



Delegation from the Episcopal Church in Navajoland at the General Convention, united in faith and purpose, representing the rich culture and traditions of the Navajo community. Back row from left to right: Rev. Michael Sells, Rev. Jack Chase, Rt. Rev. Barry Bisner, Rev. Leon Sampson, Rev. Comelia Eaton. Middle row left to right: Margaret Benally, Rev. Cathlena Plummer, GJ Gordy, Rith Johnson, and Maggie Brown seated in the front.

Witnessing History: ECN's Role and the Spirit of Change

By Rev. Jack Chase

As an Alternate Delegate this past summer, I attended the General Convention of the Episcopal Church for the first time. It was exciting to travel to Louisville with the ECN delegation. I enjoyed being part of the team representing ECN and participating in this wonderful gathering of the Episcopal Church. All in all, a lot of important business was concluded at this convention.

Being present as ECN made history when being approved to become a Missionary Diocese was especially thrilling. The way the approvals took place was incredibly heartening. First, the House

of Deputies voted to suspend the rules to allow Diné clergy and lay delegates to address the assembly one after another. Then, the House voted by acclamation (accompanied by loud applause) to approve the legislation. There was such a wonderful expression of joy throughout the building!

It was also exhilarating when the bishops invited us all to attend the confirming vote in the House of Bishops on Friday afternoon. There was similar joy, excitement, and expression of support from the bishops, particularly from our beloved Presiding Bishop, Michael.

We are now faced with the hard work of preparing a Mission Statement, Constitution, and Canons for a diocese. While the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church lay out what is required of a diocese, ECN has a great deal of latitude in determining how those requirements are met in our Diocesan Constitutions and Canons. ECN has a great opportunity to break new ground in discerning how and where the Spirit of God is leading the people of ECN. Please keep us in your prayers. Hózhó Náhasdlíí', Hózhó Náhasdlíí', Hózhó Náhasdlíí', Hózhó Náhasdlíí'!