



# The Diocese of Rupert's Land

The Right Reverend Geoffrey Woodcroft  
Bishop of Rupert's Land

January 2020

To the attending members of Rupert's Land Annual Meetings

Dear Friends in Christ,

May this letter find you thankful for that which God is accomplishing through you in ministry and mission. I pray that you gather in a spirit of hope and refreshment.

Visiting with many of you this past year has shown me your strong capacity for ministry and mission. I have seen first-hand the commitment of the Body of Christ has to engage and grow with God. I am thankful and encouraged for the rich hospitality, inclusion and welcome, and deep theological exploration that each community exercises.

Your response to our calls to action regarding Reconciliation, The Apology for Spiritual Harms and Damages towards indigenous people, Climate, Justice, and Prayer have provided opportunity for our Church to be a voice with which to be reckoned in the wider communities in which we live. I see hope, I see commitment, and see the Body celebrating.

I desire that each of you continue, or begin:

1. a daily rule of life: to pray using the readings appointed for the day, incumbent and term clergy should be able to guide you in developing this practice using the Book of Common Prayer, the Book of Alternative Services, or the like. In this time of prayer, pray for God's mission and ministry we share.
2. to remember, every day, that we have promised to do ALL in our power to support our fellow disciples in our life in Christ

You are a *sent* Church, already where God has called. This is important to recall as we endeavor to understand that for which God has called. When we pay attention to the neighbourhood, and the area around our gathering spaces, we are paying attention to God; very few know those places better than you who inhabit them. I am very interested in hearing what you continue to discover in God's world.

Canonically the diocese collects parish statistics and information that are finite in their scope. Perhaps now is a good time for the communities to share stories and experiences not measured by the stats; stories that span the depths and heights of our life in God's kingdom on earth. In doing so, my hope is that you will be overwhelmed by the generous abundance of kindness, resourcefulness and grace that God has placed in our midst for mission and ministry. Every member of the Body is of great worth in God's eyes, and so they shall be in ours.

As you prepare to venture into a new time, I ask that you genuinely inspire one another. Mirror for one another the beauty and value you perceive in the other. Build-up one another for the ministry disciples do in the world, greeting one another in peace, and committed in daily prayer, study and reflection. Get to know one another better, deeply listen to the message God brings to you through one another, and remember that in Christ we are never alone.

I, along with Rupert's Land staff, are committed to doing our best to help you maintain a healthy community of disciples, to the end that ministry and mission flourish as a result of your activity, imagination and creativity.

In Christ,

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