

## DOTAC Report 2007-2009

### **DOTAC Activities:**

2007-meeting in New York, 2008-meeting in Ashville

At each meeting of DOTAC we meet with others in diaconal ministry, do community building, worship from the various traditions around the table, presidents report, story telling re our own diaconal journey, review member organizational structures, share member reports (note UMC is having another study on ministry) theological reflection, World DIAKONIA reports, DOTAC regional Meeting planning for 2009, financial reports, and often we do a field trip to explore Diaconal ministry and we conclude with evaluation.

### **Questions for Future Discussion by Group**

How do we raise up the diaconate within our denominations?

How is the diaconate being supported within our denominations?

Meeting over 2 day period in October.

Will come back to Margaret for questions.

Recruiting people to DIAKONIA (note many DIAKONIA groups are getting smaller and fewer are becoming members, some denominations are removing DIAKONIA as a ministry and encouraging people to be ordained.

### **DIAKONIA 2009**-Atlanta-Beth Barkhau – program update:

-need suggestions for scripture

-want suggestions for 3 major key speakers

inquiring about Jimmy Carter

C. Everett Coup (former US Surgeon General) (spelling)

Timothy Johnson (CDC,

Mayor Shirley Franklin (Atlanta)

-Will need 70 workshop leaders – gift bags for each person from the planning committee but no funds for honorariums or expenses – would like suggestions by December 31, 2007

-Pottery gifts for workshop leaders – Becky and Beth

-Towels made from donated cloth – donations for cloth should be sent to Beth Barkhau – Linda Ervin will send a request to some individuals and other CC members will make requests – 2008 (this has turned into neck coolers and DUCC folks are making about 200)

-Planning Committee is seeking to have the conference as “Green” as possible (environmentally low-impact).

-Preworkshop for leaders – July 19 – 20

- Consultation for Leaders in the Diaconate hosted by World DIAKONIA

Diaconal Theology and How do I better understand the diaconate in the Church.

Education and Formation (CANCELLED UNFORTUNATELY)

-discussed DOTAC becoming an organization that can give charitable receipts (it is a long process but it is in process now and we hope to be approved this year)

### **-DOTAC Critical Targets are:**

Spirituality and Worship

Prophetic Voice & Church Together

Encourage and Support Diaconal Work in Areas and New Development  
Prophetic Voice for Social Justice

-**Newsletter** is important communication format and content established for distribution to DOTAC member groups by DOTAC members

-**DOVE** will continue, 2008 meeting will determine next meeting place and it will be Brazil

-**DOTAC Turtle Update, Lisa Polito** reported the turtle named DOTAC that was adopted at the Trinidad DOTAC Conference in 2006 by Linda Ervin has not been heard from. The group would like to believe that the turtle is alive and simply free from the tracking device. Where in the world is DOTAC?

-**DOTAC Conference Handbook** developed (**Next DOTAC CONFERENCE** is July 2011, July 6-9, travel days July 5 and 10 in Oklahoma)

-**DOTAC conference criteria** established for conference venues

-**New Member Groups:** Anglican Deacons of Canada and they will become world members in July 2009. WE are pursuing a group in Trinidad and another in Honduras.

-**Milwaukee Mother House** has disbanded and is no longer a member of DOTAC. They were a founding DOTAC member.

-**Small Group works focused on** the World focus preservation for DOTAC, newsletter, policy statements, worship, membership and communion, marketing DOTAC and DIAKONIA, website (now being managed by Brazil), education and advocacy, bookmarks and brochures

-**new member information** developed for new people at the DOTAC table

**IN Reflection:** Our DOTAC meetings usually are five to six days and we always have a very full agenda. It has been my privilege to represent DUCC at DOTAC for these last 12 years. I have learned much about working ecumenically. I have made many new diaconal friends in North America and in the World. As DOTAC President I have had the opportunity to visit many member groups in NA and hear the stories and struggles of being diaconal. There are many celebrations and some sadness. Member Groups who were part of DOTAC when I began are no longer members as their organizations forced them to be ordained and eliminated the diaconate. As a representative to the World Executive the challenge has been great. At that table there are two representatives from DAP and DOTAC and five representatives from Europe and one from Africa. One of our World goals is to decrease Europe numbers down to two and increase Africa by one making two at the table. This will be a huge challenge. We are also developing some new models of support for the diaconate around the world.

Thank you for this opportunity to serve DUCC in this way. It truly has been a blessing.

Linda M. Ervin  
DUCC representative to DOTAC