

OCCOM MINISTRIES

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



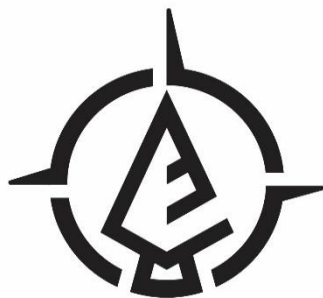
OCCOM MINISTRIES

GO. GATHER. GROW.



“Be still and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!”

—Psalm 46:10 ESV



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2024 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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Occom Ministries is a 501(c)(3)

non-profit organization.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

To Our Co-laborers in Christ,

We are thankful to report what the Lord has done with Occom Ministries in 2024. Looking forward to 2025, we are praying and believing that the Lord will continue to bless our work among the Indigenous brethren throughout Indian country. As our Native friends on the ground remind us, ministry in Native America is hard. Because of the nature of this particular mission field, there are challenges that are simply not understood by those living in the dominant culture. But we serve a God who specializes in things thought impossible. So we press on.

As reported in last year's annual report, some corners of our foundations have been laid, and there is much more to be done. We are still trusting the Lord 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 are committed to assisting 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.

Pictured above is a conceptual rendering of the Ocom Discovery Center/Ocom headquarters. Pictured left is a piece of land offered to Ocom Ministries. See page 13 for more details.



HOW IT STARTED

Occom Ministries was officially organized as a 501(c)(3) on 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

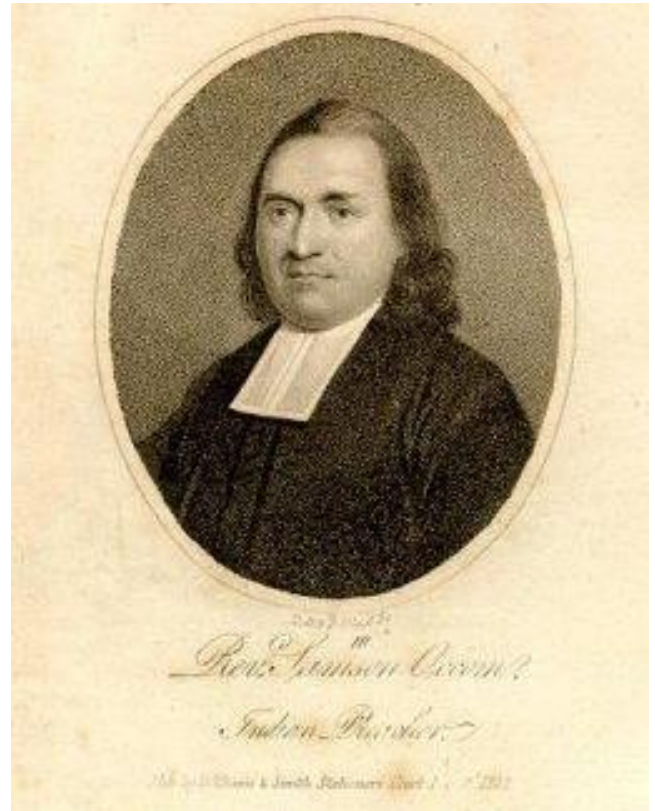
The namesake of Occom Ministries is the Rev. Samson Occom (Mohegan, 1723-1792). Rev. Occom was the first Native American Presbyterian minister, ordained by the Long Island Presbytery in 1759. He was husband, father, pastor, hymn writer, and missionary. His driving desire was to give the gospel to Native people and provide them with education that would enable them to live in and thrive in their rapidly changing world.

As a Presbyterian minister, it is reported that his salary was only half of his fellow white ministers. As a missionary, Occom received a stipend from the Society in Scotland for Propagating Christian Knowledge (SSPCK).

He is known as the Father of Native American Literature because of a sermon entitled, *A Sermon, Preached at the Execution of Moses Paul, an Indian*, found its way to publication, making Occom the first published Indian of his day, indeed ever.

He was tutored and mentored by Rev. Eleazar Wheelock of the Wheelock School. Occom was his first Native student. Occom, a brilliant student, inspired Wheelock to establish the Moor's Indian Charity School in Lebanon, CT. Wheelock asked Occom to raise support for the school in Britain, traveling to London, Scotland, and Ireland with the understanding that Wheelock would look after his wife and children while gone. After two-years, Occom raised £12,000. Upon his return, he learned that Wheelock did not follow through on his agreement. More than that, Wheelock, under the direction of an influential donor, Lord Dartmouth, the school was moved to New Hampshire and became Dartmouth College, far from its original location, and more to Occom's dismay, its charter to educate Indian children. Dartmouth College has gone on record to say that its very existence is owed to Samson Occom.

In God's good providence, Occom became the co-founder of the first Christian Native tribe, called the Brothertown Indians, once in Brothertown, NY, but now living today in Wisconsin, seeking Federal recognition. Occom's story is full of great achievement and heart-breaking disappointments displaying perseverance through pain. We find great inspiration in his commitment to the kingdom of Christ as he sought to bring the gospel to the Native people in Colonial America.



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

Administrative Services

Auxilio Partners



Ministry Report



Once again, the Lord gave us a full year of new ministry opportunities. We had a trip nearly every month of the year, which included both visits with Native pastors in their communities and conferences, where we were able to represent Occom Ministries.

Our most important trip took us over 5,000 miles around the country in twenty-one days. “The Big Trip,” as we dubbed it, was a long overdue and essential follow-up to the Native Pastors Gathering. The first objective was to visit pastors we met at our Native Pastors Gathering over the last four years. We went to encourage them, pray with them (and their wives), and to learn more about where they serve firsthand to understand how we can better serve them.



We also gifted them a \$500 collection of essential books from P & R Publishers. Each “Native Pastors Essentials Library” included more than twenty-five titles. We were able to raise funds for eleven libraries. We delivered six sets to six pastors. We have four more waiting to be delivered in 2025 on the second leg of the trip. We had to send a few of them through the USPS. Unfortunately, one of the libraries never made it to its destination. But the Lord provided enough funds to purchase another set, which safely made it to a pastor serving in Lower Brule, SD.

Because of the extensive travel we anticipated in 2024, we did not hold our usual Native Pastors Gathering, as it would have been impossible for us to organize such an event while spending so much time on the road. Lord willing, should we be blessed with a larger staff to handle logistics, we will be able to do more beyond the capabilities of me and Regina. The good news on that front is that we will be hosting the Native Pastors Gathering again in October 2025.



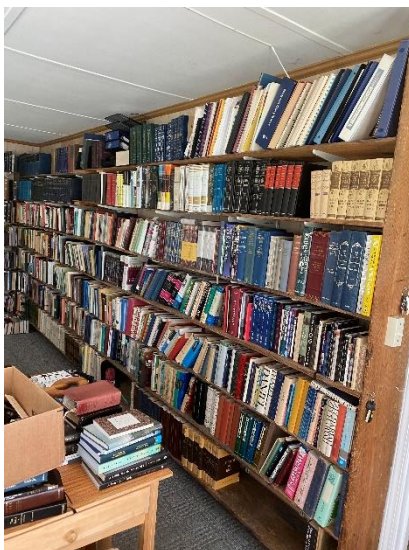


January: Pearl River, MS (Choctaw).

Feb - Mar: Pearl River & Jackson, MS. We visited Pearl River yet again, this time for a mid-week service celebrating a newly revised Choctaw Bible, first translated by Presbyterian missionary, Cyrus Byington.

May: P & R Publishers' Shepherds Conference in NJ. We have a wonderful relationship with P & R. They have been supplying books for Native Pastors Gathering every year, as well as our Native Pastors Essentials Library project.

July: *United in Christ Conference 2024*. UIC is a conference held every three years in Bemidji, MN promoting unity among the Native and non-Native churches. Ministry leaders and members from many tribes come together for a time of teaching, worship, and prayer. This event enabled us to reconnect with old friends and make new ones. This was the first stop on our "Big Trip." From there we traveled to our other destinations in Cass Lake, MN, Sisseton, ND, Crow Agency, MT, Lower Brule, SD, Chewey, OK and Broken Bow, OK.



Shortly after our return to Florida, we were back on the road to North Carolina to take possession of a pastor's library donated to Occom Ministries. It was given to us by Ann Davis in honor of her late husband, Pastor Ivan Davis. We are praying for the day when these books (and others we were given) come out of storage and into a proper library at the Occom Discovery Center.

In the 2023 annual report, we mentioned the need for staffing in order for us to be better able to pursue our ministry goals. We are happy to announce we are working with Auxilio Partners to take over most of our administrative responsibilities associated with non-profit organizations, which includes donations and bookkeeping.

We have greater confidence going forward knowing they are taking care of these things for us. We also have greater freedom to focus on our ministry, fulfilling our call to grow disciples and train leaders in Native America.

We aim to equip and encourage Native pastors to better serve where the Lord has called them. We are thankful to the Lord for sustaining us and using us to advance His kingdom throughout Native America. He has shown Himself faithful to Occom Ministries, and we are praying and believing He will go before us in the future.



Occom Ministries Inc

Statement of Activity

January - December 2024

	TOTAL
Revenue	
4000 Contributed income	
4100 General Fund Donations-Individuals	9,677.33
Total 4000 Contributed income	9,677.33
4400 Net Assets Released from Restrictions	0.00
Total Revenue	\$9,677.33
GROSS PROFIT	\$9,677.33
Expenditures	
6000 Office Supplies & Expenses	1,179.97
6050 Books	3,095.40
6100 Printing & photocopying	858.62
6200 Shipping & postage	277.40
6550 Rent	577.16
6600 Computer Software & Apps	1,455.00
6605 Computer Technology Software	232.67
6610 Donor Management Software	438.77
6800 Advertising & marketing	542.84
6820 Contract & professional fees	586.50
7000 Bank fees & Merchant service charges	301.68
Total Expenditures	\$9,546.01
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$131.32
NET REVENUE	\$131.32

Occom Ministries Inc
Statement of Financial Position
As of December 31, 2024

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
10000 Cash & Securities	
10100 Business Checking (0881)	9,819.38
10200 BMSH - Savings (0873)	5.00
Total 10000 Cash & Securities	9,824.38
1005 In-Kind Clearing	0.00
1007 JOURNAL	0.00
Total Bank Accounts	\$9,824.38
Other Current Assets	
1300 Prepaid expenses	
1305 Donor Software	219.38
1306 Computer Technology Software	201.33
1307 PO Box Rental	307.70
Total 1300 Prepaid expenses	728.41
Total Other Current Assets	\$728.41
Total Current Assets	\$10,552.79
TOTAL ASSETS	\$10,552.79
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
2000 Accounts Payable (A/P)	270.00
Total Accounts Payable	\$270.00
Total Current Liabilities	\$270.00
Total Liabilities	\$270.00
Equity	
3100 Net Assets with donor restrictions	2,169.00
3105 Pastor's Essential Library	0.00
3110 Occom Discovery Center Bldg Campaign	3,525.00
3115 Library Fund	4,300.00
Total 3100 Net Assets with donor restrictions	9,994.00
3900 Opening balance equity	0.00
3999 Net Assets	157.47
Net Revenue	131.32
Total Equity	\$10,282.79
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$10,552.79

ADVANCING OUR MISSION IN 2025

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.

As mentioned last year, we still need to grow organizationally. We are praying for volunteers and staff members, particularly in the areas of communications and development. In the administration department, we are thankful to now be working with Auxilio Partners, which will enable us to focus on the frontline ministry we are called to fulfill.

Occom Discovery Center – We will continue to raise funds to purchase property for our headquarters and study center. Last year, we reported that we have an offer to lease a piece of property in western North Carolina. We were waiting on some legalities to be ironed out before we can commit to a lease. Unfortunately, at the time of writing this, our benefactress, Janet Wilson (pictured wearing the hat on page 5), is suffering under two late-stage cancers. We are praying for her and ask you to do the same. We are not sure what will happen with her property. But we are still trusting the Lord to provide us with property for the Occom Discovery Center in just the right place.

Occom Institute – We are praying and searching for the right person to organize and implement the program. Utilizing Thirdmill curriculum as our core, our aim is to have a certificate program mapped out and ready to receive students in 2025.

Native Pastors Gathering 2025 – We are looking forward to our fifth Native Pastors Gathering. The theme for 2025 is *The Gospel: In All Its Fulness*. We are returning to the Twin Lakes Conference and Camp in Florence, MS to gather with Native pastors and leaders to remind ourselves of the central message of Scripture.

We are trusting the Lord to advance Occom Ministries further and more effectively in 2025. We have a big vision and lofty goals that stretch us beyond our human limitations, but we serve an infinitely bigger God “who is able to supply all [our] needs according to his riches and glory in Christ Jesus,” (Phil 4:19), and he is “able to do far more than what we can do or think” (Eph 3:20). Pray with us as we venture into this new year. Pray the Lord will bring a genuine revival in the Native communities across this continent, and that Occom Ministries would be able to meet the need of growing disciples and training leaders.

Correction: We would like to correct the record regarding our 2023 Ministry Report. We wrote that Billy Tallas will be planting a church in “Broken Branch, AZ.” Billy will be serving in Rough Rock, AZ, in a community called Many Farms.



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 Native 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/**](http://www.Occom.org/Give/)





“I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me.”

– John 17:20–23 (ESV)





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