

## Rupert's Land Wechetowin – People Helping People

It is now 2020 and a good time to reflect on the work of Rupert's Land Wechetowin since 2012. We are in the process of discerning God's continuing call to us and to dream forward on how to build towards next steps and goals. God is calling us as Anglicans to embrace reconciliation. We need God's help to see how to work together so Indigenous people in Rupert's Land can continue to heal and thrive in the midst of challenges and opportunities. This **letter is an invitation to all Anglicans in Rupert's Land, Indigenous or Non-Indigenous**, to recommit to the work of Wechetowin (People helping People).

Our hope is to have one or two people from each parish community to be involved in Wechetowin efforts. Come answer the call to actions, using the gifts God has given you. Come be a part of a coordinated ministry team.

- **Pastoral and prayer ministry:** Anglicans are a people of prayer. Indigenous people from remote areas are often in Winnipeg for medical treatments and appointments. For many, the reason for their trip to Winnipeg is traumatic. Pastoral Care is a blessing during difficult times. Wechetowin is called to provide pastoral care, fellowship, and offer prayers as the needs arise.
- **Care Bags for the Children:** We have had some material donated as a gift from the UW Aboriginal Student Services Centre. Now we need people who can sew these Care Bags. We need people to collect/donate colouring books, crayons, activity books and assorted items. We need to gather together as a ministry team to stuff those Care Bags, pray over them and to gift them to help children who are either in the hospital for care, or the little ones hanging out with their families at the hospital.
- **Healing Circle Supports:** Continued ministry by Elder Velma Orvis has been taking place at RiverView Health Centre. How can we support her in her efforts?
- **Fundraising opportunities:** We will work together to help raise some dollars to cover the costs of those who are visiting the hospitals (mileage, parking, incidentals, care bags etc).

I am reminded of the Hymn by Jason Upton: "We are one in the Spirit"

1. We are one in the Spirit, We are one in the Lord. We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord and we pray that all unity may one day be restored and they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.
2. We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand. We will walk with each other, We will walk hand in hand, and together we'll spread the news that God is in our land, and they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.
3. We will work with each other, we will work side by side. We will work with each other, we will work side by side, and we'll guard a person's dignity and save a person's pride. And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.
4. All praise to the Father from whom all things come, and all praise to Christ Jesus His only son, and all praise to the Spirit who makes us one, and they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love. Amen! Make us one, Lord!

At Faith Horizons 2019 we learned that Anglicans are working towards the TRC 94 Calls to Action and are looking for ways to contribute towards the work of reconciliation. Please consider your involvement in Wechetowin. God is giving us a great opportunity to grow this ministry and in so doing, receiving so much more than we can ask or imagine. Please contact Rev. Deacon Tanis Kolisnyk [t.kolisnyk@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:t.kolisnyk@uwinnipeg.ca) 204-663-5453. A coordination meeting will be arranged very soon.