

## **DUCC Coordinating Committee Report April 2007**

The Coordinating Committee has met several times since the Maritime Cluster assumed this responsibility in 2005. As usual with diaconal work, although the work has been demanding it has brought with it great opportunities for community and the development of stronger relationships. This report will contain a summary of our work and the issues, opportunities and challenges which we feel still lie before the Diaconal Ministry community.

### **Minutes of Coordinating Committee:**

The minutes of the Coordinating Committee are now posted on the DUCC website soon after each meeting of the Coordinating Committee. This may prove to be a very helpful communication tool with individual members, but thus far email has been the primary mode by which other clusters have kept abreast with our work. However, here in a nutshell is a picture of some of the issues and areas of work that has been before the committee.

Since the time of the last National Gathering, and at the time of writing this report, we have met 6 times: October 3-06, May 1-06, June 5-06, September 11-06, January 7-07, February 26-07 (via conference call), with another conference call planned for March 22-07. Our first meetings were devoted to getting up to speed on our responsibilities as a Coordinating committee and deciding how to structure ourselves. Lori Crocker agreed to be the contact person for the Coordinating Committee, Kay Dean took on the responsibilities of Treasurer and Membership, David Hewitt agreed to handle the data base and to be the second signing authority on the cheques, and Eric Tusz-King handles the minute taking. We follow the consensus model of decision making.

Our first areas of work came to us in the course of following up on the decisions made at the last National Gathering. The following letters have been written in response to issues of concern:

1. A letter to the Education for Church Leadership Coordinating Committee in response to a proposal made by Emmanuel College to this committee in November 2004. Essentially we outlined our reasons making it clear that we do not support the bid by Emmanuel College to regain Testamur for diaconal ministry.
  
2. A letter was written to the Committee on Ministry Vocations in response to a concern raised about the adequacy of orientation and formation for diaconal ministers seeking admission from other denominations to The United Church of Canada. The letter makes the point that it is extremely important that the Admissions process of our church include opportunity for diaconal ministers seeking admission from another denomination to be trained in the United Church ethos of diaconal ministry and to develop connections and community within the United Church diaconate.

3. A letter was written to the MEPS Permanent Committee about the restorative care plan as it pertains, or in fact does not pertain, to outreach ministry and overseas personnel of the United Church of Canada.

We wish that we could report some response to any of these letters but on the whole there has been none.

We also have had, on a couple of occasions, opportunity to advocate and give support to a diaconal minister and a student of diaconal ministry in facing situations where lack of understanding and support in their presbyteries and workplaces has been an issue. One of the cases involved a letter to a Presbytery Education and Students Committee and again, no response to date.

Some of the other things we are in the process of working on are: keeping in contact with and doing our best to support the work of the Clusters and groups; doing what we can to encourage contact with staff associates; supporting those who are doing the dedicated work of producing the Diaconal News; and getting a handle on information and data that should be included on our website. In these areas there is still much to be done. In many of these matters and in particular in relation to the web site, we appreciate the close working relationship we have with the Centre for Christian Studies and the staff there, as well as the contributions of Richard Manley Tannis as Webmaster and Peter Kidd and Cathie Clement “keepers of the data base” until things were shifted over to David Hewitt.

### **Membership:**

	<b>Membership Data</b>	
	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>
<b>Retired</b>	56	32
<b>Full-time</b>	38	17
<b>¾ Time</b>	4	1
<b>60%</b>	1	
<b>½ time</b>	9	3
<b>¼ time</b>	1	3
<b>Retained</b>	1	
<b>Student</b>	15	10
<b>Lay</b>	1	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>66</b>

## **Financial Notes:**

As treasurer of DUCC, I would like to highlight both celebrations and concerns.

We celebrate the work done by small cluster groups across our land.

The web site and communications development work is a big step forward in keeping us connected.

In the interim year, 2006, between National Gatherings we have supported two delegates to DOTAC. A delegation of three members attended a MEPS meeting to advocate for Diaconal Ministers within the United Church of Canada.

It is challenging to budget for an organization as wide-spread as we are, and yet that is our delight as well. Canada Customs and Revenue would like the bank balance to be closer to zero dollars each year to maintain our charity status. We, on the other hand, have been very careful with our funds and so we have a good positive balance. The risk is losing our charity status. The question to be asked is, "Should we maintain our charity status for the donations we receive?" Donations for 2006 were \$435.

In the year between National Gatherings, membership is lower. DUCC pays the fees to DOTAC and World Federation for 266 diaconal ministers in the United Church. From the membership data, a few are supporting over 200. Through our data base and electronic communications it is hoped that we might encourage consistent membership.

The annual grant (\$3200) from MEPS is still part of our budget and support from our church. We thank MEPS for that support, without which we would not be able to pay our international fees. The effort to obtain the grant increases each year, as budgets are tightened. With the demise of the Committee for Diaconal Ministry in UCC, DUCC is the only voice on behalf of all Diaconal Ministers. We will continue to seek support from our church.

I submit these financial statements for your consideration.

Kay Dean  
DUCC Treasurer

**DIAKONIA OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA**

	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>
	<b>2006</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2007</b>
<b>INCOME</b>				
Donations	500	435	1000	
MEPS grant	3200	3200	3200	
Membership	9000	5438	9635	
National Gathering				
Registration fees			12000	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,700</b>	<b>9,073</b>	<b>25,835</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Co-ordinating cluster	1500	1220.94	1500	443.52
Admin	300	467.65	300	
DOTAC	1568.73	1568.73	1600	
DIAKONIA World fed	1300	1141.7	1300	
Regional gatherings	1000	600	1000	97.44
National Gathering		2600	18000	
Communications cluster	1235	1757.61	2235	
Financial review	300	300	300	
Student travel support			1000	
Advocacy		1044.88	1000	
Barb Elliott	500		1000	
Theological Schools	600	1000	600	
Travel support to DOTAC		1000		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,303.73</b>	<b>12,701.51</b>	<b>29,835</b>	

## **Outstanding Issues:**

### *General Council - Permanent Committee on Ministry and Employment Policies and Services*

On Thursday June 15 from 1:15- 2:45 Lori Crocker, Betty Marlin and Kellie McCoomb met in Toronto with PC-MEPS (Permanent Committee on Ministry and Employment Policies and Services). The intent of this meeting was for DUCC to re-establish connection with our National Structures by introducing DUCC, sharing some history and looking at where we are now in relation to diaconal ministry and how work related to us is now lodged in the national structures. The meeting was disappointing to say the least. PC-MEPS does not consider themselves to be an “advocate for any particular group within the Church”, and they indicated clearly that they are a policy making group only taking their direction from the General Council Executive. Much of what we had come to discuss did not fall under what they saw to be their work and they could not tell us where things did fall.

A full report of what was discussed at this meeting has been circulated and will be available at the National Gathering. Recently we have received a response from PC-MEPS to our request that they send a representative to our National Gathering and provide a report of the work being done in the area of diaconal ministry- this was what the Committee on Diaconal Ministry used to do this in the past. As expected they “did not consider it appropriate to provide a written accountability report to a body other than the General Council Executive.” They will not be represented at our Gathering. Part of our business agenda will include strategizing where we go from here.

### *Presbytery Recognition of Ministries*

There have been several strands to the efforts to have presbytery designate some Diaconal Ministers work as *Presbytery Recognized Ministries*. Joan Tuchlinsky, London Conference and Eric Tusz-King, Maritime Conference, have each applied to their respective presbyteries for this recognition and Betty Marlin has been supporting the application from a Diaconal Minister in Alberta North West Conference. There have been several letters written to MEPS staffer, Joe Ramsey, one of which was acknowledged, but no response has been received. Eric has received a negative response to his request and no explanation. We have not heard from Joan or Betty on the applications they have submitted or assisted. This will be point of discussion at this year’s gathering.

### *The Kaufman Renewal and Emergency Fund*

On July 15, 2006 we received the Annual Report of the Administration Committee of the Kaufman Cottage fund. Once again copies of this will be available at this National Gathering. One of the business items on our agenda will be to approve the appointment of Judith Astley to the Administration Committee. Congratulations, Judith and thank you to all the other dedicated members of the committee.

We hope that this gives everyone an accurate and helpful picture of what we have been about since the fateful day in April of 2005 when the responsibilities of the Coordinating Committee shifted to the Maritimes. We continue to learn a lot and benefit from having

important and compelling work that draws us together. Increasingly, we feel both the weight of keeping “things diaconal” on the radar of the church and the privilege it is to have before us a picture of how diaconal ministers continue to live out who they are and make a difference in how the Spirit is at work across the church and in the world. Feel free to talk with anyone of the coordinating committee about anything you read in this report.

Yours in Diaconal Ministry,

The Coordinating Committee of DUCC

Nancy Corrigan

Lori Crocker

Kay Dean

David Hewitt

Sue King-Darby

Eric Tusz-King