

## The 48th Convocation of the Episcopal Church in Navajoland

By GJ Gordy



The Episcopal Church in Navajoland's 48th Convocation, held at All Saint's Church in Farmington, New Mexico, was nothing short of spectacular. Over the course of three days, convocation participants witnessed remarkable presentations from Rev. Cornelia Eaton, Margaret Parker, the Diocese of Northern Michigan, the honorable Most Reverend Don Tamihere, Canon Lee Curtis, and performances by Navajoland's own Edison Scott and Talibah Begay, who wowed the crowd with beautiful music and dances.

The packed agenda began Friday, June 14th, with the recognition of the Centennial of the San Juan Mission. During this time, Rev. Cornelia Eaton and Artist Margaret Adams Parker unveiled a painting dedicated to the San Juan Mission titled "Diyin Christ of the Dine," depicting a Navajo Jesus with outstretched arms against a traditional Navajo landscape with

a Navajo home life scene including an earthen female hogan, sheep and red bluffs. GJ Gordy also offered a vegan cooking demonstration. The first day ended with a healing service and celebration of voices in a Navajo Jubilee with guests who helped lead the singing, the Fruitland Gospel Trio.

Convocation representatives from around Navajoland gathered for the well-being of the Church for the annual business meeting on Saturday morning for Bishop appointments, elections, and regional ministry reports. During the afternoon workshops, the dedicated team from the Diocese of Northern Michigan provided essential teachings on Mutual Ministry. This second day was wrapped up with a banquet and entertainment by local Navajo Artists. Edison Scott, a parishioner from Good Shepherd Mission, shared traditional Pow Wow grass dancing and spoke a few words

about his dance ministry with visiting groups in Ft. Defiance. The talented Talibah Begay sang beautiful Navajo Song and dance-style music, sang a duet with Navajoland elder Alice Mason, and sang a prayer for Father's Day. "It brought back fond memories of dedicating similar songs to my dad on special occasions. I'm sure many of us could relate to this touching moment," says Rev. Cathlena Plummer.

The third and final day brought the festivities to a close with a Euchurist. Despite howling winds and rain that tested the strength of our event tent, the time spent with new friends was memorable. Marryment and joy were had all around. Great food shared with laughter and thanksgiving.

We look forward to the 49th Convocation of the Episcopal Church in Navajoland at Good Shepherd Mission in 2025.