

Deputy Leon's Election to The Board

By Rev. Leon Sampson

When Navajoland Area Mission was established, there was a decision to be made for the clergy and staff of Navajoland, whether to have clergy and staff receive a paid position or to have the health insurance paid out of the Block Grant provided by TEC. It was a hard decision to make. With the limited funds from the Block Grant that Navajoland received, ECN decided that Diné's clergy and staff would utilize the Indian Health Services to get health care until other funds could become available and allocated for insurance. Navajoland still has not had adequate health coverage for almost fifty years, so we might be able to select our providers. However, we became a small fish in the giant sea of the IHS health system, which made it almost impossible to get adequate care from a pro-

vider. The Church Pension Group learned that Navajoland still had insufficient insurance coverage. With my recent prognoses of stage 5 Kidney failure and beginning home Dialysis treatments, I became a speaker at a hearing for a resolution to create an alternative health insurance coverage that smaller churches can qualify for, The Denominational Health Plan (DHP), was offered to Navajoland and Executive Council of The Episcopal Church would provide the funds. This was all a collaborative work of the legislative committee for the resolution and the Executive Council of the Episcopal Church, providing health coverage for Navajoland for the two years before the 80th General Convention. Through this work, my name was submitted as a nominee to the Board of Trustees of



Church Pension Group. During the election process of the General Convention, I was elected on the 4th ballot as a member of the Board of Trustees to The Church Pension Group. I will serve as an advisory group to the Finance Committee and the advisory group to the Denominational Health Plan group. I will do my best and learn as much as possible within my three-year term.

Election to Executive Council

By GJ Gordy

Running for an elected seat has been an incredible journey, blending passion, purpose, and perseverance. It all started with a nudge or two—and a deep commitment to serve my community.

Campaigning was a whirlwind of emotions. In the timeless tradition of General Convention, I created aluminum buttons affixed to postcards introducing who I am. During breaks, I crafted on-the-spot messages about



why I'm running for Executive Council: Indigenous representation, support for small churches, and a focus on inclusivity.

The campaign has been both challenging and rewarding, but the excitement of the bigger picture kept me energized. Every conversation deepened my connection to the people I've met and will work alongside.

My vision fuels my motivation, driven by the belief that I can make a difference. I'm truly honored to be part of the Executive Council, advocating for voices that often go unheard.



ECW Installation

On June 27th, 2024, Madeline Sampson (bottom left) was installed as the new National Episcopal Church Women Province VIII President during the Prov. VIII Breakfast at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Louisville, KY. She will serve from 2024 to 2027. Congratulations, Madeline!