The Diocese of Rupert's Land

The Right Reverend Geoffrey Woodcroft
Bishop of Rupert's Land

We acknowledge that we meet and work in Treaty 1, 2 and 3 Land, the traditional land of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Dakota, Sioux and Oji-Cree people and the homeland of the Metis Nation. We are grateful for their stewardship of this land and their hospitality which allows us to live, work and service God the Creator here.

ANGLICAN GROW HOPE 2021

March 9, 2021

Dear Incumbent, Wardens and Treasurer

It has been a difficult year – full of loss, uncertainty and change. We know the power of standing together and long for a time when we can be together to worship, pray, laugh and delight in each other's company. Yet, even in this time of disruption the seasons change, fields are planted, relationships are tended and hope can grow. Our ***Anglican Grow Hope*** initiative continues and you are invited to participate.

The Reverend Chris Lea and his family have agreed to plant 15 acres of canola this spring. His sister Nancy will also raise a calf for auction. The net proceeds from this crop and from the calf will go to the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund [PWRDF] account at the Canadian Foodgrains Bank [CFGB]. The Government of Canada then matches those funds 3 or 4:1 when they are spent to address hunger among the most vulnerable in our world.

We can help Chris and Nancy grow their generosity. An acre costs approximately $300 to grow well. Our donations through ***Anglican Grow Hope*** help to offset these costs and grow the overall funds available to feed hungry people and help to sustain agricultural work and livelihoods. Help us to grow hope in our Diocese, and through PWRDF extend this hope and love to vulnerable communities around the world.

How to Participate?

1. A parish can make a donation to the Diocese of Rupert's Land with "**Anglican Grow Hope**" in the memo line.
2. A parish can hold a fund-raising event and send the proceeds to the Diocese of Rupert's Land with "**Anglican Grow Hope**" in the memo line. We've included 3 examples of parish initiatives in these COVID times for you to consider. Please note i) the funds raised must be directed to the Diocese of Rupert's Land separately from other PWRDF donations; and ii) the parish must provide tax receipts as per the parish's regular procedures.

Diocesan Office: 935 Nesbitt Bay, Winnipeg, MB Canada R3T 1W6
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3. An individual or family can make their own donation directly to the Diocese of Rupert's Land with "**Anglican Grow Hope**" in the memo line; in which case the diocese provides the tax receipt.

Some parishes have taken this ***Anglican Grow Hope*** initiative as an opportunity to focus attention and build relationships with other parishes in the Diocese and to remind ourselves of the debt of gratitude we owe to our farmers. Remember any donations to ***Anglican Grow Hope*** also grow through government matching funds. A donation of $300 can become $1200 of action to address people's pressing need for food. Every donation extends our love and grows hope for those desperately in need around the globe.

Bishop Geoff's Invitation:

Bishop Geoff and the ***Anglican Grow Hope 2021*** organizing committee is inviting the Diocese to a **Rogation Service on June 6th at 11:00**. This service will be held virtually, and include prayers from our Grow Hope fields as well as from PWRDF and CFGB. Links for the service will be posted in advance on the Diocesan website: www.rupertsland.ca.

Please consider joining our ***Anglican Grow Hope 2021*** initiative. We will keep you informed throughout the growing season. Let us together continue to grow hope even in these challenging times.

Yours in Christ

Bishop Geoff
and
Colin Dorrian, Coordinator of Anglican Grow Hope 2021 initiative

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COVID Time Parish Initiatives to support Anglican Grow Hope and PWRDF

From Dianne Lambert of St. Thomas, Morden

St. Thomas received a letter from Will Postma, the Executive Director of PWRDF, indicating that he was available to join parishes for virtual live or pre-recorded services. Through Christine Hills at PWRDF in Toronto, St. Thomas was able to connect with Will and set up a date for a live Zoom service. He joined St. Thomas by Zoom on February 7 and brought his message to us during sermon time. His presentation tied the scriptures of the day with the work of PWRDF supported by Power Point slides and stories. He was very good at making us feel more connected to PWRDF and where and how our donations make a difference. He stayed online afterwards for Q & A which helped us to get to know him better and learn more about PWRDF.

From Margaret Clarke of St. Peter's, Winnipeg: "Fill the Granary"

St. Peter's has been a strong supporter of Anglican Grow Hope from the beginning but a new way of engaging the parish had to be found in 2020. Special events were no longer possible. A virtual granary was set up on our parish website (it looked like a grain elevator) and parishioners were invited to fill the granary with "bushels of hope". As donations came in, regular website updates showed the granary filling. Verbal promotions were done following worship on Zoom and several email messages sent out to the whole parish. Parishioners could donate on the website through Canada Helps or send cheques to the church designated for Grow Hope. Thanks to the generous folks at St. Peter's we filled the granary to capacity (and then some). We were pleased to send $2,000 to the Diocese for Anglican Grow Hope 2020.

From Lynne Spiring-Whitten of St. Chad's: "Toonies for Tractors"

St. Chad's is a small but mighty congregation dedicated to Mission and Service. A small donation box with a miniature tractor was placed in the Sanctuary Entry way and moved into the Fellowship Hall during coffee hour. The premise was simple and easy to do. Bring a Toonie every Sunday to church during Lent or write a cheque in the amount of your choosing. The people of St. Chad's raised $455.25 in spite of the Covid quarantine only permitting promotion of the Lenten Grow Hope Project for 2 Sundays. Funds eventually were sent to the PWRDF account at the Canadian Foodgrains Bank where the Government of Canada matched the funds to increase the power of our total donation.

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