



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 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.

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. We want to see Native churches planting more Native churches with trained leaders fully “equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17).



Our annual **Native Pastors Gathering** is an 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. Lord willing, we plan to hold more regional gatherings.

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 at the **Occom Discovery Center** (below). 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. Too many 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 daily 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.

Occom Discovery Center



***Note:** The image above is for illustrative purposes only. We plan on utilizing yurts for many of our meeting rooms and student housing on our campus, as well as various Native American inspired structures. We aim to create a rich academic and communal environment while retaining as much of the natural beauty of the mountains as possible.

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 vessels 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 Native Christians can come to get a solid grounding in the gospel, to ask the hard questions, and to discover the God who is and their place in his kingdom.



This property will also serve as Occom Ministries headquarters and study center for **Occom Institute** students. We seek to have a fortified Native Christian studies center for missiologists, historians, and pastors to further research how the Lord has been advancing his kingdom among the indigenous peoples of North America. Although the best years of Native missions are ahead of us, there is so much history yet to be uncovered and told. The church of Jesus Christ at large needs to know how the Spirit of God moved through Indian country.

Our goal is to establish the **Occom Discovery Center** in western North Carolina. Being in such a beautiful location, we would also like to offer the campus in the off-season to our partners and friends as their own retreat location. Church groups and other ministries who would like to go “glamping” could utilize the campus for their own retreat and meeting events. Donations from that will simply go towards Occom Ministries to keep our primary mission moving forward.

What We Have

Currently we have an offer to lease a piece of property in Topton, NC. Unfortunately, we just learned the owner, Janet Wilson, was recently diagnosed with two late-stage cancers. We are simply not sure what will happen with that land at this point. We are just praying for the owner and dear sister and friend in the Lord, Janet. Please pray with us.

We also have two substantial pastors’ libraries given to us, as well as two park model cabins awaiting their final home. We were also gifted a robust cache of tools and equipment for our future campus.

What We Need

To purchase a piece of property to serve our needs, today’s current real-estate market requires us to raise \$190,000 minimum — just for the land. Based on three different yurt companies, we have estimated \$96,000 for the minimum amount of yurts to start, which includes a 40’ main meeting house, multiple student housing yurts, a library, and additional classrooms. Additional costs yet to be determined will include decking, electrical, plumbing, and furnishing.



What Can You Do?

Will you join us in this important work? Although our vision is quite “doable” from an earthly perspective, we know that “unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain” (Psalm 127:1). We need the Lord’s people to pray. The Lord has been affirming our work for years, advancing us forward on his timetable. But now we are at a critical point of necessary growth for us to fulfill our mission.

We need the Lord’s people to give. The Lord owns the cattle on a thousand hills, and he owns the hills, too. He owns it all. We are asking you to pray and ask the Lord if he wants you to be a part of this ministry at this critical and foundational level.

Please consider a gift of \$1,000, \$2,000, \$5,000, or more. Perhaps we are asking for too little. Consider \$10,000. For those of you who cannot give at that level, be assured that any amount counts. It all adds up. Whatever you give, please give sacrificially, cheerfully, and unto the Lord.

To give online, go to www.Occom.org. There is a designated link to properly enter your gift for the building program. If you prefer to give by mail, please make checks out to Occom Ministries. Be sure to include Occom Discover Center in the memo. Our mailing address is:

Occom Ministries
P.O. Box 471435
Lake Monroe, FL 32747-1435

Thank you for taking the time to learn about Occom Ministries and our vision for the future. We are thankful to the Lord for entrusting us with this ministry to our Native American and First Nations brothers and sisters. We pray he will multiply our efforts as we eagerly await Reformation and revival in Indian country.

All for the Kingdom!

Sincerely,



Patrick Lennox
President, Occom Ministries



Note: Patrick and Regina Lennox do not receive any funds from Occom Ministries. Currently there are no paid staff. Patrick and Regina #14241 are donor-supported missionaries through Mission to the World (MTW), the missions agency of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA), where Patrick is ordained.

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