

Report from Planning Cluster and Alberta & NW Conference Cluster

We have met mainly by email. We had one phone call meeting. Because we did not get on the roll early only four of us were able to be part of the planning. WE have had fun but many times we were unclear what our role was. There needs to be a way formed that maybe the Coordinating Cluster might remind the clusters a year before and then in the fall before the next national Gathering. Then the Planning Cluster can take the initiative to begin the planning process. Thank heavens between Local Arrangements Cluster and Coordinating Cluster the process began. I believe that we have had fun in the midst of the mystery. On the Planning Cluster one person has attended many national gatherings, one two, one once and the other this will be her first time. We look forward to attending the National Gathering. The members are: Tammy Allan, Helen Reed, Betty Marlin until May 2011 and Carolynne Bouey Shank.

The Alberta and Northwest Conference has not met for two years because our main gathering has been at the Conference Meetings. But our conference made a decision a few years back to meet only every two years except when there was General Council and then we would meet. This past year our Conference Executive decided to not meet this year either. The diakonia of the Edmonton area, Red Deer area and Calgary areas try to meet geographically a few times during the year. The challenge for us is how to remember our diaconal identity in the midst of ministry when we do not gather often. Remembering our identify is supported and enriched for those of us involved with the Centre for Christian Studies as mentors, learning facilitators and members of the governance.

Carolynne Bouey Shank on behalf of the Planning Cluster and the Alberta & Northwest Conference Cluster