

# Intergenerational Arctic Ministries Core Purpose

Faith-based healing  
of intergenerational trauma and its effects

# Faith-based healing of intergenerational trauma and its effects for indigenous people

- IAM recognizes that the Christian churches have in the past, and some continue today, to participate in the inappropriate attitudes and behaviors that occur when one people and culture attempt to dominate another. Specifically, the collision of Western culture with Native American cultures has been characterized by a domineering and superior attitudes among most European immigrants, resulting in a history that has wounded the souls of so many people. This behavior has been a part of American life, justified through the Principle of Discovery in the both the religious community, and the political community.

# Faith-based healing of intergenerational trauma and its effects for indigenous people

IAM's Board of Directors and Executive Director will set the tone for bringing grace-based healing to the wounds that come from people acting from graceless attitudes.

Our Board of Directors and executive staff must therefore both

- recognize that the Christian movement that they are a part of has been complicit in the problems, and
- commit to the goal of bringing healing to wounded people in the arctic, and encouraging transformation of the majority culture now called to participate in the new, healing work that God is doing.

# Intergenerational Arctic Ministries' Core Values

- 1. Recovery/Restoration/Healing—**  
Through the unconditional love of God, self, family and others.
- 2. Faith-based Self-determination for Native Peoples—**  
Through the principles of self-leadership, self-propagation and self-support..
- 3. Healthy Relationships—**  
Characterized by honesty, unity and sharing.
- 4. Building Healthy Communities by Partnering Together—**  
Each sharing their God-given resources, talents and blessings .
- 5. Honoring Indigenous Values –**  
As the culturally appropriate guide for applying love of God, Family, self & others.

# Intergenerational Arctic Ministries' Values

1. Recovery through Unconditional Love

VECTOR EPS10

# Value 1: Recovery through Unconditional Love

Recovery comes through commitment to, and participation in the unconditional love of God, self, family, and others.

Recovery does not happen alone. Recovery happens because of God's empowered love, which always requires participating in God-given community.

# Intergenerational Arctic Ministries' Values



2. Faith-based **Self-determination**  
for indigenous peoples

VECTOR EPS10

## Value 2. Self-Determination For Indigenous Peoples

Key to correcting the mistakes of the past is to commit to the empowerment of the people and their churches. Specifically, IAM is committed to raising up people who are disciples of Christ, and who seek to empower their own people and all people through the lens of their own God-given cultural identity.

This empowerment can be understood through the following three “selves” of indigenous empowerment:



## Value 2. Self-Determination For Indigenous Peoples

### **Self-led:**

As much as possible, leadership in IAM should be comprised of citizens from among the Native people they serve. This value recognizes that members of the dominant culture are often available, and are people of good intentions. However, leaders do what is most familiar to their experience and their own culture. Therefore, despite their good hearts, non-indigenous people will inadvertently lead in ways that contribute to the deterioration of indigenous culture and worldviews.

As a Christian organization, this value also recognizes that there are many ways to organize for Christian work. The most love-based way to organize must be in ways that build up a people by strengthening their identity as disciples of Jesus Christ, and their identity as members of a cultural group.

## Value 2. Self-Determination For Indigenous Peoples

### **Self-supporting:**

As much as possible, resources (financial, human, institutional, and other resources) should come from the Native people, their communities and their institutions.

This value recognizes that being dependent on outside sources for resources inevitably results in the desires of the outside source reshaping the goals and methods of the dependent people (or organization).

This value also recognizes that cultures are always in the process of change. The best way for a people to enter into change is through a culturally appropriate examination of the changing times, and purposeful decisions about what changes to make, especially when the changes challenge cultural held values and norms. Conversations about property and ownership, leadership, respect, and other important topics, should be held in ways that empower the indigenous people to make their own decisions about their course into the future.

## Value 2. Self-Determination For Indigenous Peoples

### **Self-propagating:**

As much as possible the recruiting, training and coaching of IAM leaders and employees will be provided by Native leaders.

This value recognizes that there are culturally appropriate ways for sharing faith, values, skills, and vision for the future. The best people to do this work are people from the local culture. In the past, people of good intentions have filled these leadership roles, but their methods of education, and leadership development have inadvertently contributed to the intergenerational trauma we intend to address.

IAM commits to raising up indigenous people as trainers and coaches for its work. IAM also commits to working with others committed to these same, three-self values.

# Intergenerational Arctic Ministries' Values



## 3. Healthy Relationships

VECTOR EPS10

## Value 3: Healthy Relationships

Healthy relationships are characterized by honesty, unity and sharing.

Spiritual health is best nurtured within healthy relationships with God, with family and with others. On the other hand, prolonged isolation inevitably leads to spiritual dis-ease.



# Intergenerational Arctic Ministries' Values

## 4. Building Healthy Communities by Partnering Together

VECTOR EPS10

## Value 4: Building Healthy Community by Partnering Together

No one person, nor even one organization, has the capacity to bring the amount of healing needed. Only God-inspired and God-empowered unconditional love can do it.

God gives different ones different capacities, which we view as God-given gifts to share. IAM is committed to building community (that is relationships across our communities), and partnerships (that is covenant commitment to these relationships) for the purpose of bringing healing to God's beloved people.

# Intergenerational Arctic Ministries' Values



## 5. Honoring Indigenous Values

VECTOR EPS10



## Value 5: Honoring Indigenous Values

God is the Creator of all truth and the Source of all true wisdom. Over generations, indigenous peoples have refined their understanding of God's wisdom into tried and true indigenous values. These values can therefore be trusted as true guides for applying love of God, family, self and others in culturally appropriate ways.

Photo by J. Robson

# OUR IÑUPIAT VALUES

AVOIDANCE OF CONFLICT  
PAAQLAKTAUTAIÑÑIQ

HUMILITY  
QIÑUIÑÑIQ

COMPASSION  
NAGLIKTUUTIQAĞNIQ

HUMOR  
QUVIANGUNIQ

COOPERATION  
PAAMMAAĞIIGÑIQ

HUNTING TRADITIONS  
AÑUNIALLANIQ

FAMILY & KINSHIP  
IŁAGIIGÑIQ

KNOWLEDGE OF OUR LANGUAGE  
IÑUPIURAALLANIQ

SHARING  
AVIKTUAQATIGIIGÑIQ

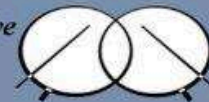
SPIRITUALITY  
UKPIQQUTIQAĞNIQ

RESPECT FOR NATURE  
QIKSIKSRAUTIQAĞNIQ IÑUUNIAĞVIGMUN

LOVE AND RESPECT FOR OUR ELDERS AND ONE ANOTHER  
PIQPAKKUTIQAĞNIQ SULI QIKSIKSRAUTIQAĞNIQ UTUQQANAANUN ALLANULLU



*North Slope Borough Healthy Communities Initiative*  
*Nunaagivut Sayyagiksivlugi*



# TRADITIONAL

## SAINT LAWRENCE ISLAND YUP'IK VALUES

- Listen with your heart and mind
- Honor Family
- Give Service to others
- Never give up
- Respect all living things
- Remember advice of elders
- Plan for the future
- Be independent
- Avoid laziness
- Gather knowledge and wisdom

Approved by Yina Shwako Gambell Elder

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