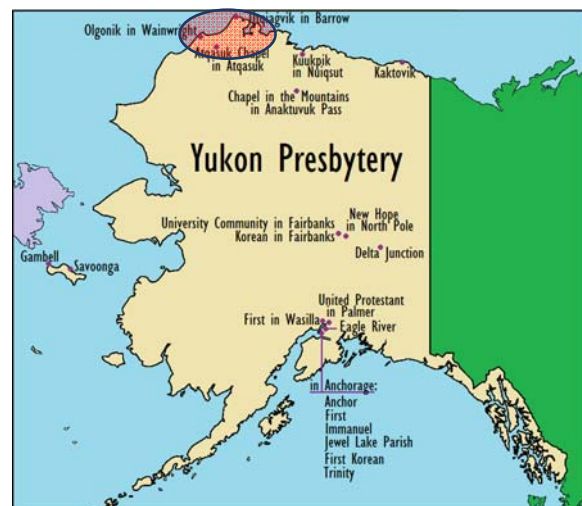
In our opinion, the mission of the presbytery has also been helped by this approach. The *Listening Way* programs IAM is bringing to our villages represents not only an acknowledgement of the intergenerational wounding of indigenous people that occurred when Western culture collided with Indigenous cultures, but it also models what Christians mean when they speak of repentance. Repentance is not just an apology, but a determination to *walk a different path than the past*. The IAM healing ministry represents the next steps in walking that different path, because it empowers indigenous Christian leaders as the authors and the bearers of the healing that is needed.

Further, the opioid epidemic our nation now faces, along with the high rates of sexual abuse, domestic violence, and societal violence our nation now faces, all point to the fact that Western culture is also deeply wounded and in need of healing as much as anyone. It is our belief that the work we are pioneering through this new, non-profit ministry will prove to be an important interpreter and bearer of the Gospel to an entire generation of Americans, and others.

What is important in all of this is that we are rolling out a faith-based approach to healing social ills that will help so many people. We expect dozens of people to be receiving help by the end of 2019. Yet, 2019 is the year to gear up and train people so the work can begin. We expect many, many more will be receiving help in 2020, because rather than gearing up, we expect the ministry to be in full swing by then. Jesus proclaimed that he came to bring healing to the blind and lame, and justice to the downtrodden. This project does all of that, by connecting people to the God, who loves them, and by providing guidance to Christians, churches, and communities that really want to be part of God's solution. How will we do that?

Using Technology to Help Us Get Ready

Before we even started, we began planning some of the logistics we need to make that possible. We believe it is essential for us to get the best use of technology to allow training, collaborating and networking among all participating communities. So, we got two grants to demonstrate the potential of



using this technology in 3 communities: Utqiagvik, Atkasuk and Wainwright. Then, we plan to go to our funders, and make the case that it is worth their while to provide this in all villages.

To tell about the technology, and what it can do, we have Frank Damiano, From Damiano Global Corp. He is an active part of the Utqiagvik Presbyterian Church, and the prime architect for this part of our project.



Funds for our Healing Programming:

As the chart shows, we planned to receive funds from four sources this year. We did receive grants from both the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation and the North Slope Borough, providing a total of \$500,000 available for our first year. However, we were denied the grant from the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority for \$500,000, and we are still waiting news on the \$250,000 grant from the Arctic Slope Community Foundation. We are therefore beginning slower while we seek additional

funds, and especially need funds for St. Lawrence Island.

The Programs we are bringing in 2019

Our plan is to do the community organizing to get the following efforts just past the starting line by the end of the year: 12-Step Facilitation Treatment – Steeped in 12-step recovery, spiritual guidance, and indigenous cultural values to provide real help in ways that can make a difference.

- Community Planning and Networking – Assisting each community in infusing faith-based healing into the very fabric of their community planning and acting. We are now gathering people from local government, business, faith communities, and more to help communities become the solution they seek for healing.
- Quarterly Healing and Renewal Worship Services – Uniting all churches in each community for these events, and bringing qualified leaders preach, teach, and lead these events. These will be quarterly high points for joining the Christian churches together in partnership, and for sharing the vision of God’s healing for people, who are ready at that moment to receive it.
- Entrepreneurial Training – Helping individuals and communities to see how to use the resources already available—like elders with cultural wisdom, and local leaders who know how to run organizations—in order to organize in addressing various problems in sustainable ways. Child care organizations, parenting training, group homes for people transitioning from treatment to coming home, new businesses to care for local needs and provide meaningful jobs, and more, are needed. This approach helps people go beyond being overwhelmed by problems, to seeing ways to address issues together in sustainable ways.
- Listening Way Program – We are putting a lot of effort into this as our signature approach for providing immediate, faith-based help. So, we have hired Pastor David Matthews as director. David will be recruiting, training and supporting Christian *soul friends* for people needing allies and advocates as they seek healing for their lives and families.