

## **Rupert's Land Wechetowin June 9 2021 MINUTES**

<http://www.rupertsland.ca/ministry/ruperts-land-wechetowin-people-helping-people/> Reports

- Welcome ( Please note this meeting will be 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) *It does feel good to be together after a few very difficult weeks with the 215 little ones found in Kamloops, more pending in Brandon, and racism continuing to raise its ugly head. It has been said, Rupert's Land Wechetowin is a positive force. Thanks for being here!*
  - Anne Rennie (St. Luke's Anglican Wpg)
  - Ted Rennie (St. Luke's Anglican Wpg)
  - Lisa Bobbie (St. Thomas Morden Mb)
  - Colleen Matthews (Diaconal Postulant, St. Matthew's Maryland, Wpg)
  - Beverley Sabourin (St. Paul's Fort Gary, Wpg)
  - Rev. Mary Lysecki (St. Paul's Fort Gary, Wpg, retired priest)
  - Gary Russell (Epiphany Indigenous Anglican Church and St. Margaret's Wpg)
  - Rev. Helen Holbrook (Chaplain St. John's College Wpg and Spiritual Care St. B Hospital Wpg)
  - Tannis Webster (St. Mary Magdalene, Winnipeg)
  - Rev. Vincent Solomon (Epiphany Indigenous Anglican, St Philip Scantbury MB, UIMD)
  - Elder Eva Brown (St. James Anglican Wpg, Epiphany Indigenous Anglican Wpg)
  - Rev. Tanis Kolisnyk (Epiphany Indigenous Anglican Wpg, St. Barts Wpg Beach,)REGRETS kindly sent by the following folks: Cindy Philips, Bishop Elaine Sauer, Krista Waring, Annie Lydie Bolay, Rev. Val From, Rev. Simon Blaikie, (Bishop Geoff Woodcroft sent well wishes).

- **Canadian Red Cross Collaboration** with RL Wechetowin and RL Elders Circle  
**Action item – Rev. Tanis will continue in being the contact to link the Elders of Rupert's Land with the requests that come in. Bran Friesen meeting early May DONE**  
The good news is that there are not many people staying at the Isolation Hotel at this time. 20/70 rooms, Fires have been squelched by the rain, thank you God, so evacuations did not result in a large displacement of people. Discussions on our offers of Elders with Friendly Support Calls. Since some of the folks in isolation are youthful, Text may be more comfortable instead of phoning Rev. Tanis. We talked about changing the invitation to reflect that option and also to highlight it in the welcome packages so it is not buried in the paperwork for ease of finding the support offering. CRC does know we are lifting them up in prayer for all they do for others. Our relationship continues with regular meetings.

**ACTION ITEM: Rev. Tanis will touch base with Canadian Red Cross, Bran Friesen in late June.**

- **Anglican Healing Fund Proposal** submitted by deadline March 1 2021,  
**Action item – Rev Tanis will share outcome of the application. Deadline extended.**  
We have not heard back from the AHF. I have sent an email to them to ask for an update on dates and feedback on our application. No news yet. It was mentioned that Elder Rev. Barbara Shoomski does sit on that committee, so maybe she would know if they have met. Rev. Tanis is wondering if it is appropriate to ask her. Hoping for a response from AHF in the next week.

**ACTION ITEM:** Rev. Tanis will poke AHF once again next week. Please keep praying for a good response.

- **Prayer Ministry Team – Prayer Blasters update (Circle of Intentional Caring)**  
**Action item – Rev. Tanis will coordinate efforts: Krista Waring, Rev. Vincent S, Beverley Markwart, Elder Eva Brown, Rev. Elder Murray Still, Rev. Helen Holbrook, Rev. Tanis K, Prayer blast messages sent out in April and May and June. DONE**  
Feedback if the process is working out for those involved. Many nods of yes, if there are some suggestions to improve our prayer blasters effectiveness, please let Rev. Tanis know and we can most certainly revise. Right now, an email is sent out with prayer requests for individuals, organizations in our communities who help others (on our resource lists), ACIP, leadership and our Elders and others as prayer requests arise. It was mentioned that **Colleen Matthews** would like to be added to the Prayer Blasters Team. Wonderful. We also send it to AFP connected with us (Diane Guilford) to send it out to their circle of prayer warriors as well.  
There is so much need out there right now, God is certainly circling people with caring, healing, the gifts of the spirit. We continue to rest on the promises of God, we use Scripture, lift up the a few organizations on our resource list who tirelessly work to help those in need or transition. Our Elders in Rupert'sLand, our leadership and ACIP are also remembered as part of the prayer ministry initiatives.

**ACTION ITEM:** Continued prayer ministry messages to the Prayer Blaster's Team. Rev. Tanis will send it out.

**ACTION ITEM:** Rev. Tanis will add Colleen Matthews to our Rupert'sLand Wechetowin Prayer Blasters team and send her the most recent prayer requests.

- **Resource/Care Bags:** Materials, people power, Parish contributions, updates  
**Action item – Rev. Tanis will coordinate pick up of donations of material, sorting, distribution and delivery. Sewers may include Beverley Markwart, Lisa Bobbie, Beverley Sabourin and community participants. DONE and PENDING**  
We have received a generous donation of fabric from one of our Elders. It will be a blessing to others. Thank you very much, God bless you.
  - I went through the bags of material and blankets and refined the material into more manageable sizes for distribution.
  - The blankets were laundered and sent forward into the community to a local women's shelter in the Interlake.
  - A bit of the material was shared with Lisa Bobbie and some of her sewing friends at St. Thomas Anglican in Morden. Thank you for the completed bags already. They are lovely. Lisa shared that more are pending. Right now, we have a total of 14 completed bags. More are needed.

- Another idea is to do some resource items for women who find refuge in a Women's Shelter. Rev. Mary L mentioned a resource called the Shoe Box Project. Let's see what we can come up with for ideas so we could get ideas and set some goals with our Care package ideas and expand it to include helpful items for this co-hort as well. We need a goal.  
<https://www.shoeboxproject.ca/home>

ACTION ITEM: Please read up on the Shoe Box Project and come with ideas for some items that we could be of assistance to Women who could use some TLC during a difficult time. Some suggestions included, bus tickets, Gift cards, Hand cream etc.

ACTION ITEM: Rev. Tanis will get some of the material resources to Beverley Sabourin. Please send me an email of a good date and time and location to bring some material resources to you. I will also bring a sample/pattern with the dimensions for your review.

ACTION ITEM: Lisa Bobbie will reach out to her contact "Qkik Copy" to obtain a quote.

ACTION ITEM: Rev. Tanis will send Lisa Bobbie the colouring book dimensions and pages etc. for information needed for a quote. 80 colouring books

ACTION ITEM: Rev. Tanis will contact Multiforms for an official quote as well. 40 pages, 80 colouring books. Rev. Vincent mentioned a \$7.00 per book fee last quote.

- **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 compile a list to be shared. DONE and PENDING (so far 6 pages) NOTE: We use this list for prayer ministry as well.**

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the list of resources that we have been compiling. I have 6 pages of organizations in mostly the Winnipeg area. It would be great to get more for beyond the Winnipeg area, including NW Ontario, Southern MB and Northern Manitoba.

Great discussion of lists that other organizations have compiled. Discussion on how to coordinate a comprehensive list. These add up to almost too much to find easily. This could be a great project to have something to share with our Diocesan parishes and other community members, also available on our website. Categories may be useful. In retrospect, Rev. Tanis wishes she entered her 6 pages in Excel format for easier manipulation, and Eva mentions regional resource would be of great use.

ACTION ITEM: Colleen Matthews offers some assistance with an Excel list. Rev. Tanis will send her what she has for the start of possible Resource List Project.

Here are some of the resources that our RL Wechetowin folks tonight found on line:

<http://www.ikwe.ca/>

<http://iwhc.ca/>

<http://www.nwtc.cc/Native-Womens-Transition-Centre.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/ResourcesForAboriginalPeopleWinnipeg/>

<https://www.kanikanichihk.ca/> Women's Heart Lodge – a part of their supports, offering community and various supports to women who have gone through abuse. – A very helpful grassroots support.

<https://masywg.ca/> Mutual Aid Society

ACTION ITEM: Rev. Tanis will send some names of organizations to Lisa Bobbie for organizations who would benefit from St. Thomas Morden's help in regards to their discussions on outreach.

- **Grandfather Rock May 26<sup>th</sup> virtual event** - Honoring survivors of Indian Residential Schools  
Action item- Rev. Mary Lysecki, Elder Sylvia James, Bishop Geoff Woodcroft DONE

Rev. Mary Lysecki shared about the event which took place on May 26, 10:00 am. Involvement also included Elder Amanda Wallen. Here are some of the highlights taken from Mary's report.

- Bishop Geoff welcomed folks and thanked the planning team, Geoff, Sylvia, Amanda, Coco, Rhonda, Sylvia's grandson Edward, Richard
  - Richard lit a sacred fire in the back yard and put it on zoom
  - Amanda lead in a smudge, an opening prayer, drumming, and the bear song.
  - Bishop Geoff acknowledged the Land, explained about the day and honoured Elder Velma Orvis who was one of the originators of this ceremony over the years.
  - Elder Sylvia James, explained why we are here, people held their one little grandfather rock to help them continue for the ones they love, the ones they lost. Sylvia explained the symbolism of Grandfather Rock, the buried nightmares, the roughness of the life in IRS, the smoothness that is emerging now.
  - People offered the names of those they love who were affected by the hurts and harms of IRS. *(it was mentioned tonight how very important it was to gather for this event, the next few weeks revealed the horrific discoveries in Kelowna and Brandon)*
  - Ted Fontaine was honoured and remembered as well, for all the work he did for the IRS legacy not to be forgotten.
  - Rhonda and Coco offered a prayer. There were a variety of speakers, including Rev. Vincent Solomon UIMD and other dignitaries from the four directions. Traditional language was included.
  - Coco sang an honour song, Rhonda provided a jingle- dance
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- **June Indigenous Awareness Month** – Rev. Murray Still provided update. Virtual events, the theme is "All of my Relations" – some events include:
    - a book study, by David Robinson
    - a 5 k walk, Krista Waring is involved and 4 directions prayer is a part of this.
    - indigenous day of prayer service June 21 at the heritage church across from Polo Park,
    - a Zoom art class with the making of a dream catcher, Kits will be available for pick up Elder Eva is involved.
    - Documentary Doctrine of Discovery discussion:  
<https://www.anglican.ca/primate/tfc/drj/doctrineofdiscovery/>

- a virtual Mapping Exercise and in the fall Introduction to Cree. Our theme this year is “All My Relations.” This year, the two churches of St Stephen and St Bede, Epiphany Indigenous church are the organizers with help from community members.

At ACIP we will remember our dear sister Ginny as we continue plans for a virtual Sacred Circle in July. Grief weighs heavy on our heart but God will provide for our healing and strength.

- **Rupert’s Land Indigenous Ministry Presents: Identity, Culture and Scripture** on June 12 @ 9:00 am - 9:00 pm How do you identify yourself? Is there a part of who you are that stands out from the rest? Facets of our identity –like culture and ethnicity play an important role in determining how we see and experience the world. Where is the Bible in this? Do Jesus and scripture play a role in how our identity is formed? While this conference is offered free and open to all, please consider making a donation to the counselling ministry of Rupert’s Land (nantatawehowin) at [finance@rupertsland.ca](mailto:finance@rupertsland.ca) register by email to [uimd@rupertsland.ca](mailto:uimd@rupertsland.ca) <https://rupertslandnews.ca/event/ruperts-land-indigenous-ministry-presents-identity-culture-and-scripture/>
- **St John’s College** Rev. Helen Holbrook—facilitation of RL Wechetowin connection with students. We talked about welcoming the newcomer to St. John’s College, Welcome Cards, how do we get started? Here is a proposal on how we can get started on this initiative to welcome the newcomers to the Land. Everyone can be involved and we do need you.

Welcome card proposal to St. John’s College residents of September 2021

1. Due to privacy reasons, we are unable to supply in information on the residents.
  2. However, a card can be sent to all residents welcoming them to the Fall session.
  3. Number: it could be 30 or more, it depends on how many residents move in and COVID is affecting this. Some students may not move in until January of 2022 when supposedly the university will move back to in person classrooms. In January maybe 20 or more welcome cards could be sent.
  4. Residents –Majority are International students, some are from Rural Manitoba, a few may come from first nations community. Hopefully will know more in August
  5. Can be the following: A welcome card to the residence, A welcome card and bag maybe with candy, tea, etc. I wish I could give you more information, but we are in code red and it is difficult to judge.
- Theoretically September 7th we could give out the welcome cards 30 or 35
  - January 10th more cards for the new arrivals – possibly 20 or 25 – it would be nice to gather in the chapel and have a smudge and a teaching about indigenous culture, (followed by a feast of course) we shall see.

Respectfully submitted Rev. Helen Holbrook

**ACTION ITEM:** Rev. Tanis will purchase 40 + 30 = 70 Indigenous Art Cards + (a few extra) = **75** that can be distributed to Rupert’s Land Wechetowin folks and their parishes, to work on welcome cards to the new students at St. John’s College. We will also purchase tea and coffee packs and maybe some other treats to insert into the cards of welcome. Retrieval of completed cards needs to be organized so Rev. Helen will have them ready for some students in Sept and more in January.

- **Communications Items:**

**The Winged Ox** article <https://www.stlukewinnipeg.com/> May 10<sup>th</sup> 2021 (Annie and Ted Rennie) – called to ask for input and shared about Rupert's Land Wechetowin with their community, thank you.

**Teleconference with Archbishop Mark McDonald and the Elders of Rupert's Land** on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Invited to share news of RL Wechetowin activities. The work on the national piece of "Our Way of Life" with our elders as a part of our local discussion continues.

**Pews and Beyond:** Highlighted Rupert's Land Wechetowin - Prayer Blasters May 25<sup>th</sup> noon CDT. Rev Canon Lisa Vaughn from the Diocese of Nova Scotia and PEI, and Neil Mancor Diocese of Montreal host - they bring together resources from across Canada in the form of practitioners and programs to encourage us all to think more and get proactive in the whole area of discipleship and disciple-making; touching the lives of the people in our pews and reaching out to those who are not. Frances Drolet Smith, Vocations Coordinator, Diocese of NS & PEI and little old Me.

[https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story\\_fbid=4100011043343323&id=274107035933762](https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php?story_fbid=4100011043343323&id=274107035933762)

**MMC Justice Committee:** [mmcjusticecommittee@gmail.com](mailto:mmcjusticecommittee@gmail.com) Rev. Tanis works with inmates and supports in her "day" job. RL Wechetowin is now part of the MMC resource list and this will connect us with community contacts and prison chaplains.

**RL Brochure Development.** Draft 1 developed, next steps. It is time to update a brochure. I sent some ideas to Rev. Vincent Solomon. He has an excellent program to help with next steps.  
**ACTION ITEM:** Rev. Tanis and Rev. Vincent will continue working on this over the summer.

**Facebook, Diocesan Newsletter, Rupert's Land News** – General sharing of what is going on in Indigenous circles, our efforts in RLW and invitation to become active.

**ACTION ITEM:** Continued efforts to get the news of Rupert's Land Wechetowin out there and a welcome message for more people to engage in the work of Reconciliation and people helping people.

Next meeting: **End of August 2021.**

Closing Prayer and Blessing – Rev. Vincent Solomon [uimd@rupertsland.ca](mailto:uimd@rupertsland.ca)

For additional information or a contact point, do not hesitate to email me at [tanis\\_kolisnyk@shaw.ca](mailto:tanis_kolisnyk@shaw.ca) or call 204-663-5453