NAVAJOLAND
A Journey of Exploration
Gathering Prayer

Creator, we give you thanks for all you are and all you bring to us for our visit within your creation. In Jesus, you place the Gospel in the Center of this Sacred Circle through which all of creation is related. You show us the way to live a generous and compassionate life. Give us your strength to live together with respect and commitment, as we grow in your spirit, for you are God, now and forever. Amen.
Diné is what they call themselves - Navajo is a name given by Spaniards in 1581

Kinship is very important – introductions made by mother’s first clan, father’s first clan, maternal grandfather’s first clan, and paternal grandfather’s first clan

The Long Walk – Incarcerated in Bosque Redondo, NM in 1864; boarding schools; livestock management policies (1930’s livestock management program)

The first Navajo Tribal Council was established in 1923. In 1989 an Amendment was passed establishing a three-branch system of government (Executive, Judicial, and Legislative)

Between 125,000 and 150,000 Navajo live on the reservation, which is about the size of West Virginia, and a disproportionate number of Navajo have served in the U.S. Armed Forces (Code Talkers of WWII)

3 hospitals in all of Navajoland

Significant alcoholism, drug abuse, diabetes and other health issues, and domestic abuse

Navajoland has 4 casinos
Episcopal Church in Navajoland

San Juan Region
- All Saints
- St. Luke in the Desert
- St. Michael’s

Utah Region
- St. John the Baptizer
- St. Christopher’s
- St. Mary of the Moonlight

Southeast Region
- Good Shepherd Mission
- St. Mark’s
- St. Joseph’s
San Juan Region

- All Saints, Farmington, NM
  - The center of the San Juan Region
  - Old Hospital renovation – Hozho Wellness Center
  - Cheii’s Dev Shop
- St. Luke in the Desert, Carson, NM
- St. Michael’s, Upper Fruitland, NM
Utah Region

- St. Christopher’s, Bluff, UT
  - The center of the Utah Region
  - Many facilities for gathering and retreat
  - Artesian well and community farm
- St. John the Baptist, Montezuma Creek, UT
  - Vibrant lay ministry
  - Active weekly Bible Study
  - No water
- St. Mary of the Moonlight, Oljato, UT
  - Traditional Hogan
  - Rustic facilities
  - Potential future retreat site
Southeast Region

- Good Shepherd Mission, Ft. Defiance, NM
  - The center of the Southeast Region
  - “Flagship” church
  - Shima
  - Hummingbird Café
  - Rental spaces
- St. Mark’s, Coalmine, NM
- St. Joseph’s, Many Farms, AZ
In the 1200’s Thomas Aquinas stated that heretics were to be killed if they didn’t convert.

The Papal Bull "Inter Caetera," issued by Pope Alexander VI on May 4, 1493, played a central role in the Spanish conquest of the New World. The document supported Spain’s strategy to ensure its exclusive right to the lands discovered by Columbus the previous year. It established a demarcation line one hundred leagues west of the Azores and Cape Verde Islands and assigned Spain the exclusive right to acquire territorial possessions and to trade in all lands west of that line. All others were forbidden to approach the lands west of the line without special license from the rulers of Spain. This effectively gave Spain a monopoly on the lands in the New World.

The Bull stated that any land not inhabited by Christians was available to be "discovered," claimed, and exploited by Christian rulers and declared that "the Catholic faith and the Christian religion be exalted and be everywhere increased and spread, that the health of souls be cared for and that barbarous nations be overthrown and brought to the faith itself." This "Doctrine of Discovery" became the basis of all European claims in the Americas as well as the foundation for the United States’ western expansion. In the US Supreme Court in the 1823 case Johnson v. McIntosh, Chief Justice John Marshall’s opinion in the unanimous decision held "that the principle of discovery gave European nations an absolute right to New World lands." In essence, American Indians had only a right of occupancy, which could be abolished.

In 1997 the Episcopal Church repudiated the Doctrine of Discovery and began reconciliation and recognition of native Americans along with remembrance. In 2007 the Second Resolution of General Convention asked for the second decade of reconciliation.
Priorities

- Wellness – the Hozho Wellness Center and all manner of health. ($100,000 needed to complete.)
- Education – culturally relevant; many clergy have no seminary experience
- Socialization – too much isolation due to distances and lack of transport
- 2026: target date to apply for diocese status
Financial Concerns

- 47% unemployment; up to 90% in isolated areas
- Stressed infrastructure
- Navajo Nation owns approximately 99% of the land
- Suspicion of “outsiders”
- General Convention pays ½ of the Navajo Diocese expenses; Bp. Bailey raises $500,000 annually
- Income-generating activities: Internet computer coders being trained; repairing and renting Navajo properties; Shima makes soap, processes blue corn, keeps bees
- Only Good Shepherd Church is self-sufficient with most congregants employed
- Navajos have begun to ask for stewardship training
Next steps

• We’re still processing
• We’ll keep you informed
• Goers, Senders, and Pray-ers are needed
Navajo Blessingway Prayer

In beauty may I walk
All day long may I walk
Through the returning seasons may I walk
On the trail marked with pollen may I walk
With grasshoppers about my feet may I walk
With dew about my feet may I walk
With beauty may I walk
With beauty before me, may I walk

With beauty behind me, may I walk
With beauty above me, may I walk
With beauty below me, may I walk
With beauty all around me, may I walk
In old age wandering on a trail of beauty, lively may I walk
In old age wandering on a trail of beauty, living again, may I walk
It is finished in beauty
It is finished in beauty