

Wind River Reservation Pilgrimage for Truth-Telling and Repair

Report to Diocesan Convention 2025

Submitted by the Rev. Canon Bobbe Fitzhugh

1. Mission / Purpose Statement

The Wind River Reservation Pilgrimage for Truth-Telling and Repair was undertaken to honor Resolutions #24-3 and #24-4, adopted by near-unanimous action at the 2024 Diocesan Convention. These resolutions express remorse for the harm suffered by Indigenous children at Wyoming Indigenous Boarding and Residential Schools and commit the Diocese to fact-finding, truth-telling, and listening to our Native American siblings. The pilgrimage was a tangible expression of this commitment, fostering healing, understanding, and renewed relationships with the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho peoples.

2. Summary of Current Year's Activities

The first-ever pilgrimage sponsored by the Episcopal Church in Wyoming to the Wind River Reservation took place May 18–20, 2025. Forty-seven pilgrims participated, representing 27 of the churches in Wyoming. The pilgrimage was an overwhelming success, inspiring participants to continue walking alongside Indigenous brothers and sisters in meaningful and lasting ways.

The Rev. Roxanne Friday coordinated an itinerary that provided listening time, reflection, and opportunities for learning. Robin Rofker, Director of the Eastern Shoshone Cultural Center, guided pilgrims on the Fort Washakie portion of the journey, which included visits to the Shoshone Mission site, Sacajawea Cemetery, Mission House, Chief Washakie Cemetery, and the Wind River Industrial School site.

At the Industrial School, pilgrims participated in a moving ceremony of lamentation and remembrance for Indigenous children who died and were buried in unmarked graves. A plaque was dedicated at the site, and speakers from both tribes shared reflections and music. Members of the WEJust Task Force read portions of the Liturgy of Lamentation and Remembrance. The ceremony was described by one Shoshone council member as a sacred act of release: “Now those kids are free.”

The pilgrimage continued with a meal at the Little Church on the Bison Prairie, where Jason Baldes presented on the Eastern Shoshone Buffalo Initiative. Pilgrims then visited the buffalo herd in its natural habitat and continued to St. Michael's Circle to receive updates on the Revitalization Project and hear from Northern Arapaho elders. The final morning included conversations with both tribes and participation by Chief Washakie's great-granddaughter, Zenora Enos.

Sarah Augustine and Joe Hubbard from the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery provided programming and workshops on truth-telling and repair, deepening understanding and commitment among all who attended.

3. Financial Report

****Revenue and Expenses Summary****

Revenue

Source	Amount
Original Diocesan Budget	\$10,875
Edith May Adams Fund	\$9,000
Pilgrim Match (\$125 each)	\$5,875
Additional Diocesan Council Funding	\$7,000
Total Revenue	\$32,750

Expenses

Expense Item	Amount
2 nights lodging	\$8,140
Meals	\$4,529
Shoshone Rose meeting room	\$650
Transportation	\$4,145
Lunch catering and porta-potty	\$2,000 (estimate)
Coalition honorariums	\$6,000
Coalition travel expenses	\$2,000 (estimate)
Honorariums for tribal members	\$3,430
Plaque at Cemetery	\$1,500 (estimate)
Total Expenses	\$32,395

4. Plans and Projections for the Coming Year

Future plans include maintaining relationships built during the pilgrimage, developing follow-up opportunities for learning and dialogue, and expanding truth-telling initiatives in

partnership with Tribal leaders. Ongoing collaboration with the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery will ensure this work continues to grow throughout the Diocese.

5. Membership / Leadership

The pilgrimage was coordinated by the Rev. Canon Bobbe Fitzhugh in partnership with the Rev. Roxanne Friday, Robin Rofker, the WEJust Task Force, and the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery. Many diocesan clergy, lay leaders, and Indigenous partners contributed to the planning and success of this event.

6. Gratitude / Acknowledgments

Special thanks to the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Tribes, the Coalition to Dismantle the Doctrine of Discovery, the WEJust Task Force, and the Diocese of Wyoming for their commitment to this sacred work of remembrance, healing, and repair.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Canon Bobbe Fitzhugh