

Rupert'sLand Wechetowin Feb 15th 2022 Minutes 7pm

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

- **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)** Colleen Matthews (St. Matthew's Maryland), Lisa Bobbie (St Thomas Morden), Cathy Clow (St. Helen's Fairford/Pinamootang First Nations), Mary Lysecki (St. Pauls Ft Gary), Gary Russell (Epiphany Indigenous Wpg), Helen Holbrook (St. John's College and St. Benedict's Mission and St. B Spiritual Care), Murray Still (St. Steph/St Bede's, RL Elders Circle, ACIP), Anne Rennie (St. Luke's Wpg), Wayne MacIntosh (St. Francis Wpg), Ted Henderson (St. Francis Wpg), Frances Ouskun (St. Thomas Weston Wpg), Evelyn Ward de Roo (St. Bart's Wpg Beach / Ontario), Vincent Solomon (Epiphany Indigenous, St Philip's Scanterbury, UIMD), Tanis Kolisnyk (Epiphany Indigenous, St. Bart's Wpg Beach)
- Regrets received from – Ted Rennie (St. Lukes Wpg), Marlene Wruck (Lac Du Bonnet MB), Trudy Paul (St. Helen's Fairford family), Elaine Sauer (St. Chads Wpg), Diane Guilford (St Thomas Morden, Anglican Fellowship of Prayer), Cindy Philips (St. Mary's Sioux Lookout), Kathy Dafoe (St. Pauls Ft Gary), Cheryl Lenton (St. Mary Mag Wpg).
- **Anglican Healing Fund - Touched base to see how we are doing. Activity and Financial Report**
\$5500 last June. All receipts of purchases and costs flow through Rev. Vincent Solomon and the Diocesan Financial Office.
 - We have used approx. 1730 towards purchases
 - We have \$2000 for Elder Honourariums pending. Rev Murray is helping with addresses for 10 elders who have been serving in Rupert'sLand.
 - When AHF reports are completed and submitted, AHF will consider sending us another \$2000 for continued ministry for the following year. That would be wonderful!
 - Anticipated costs for more brochures as we are almost out \$170.00 and more Indigenous Colour Books from CRC \$600 or so.
 - \$1000 left to take us until June for continued ministry.
- **Prayer Ministry Team – Prayer Blasters (Circle of Intentional Caring)**
At the beginning of each month 10 people receive a prayer list for their faithful response to needs of individuals, needs in the community and organizations. A Monthly commitment, more people of prayer are always welcome.
- **Elders in Rupert'sLand** – Rev. Murray Still reports that staying connected has been a challenge but doing so with emails, phone calls and some zoom sessions. Continued supports for our Bishop Geoff and prayers of the Elders for the needs of people and Indigenous communities.

Work on Documents re Diocesan and National Church initiatives continue: Rev. Vincent Solomon has been a part of that work. Thank you, Vincent. May Sacred Circle may be in person, but not sure if timeline will need to change. General Synod may be delayed as well by 1 year and other gatherings of governance. Gospel Based Discipleship (GBD) continues on M W F at 11:00am CDT – link shared. All are welcome. Gary Russell is a constant at GBD, wonderful.

ACTION ITEM: Rev. Murray will finalize the list of Elders and addresses regarding the honorariums pending in the next month and get those to Tanis for processing start.

- **St. John's College** – Rev. Helen Holbrook reports that with COVID-19 and with the strike at UM and on-line learning being the focus, students at St. John's College have been experiencing changes. Plans for campus activity and classes on campus are in the process. This will also increase activities at St. John's College. The students appreciated the "Welcome to the Land" from RLW. More work on welcome and inclusion continues.

ACTION ITEM: Rev. Helen will check to see how many Welcome Packages she has left. RLW can definitely get things ready for the students who will be at St. John's College soon.

ACTION ITEM: Pending Healing Garden, medicines and an Elder with knowledge of same connections would be helpful. Names suggested. Possible May timeline. Connections with Rev. Murray Still and Helen and Rev. Vincent Solomon pending.

ACTION ITEM: Rev Helen will investigate the Quiet Garden Movement suggested by Evelyn tonight. Also CBC link regarding Manitoban Elder from Manitoulin Island and medicines and Indigenous plants.

- **Blessing/Caring Resource Bags:**

In November we extended a Diocesan Advent Challenge in our communications to parishes and so many responded with items for Women Shelters, and Children. Many beautiful care/blessing bags were also made and stuffed full of encouraging and loving packages. Handmade mittens, hats, scarves, under garments for the women, socks, panties etc. Children packages through MB Red Cross and counselling services went up to Lac Brochette/Dene communities, inner city families and HSC Children's Hospital etc. I have done pick-ups and deliveries all over. All the items are now out there. I have nothing left in my basement but fabric now. So... it is time to start to build again. Best part of this is the connecting to community and building relationships. Nothing left now but some fabric.

- New colouring books 10 left
- Pamphlets 25 left
- Fabric, Indigenous designs. I have 30 Bags right now to use
- Thank you to all the various parishes in Rupert's Land Diocese and beyond, who have given of their time and efforts in making the fabric bags. They are beautiful and made with love and care. The work continues.
- Some parishes are interested in a LENTEN challenge.

ACTION ITEM: Tanis will send out list of suggested items for collection along with the minutes of this meeting to be shared with your parish families.

Action: Rev. Tanis will continue to coordinate pick up of donations of material, sorting, distribution and delivery. Truly a community effort. DONE and PENDING

ACTION ITEM: Rev Tanis will order more brochures and more Colouring Books for resources towards the blessing/care bags.

ACTION ITEM: All – continue to encourage your parish families in RLWechetowin efforts. Everything is being used and distributed.

- **Connections with community:** (Community Resource List has continued to grow and used) Thank you messages from various organizations. So important to pray for them. Messages shared at our meeting tonight. Be encouraged. God has placed us in circumstances that need us and we are connecting with intention and caring.
- **Official Letter for Donations:** items for stuffing bags etc, (Dentists), Pamphlet. DONE and sent out to RLW members.
- **Indigenous People of Manitoba Guide to new-comers.** In Welcome bags. And for parish families, Vincent says this is a good resource for all people who are in times of transition and a resource to have on hand for all parishes. MCC - download on their website for printing.
ACTION ITEM: Rev. Vincent will get these Guides distributed throughout the Diocese or through RL Wechetowin. He also has some Ojibway Coding colouring books to share with us.

New business

- **Say Yes to Kids Grant:** link shared: The Anglican Foundation of Canada foundation@anglicanfoundation.org
ACTION ITEM: Tanis will investigate criteria. We have had sufficient funds for this past year and mending a bit more for next year if AHF grant is completed
- **Manitoba Hydro has a colouring book resource.** Tanis connected with them, but it is for Indigenous student Educators at this time. Eventually they will post something on line for download and printing, just not yet. It is Environmental Education content, for kids.
- **Manitoba Multi-Faith Council:** Mary Lysecki mentioned the need for a connection. Tanis does work with Open Circle and did deliver Blessing/Care Bags to Stoney Mountain Corrections Centre for Incarcerated Dads to have a gift for their kids when they came for visitations prior to Christmas time.
- **Velma's House** has been in operation for about one year now. We have been able to support their efforts and this 24/7 Safe House is a great way to connect. The brochures have been used and some women have been calling us for prayer and information. The blessings both ways continue.
- **Epiphany Indigenous Anglican Church** has been very grateful for being housed at St. Francis Mission on McPhillips. Some good news today, our Lutheran friends have agreed for us to use 689 College Avenue starting on Feb 28th. It is an answer to prayer to have a permanent home for Indigenous Ministry in Rupert's Land. Our Elders have been dreaming of this time for a very long time, ever since St. Helen's era. It is a beautiful church, located in the North End of Winnipeg, not too big, and has a Manse where we will be able to provide Counselling, space for R L Wechetowin items and work. Epiphany will have their AGM on Feb 20th and more details will result from that discussion. Thanks be to God. This is so exciting!

Next meeting in May 2022.

Closing Prayer and Blessing - Rev. Vincent Solomon

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

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Tanis McLeod Kolisnyk Feb 15 2022