

## **Episcopal Church in Navajoland (ECN)**

### **Communications & Cheii Youth**

*Presented to the Church Convention*

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### **News & Media**

Over the past year, Communications & Cheii has been actively engaged in sharing the stories and work of ECN. In 2024, we published two print editions and one online-only edition of the Beauty Way. These are timed to arrive three weeks before the Spring and Fall Appeals, helping our supporters see the fruits of their giving and stay connected with our communities across Navajoland.

Each year, we coordinate the mailing of both appeals to over 800 active and lapsed donors. In addition to printed materials, Cheii manages and updates the ECN website and social media platforms with content—photos, graphics, and information—created in-house. We also capture photos and videos at ECN events, and handle editing for both.

Record-keeping remains a significant aspect of our work: we maintain archives of all Zoom meetings, Conventions, Convocations, and other gatherings we attend. We welcome photos and media from the wider ECN community—if you have any to share, please send them to GJ or Ryan.

### **General Convention 2024**

Just weeks after our last Convocation, we sent a team of eight deputies, along with volunteers and booth staff, to represent Navajoland at General Convention.

Our Communications & Cheii team created a striking 8x12 Monument Valley backdrop for the booth, four informative postcards (one for each region and one for ECN), and new ECN stickers and enamel pins—many of which were distributed to bishops, deputies, and new friends.

We also staffed the booth with greeters and volunteers, offering Beauty Way prints, postcards, and stickers, while displaying our videos on a large TV screen. Our presence at the Convention was well-received both in the House of Deputies and the House of Bishops, and throughout the Exhibit Hall.

### **Safe Church Training**

Safe Church Training has long been a challenge for ECN. This year, we were able to offer free online training access through Praesidium. Communications & Cheii has supported this effort by helping individuals set up accounts and navigate the online system.

Ryan created a classroom space at St. John's equipped with internet and laptops. There, we offered personalized assistance with logging in, email setup, and course navigation. We've also opened Cheii in Farmington as a resource for those needing internet and computer access for training.

### **Other Projects & Duties**

Our Communications & Cheii team also includes Ryan Sam, who plays a key role in supporting our Annual Appeal mailings, providing technical support across the regions, managing donor lists, and overseeing all devices and equipment. His steady presence and behind-the-scenes coordination have been vital to our daily operations, and his contributions have strengthened our ability to effectively share ECN's mission.

Our team has also supported Canon Cornelia with the Owen's Project, which, thanks to diocesan partnerships and grants, has brought Chromebooks and Starlink systems to Navajoland. The goal is to use this technology to support learning and communication in even the most remote communities.

Cheii assisted in establishing clear Policies and Procedures for these new tools, and we provide ongoing maintenance and updates for Chromebooks and Starlinks. We also provide general technical support for ECN and, upon request, offer website and technical services to external entities.

In May 2025, GJ attended the annual Episcopal Communicators' Conference, where she is currently serving her final year as a Board Member. She co-led a workshop titled *Beyond Land Acknowledgements: Using Communication for Racial Equity* with Alan Yarborough, who contributed insights from his work in the Government Relations Office of the Episcopal Church. The workshop was well received, and we hope it sparks ongoing dialogue around communications for racial equity across all ethnic ministries in the Episcopal Church.

### **Current Work**

As ECN transitions into a Missionary Diocese, we've been tasked with timely updates to our website and messaging, ensuring both our people and the broader Church stay informed during this important time. Some tools we utilize for communication include email, social media, SMS texts, phone calls, and print.

We are also beginning work with the Standing Committee and the Bishop Search Committee to develop a diocesan profile booklet, which will help introduce prospective bishops to the life and ministry of Navajoland.

### **Looking Ahead: Hopes for Communications & Cheii**

- **Computer Labs for Youth (Fall)**
  - Teaching basic computer literacy
- **Safe Church Lab Expansion**
  - More pop-ups to support training across regions
- **Workshops and Training (in-person or online)**
  - Google Workspace basics
  - Cybersecurity awareness
  - Canva design tools
- **Upcoming Projects**
  - New ECN Brochure
  - Website content expansion
  - Fall *Beauty Way* & Appeal
  - ECN Christmas Card
  - Exploring opportunities with a prospective client for video storytelling

Thank you for your continued support. We are excited for what lies ahead and remain committed to uplifting the stories, people, and mission of the Episcopal Church in Navajoland.

**Respectfully submitted,**

GJ Gordy

Communications & Cheii

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