

Rupert'sLand Wechetowin September 20th 2021 MINUTES

<https://www.rupertsland.ca/events/rupert-sland-wechetowin-people-helping-people/2021-09-20>

- Welcome (Please note this meeting was recorded for minute purposes)
- Land Acknowledgement: *We acknowledge that we meet and work in the Treaties 1, 2 and 3 territories, the traditional land of the Anishinaabe, Cree, and the Dakota, the Dene 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 serve God, the Creator here.*
- Opening Prayer (TOGETHER): **Thank you God for this opportunity to gather as the body of Christ. You have given us opportunities to help in our communities in a variety of ways. Lord, help us to listen to each other with open hearts and minds during our time together tonight. Surround our conversations with your guidance and the wisdom of our Elders. We ask this in Jesus Christ's name. AMEN**
- Quick Introductions (Roundtable) Cheryl Lenton (St. Mary's Mag, Wpg), Anne Rennie (St. Luke's Wpg), Ted Rennie (St. Luke's Wpg) , Shirley Bender (St. Andrews Woodhaven? Wpg), Rev. Helen Holbrook (St. John's College), Barbara Crow (St. Mary's Mag, Wpg) , Evelyn Ward de Roo (St. Bart's Wpg Beach), Rev. Deacon Dan Thagard (St. George's Transcona Wpg), Lisa Bobbie (St. Thomas Morden MB), Rev. Deacon Colleen Mathews (St. Matthew's Maryland Wpg), Krist Waring (St. Benedict's Table and Epiphany Indigenous Wpg), Rev. Vincent Solomon (Epiphany, St. Philip's Scantbury MB and UIMD Role and Leader), Gary Russell (Epiphany Indigenous Wpg), Rev. Deacon Tanis Kolisnyk (St. Bart's Wpg Beach, Epiphany Indigenous, RL Wechetowin Coordinator).
- Regrets received from: Rev. Murray Still, Rev. Mary Lysecki, Gela Stach (moving out of province) Beverley Sabourin – Family Emerg. (PRAYERS please), Linda Benedictson (St, Barts Wpg Beach), Diane Meredith (Epiphany, Election items tonight – Prayers offered), Frances Ouskun (St. Thomas Weston Wpg), Eva Brown (St James/Epiphany) . The minutes were requested by some of those giving regrets, so absolutely, I will share them.
- WELCOME to new faces who have joined us this evening. You are a Wechetowin friend and alia, for this we give thanks. I see the parish families represented here tonight and it is truly a wonderful joyful moment.

Rupert's Land Wechetowin activities:

I think we were all hoping and praying that we would be able to gather in person at this point in our Fall 2021, however COVID-19 is still an issue, and safety and well-being is being observed by us gathering on Zoom this evening.

With all the activities, the good people of the Diocese of Rupert'sLand have been busy contributing to our efforts over the summer (Sewing, gathering, prayer ministry and the excitement is building). Many of you have been working to contribute. Thank you!

It was important to get some of the resources we have worked on together out into the community now, so I took on the roll of stuffing, praying over the blessing/care bags and distributing items to the community over the summer months. Hopefully in times ahead, we will be able to enjoy doing that part of this ministry together.

Here are some categories to review:

- Canadian Red Cross Collaboration with RL Wechetowin/RL Elders Circle DONE and continuing Met on zoom with Bran Friesen in May and connected with her re: Fire Evacuee supports, there was request for Elder's responded friendly support phone calls, blessing/care packages delivered in person to some of the families at Best Western Hotels, chats in the parking lot, social distancing. Some of our Blessing/Care bags gifted to families with little ones who are displaced by the fires. Right now, there are communities who cannot go home due to no hydro being available. More work to do until they can return safely. School teachers are working with students as they are able, but this is very hard to have families living in one room hotel rooms for an extended period of time.

- Anglican Healing Fund Proposal - TBTG!!

We received \$5,500 from the Anglican Healing Fund for our Rupert's Land Wechetowin projects. It has been deposited into an account through the Diocesan office. All receipts go through UIMD (Rev. Vincent Solomon) for review and then processing is done by our Diocesan Financial Officer. Running total Excel list and activities for the report. We have used \$1,200 of the funding as of today (printing Indigenous Colouring books, brochures for RL Wechetowin contact with community members, fabric purchases, items for filling them etc). Truthfully, it is a bit hard to get use to dreaming forward with some funding in place. What a blessing for us, but also for others that we can help! Questions about the option for donations and tax receipts.

Any **donations** can go to the Diocese of Rupert's Land, and mention Rupert's Land Wechetowin. The Financial officer will ensure a tax receipt can be issued.

ACTION ITEM: We talked about how gifts in kind could also be of benefit, (example Toothbrushes, toothpaste, floss from Dentist Offices). It would be useful to have an official letter on Diocesan Letterhead with a donation request so we can go out into the community to see if others would support our efforts as well. Tanis will work on this and get the letters out to RLW.

- Prayer Ministry Team – Prayer Blasters (Circle of Intentional Caring) DONE and continuing The Rupert's Land Wechetowin Prayer Blasters Team have had regular updates for requests for prayers at the beginning of each month. We continue to pray for individuals, and various community organizations from our new Resource List. I think it would be awesome to connect with each of the community organizations during the month we are praying for them, to touch base and let them know we exist, but also enhance opportunities for engagement. Thank you to Krista Waring, Rev. Vincent S, Beverley Markwart, Elder Eva Brown, Rev. Elder Murray Still, Rev. Helen Holbrook, and the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer with Rev. Diane Guilford and her team of faithful people of prayer. Rev Deacon Colleen Mathews will be added to our list of faithful prayer partners. If any one else would like to be a part of this, please do not hesitate to let us know.

ACTION ITEM: Add Rev Deacon Colleen Mathews to the prayer blasters team, (new email)

- Blessing/Caring Resource Bags: DONE and Continuing With the help of Lisa Bobbie from St. Thomas Anglican Morden and their community with great connections and other folks from Wpg and the Interlake , we completed the construction of another 50 beautifully blessing/care bags, made with love and care.

We have used up all the material donated by one of our Elders, very cute results that is for sure. Some pictures of our collective efforts show a bit of the cuteness and joy are on the new Rupertsland website (link above).

Now with the dollars from the Anglican Healing Fund grant, we are able to purchase material to continue in our efforts. This added to some awesome donations from folks all over, are wonderful. My little sewing room in my house is very interesting right now. FabricLand purchase has more material available if anyone is in need to helping to create more. At present I have 43 bags that we can use moving forward, which is wonderful, all variety of fabric, some for kids, and now we are working on some for use as part of our supports for Women Shelters in Rupert's Land.

In regards to Blessing/Care Bags, we have been stuffing many with all kind of great items, Indigenous colouring books, sticker fun, small toys, Teddy Bears, Crayons, etc. They all have a brochure about Rupert'sLand Wechetowin included.

We were gifted with a template from the Canadian Red Cross (CRC) resource shared with us resulting in printed and purchase of 80 Indigenous Colouring Books. We have used up about ½ of those resources already, we will order more when we are starting to get low. It was mentioned tonight that Quik Copy would be a good connect with again. They did a great job and the cost of \$5.25 per book was very reasonable.

ACTION ITEM: Tanis will connect with Quik Copy for additional resources to be printed (Indigenous Colouring Books) – lovely indeed and the community members LOVED them.

Action ITEM: Rev. Tanis will continue to coordinate pick up of donations of material, sorting, distribution and delivery. Truly a community effort. A few more bags still being completed. That is fine!

- **Rupert's Land Wechetowin BROCHURE: DONE**

Rev. Vincent and I completed the development of a brochure for Rupert'sLand Wechetowin and we also had those printed to help with connection to community and helping others know who we are, what our focus is and contact information etc. It has been a helpful resource already.

- **Connections with community:** All Nations Coordinated Response Network (Early Intervention Programs), Peace Pipe Family Wellness Centre – Interlake, Best Western Hotels – Fire Evacuees, Velma's House – Women's Shelter in West Broadway area. They have been blessed by our efforts and we have been blessed to be able to reach out and connect in various ways.

- **Resource List of Community Helps:** RL Wechetowin contributions to resource list to provide tangible help and intentional supports to those who are in need or transitions, more updates.


Action item – Rev. Tanis will collect items for inclusion and keep compiling the list . NOTE: We use this list for prayer ministry as well.

- **St John's College** Rev. Helen Holbrook– facilitation of RL Wechetowin connection with students. We completed over 60 welcome cards with some hot chocolate and tea in each envelope, with a hand-written card to welcome the students to this Land and wish them well in their time at St. John's college. Thanks to St. Bart's Wpg Beach for the parish family efforts. We have more that

will be ready for the January arrivals. Helen reported that they have used some of them already and are expecting more students in January from International to Northern etc.

Action Item: We will make sure they have more cards and packages to Welcome the to the Land.

NEW BUSINESS:

TRC Day Sept 30th to mark the first national day for truth and reconciliation. https://nctr.ca/new-prime-time-broadcast-special-to-mark-the-first-national-day-...?lid=IwAR3723Wq8BhdursH0pGAleWnYbpWF0XoMKYrf1E_0ET0E9LnVfnbPSgz1r4w 8pm ET is what I heard.  **NCTR Prime-time broadcast for the National Day For Truth and Reconciliation** The National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation announces new prime-time broadcast special to mark the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Produced by NCTR in collaboration with Insight. https://nctr.ca/new-prime-time-broadcast-special-to-mark-the-first-national-day-for-truth-and-reconciliation/?fbclid=IwAR3723Wq8BhdursH0pGAleWnYbpWF0XoMKYrf1E_0ET0E9LnVfnbPSgz1r4

Velma's House. Items being assembled for helping women in times of transition. <https://www.kanikanichihk.ca/velmas-house/> is growing forward to be a 24/7 Safe space in honour of our Elder Velma Orvis.- hot meals, some rest, to warm up or cool down, hygiene, laundry, shower, emergency clothing, traditional medicines, elders, ceremony and cultural ways of healing and extensive supports employment, housing, EIA and CFS info etc. M-F 9-8pm S-S 1-8. 154 Sherbrook St. Velma's House is a constant in our prayers. Explained that we are made up of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people from parish families across the Diocese of Rupert's Land. We assemble Care/Blessing Bags for children in transition, and we have just started our efforts to assemble Care/Blessing bags for Women in transition as well. I thought of Velma's House right away. **Donation list and after our discussion, the need for panties and socks, sweatpants / leggings -plain tank tops , runners , hygiene supplies (small bottles of shampoo, soaps, lotions, pads/tampons/liners, etc.)- hoodies -bras - sample size makeup items.**

ACTION ITEMS: Tanis will compile a list to send out to parish families to encourage them to start a project to collect items such as the above to contribute to helping Velma House women who need our help and supports.

Rupert's Land Website is being developed and some new links have included RL Wechetowin. Much appreciated. It looks very welcoming and easy to use and is a work in progress. We are mentioned under mission, but hoping to have a more robust link in the near future.

Next meeting mid December. Items will come to you for your parish families before then. I will continue to email and connect for connection and continued progress in our efforts.

Closing Prayer and Blessing : Rev. Vincent Solomon. Amen.

For additional information or a contact point, do not hesitate to email me at tanis_kolisnyk@shaw.ca or call 204-663-5453