

Conveners Corner

By Gene (Geno) Gallegos, Convener of Conveners

Hello and Hola, Illuman Brothers.

It's an honor to embrace the Illuman service position of Convenor of Convenors (X2) and I thank my predecessor, Terry Frisbie, for his authentic example of service for the greater good. I have witnessed the wonderful gift of Service in so many ways and likewise embrace the importance of service rotation (assuming a service position for a set period of time and then passing the role on to another) to always keep the lifeblood of any organization and the individual truly engaged and healthy.



What really inspires me about the worldwide vision of Illuman is the long-term aspiration of encouraging seven generations of initiated men to love and serve the world, with the Men's Rites of Passage (MROP) being the cornerstone of this vision.

As so many of our Tribal Elders, in New Mexico and beyond, seem to support, life is a healing journey. Fostering a nonviolent sacred masculinity is crucial to ourselves, our communities, our human family, and all living beings on the earth itself. The MROP is harmonious with this wisdom. My practice is to try to foster this growth in myself, among men in general, and now among the Illuman Convenors in particular.

In that respect, I offer you an example of this approach. During the most recent spike in COVID-19, an initiated brother (and perhaps future Convenor) Solomon Parker asked to interview me for his new Podcast WILDGOD (wildgod.podbean.com). Take a listen to as little or as much as your time and energy permit. He is asking some good questions of several initiated men and I really admire his creative use of imagination during a time when stress is running amok among so many of us. Solomon mentioned a phrase that was used during his MROP: **The Honor of Your Presence Is Requested**. That phrase always resonates with my heart and soul, even now. I pass on that phrase to each of my brothers in Illuman as a touchstone to inspire, ground, and guide you in this ever-expanding and satisfying work.

I look forward to growing with you on this healing journey.