

From the Booth to the Future: Navajoland's Presence at the Episcopal Convention

By Ryan Sam

Thinking back on the 81st General Convention of the Episcopal Church in Louisville, Kentucky, I am grateful for the enriching experience. It was invigorating to represent the Navajo Area Mission as a Visitor and Exhibitor at our booth.

Our Navajoland booth at the exhibit hall provided visitors with a captivating experience. The striking backdrop featuring the lookout at Monument Valley, Utah, caught the attention of many passersby, drawing them in to admire the view and capture photographs.

We welcomed visi-

tors and introduced them to our Beauty Way newsletters, postcards, stickers, and "Diyiin Christ of the Dine" painting prints. Many expressed genuine excitement and appreciation for our presence at the Convention. Others had insightful questions and were eager to learn more about our identity and the reasons behind our pursuit of Area Mission Diocese status. These inquiries prompted us to think about our mission and commitment to serving our communities while raising awareness within the Episcopal community about our enduring presence and our endeavor to achieve a broader

representation within the Episcopal Church. This initiative aims to provide additional resources for our clergy as they attend to our Navajo communities in Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah.

I express gratitude to Bishop Barry Beisner for providing me with a visitor's badge, which allowed me to gain insights into the operational aspects of the General Convention for the first time. One of the highlights for me was attending the Presiding Bishop's forum. Attending the Presiding Bishop's forum was particularly inspiring, as it provided a platform for discussions on important topics in the Episcopal Church and a glimpse into the future leadership.

**Below are highlights from the exhibit booth, capturing joyful moments of connection and conversation.*

