

Future Directions for Diaconal Ministers – DUCC National Gathering Responses

May 2015

Affirmations:

- Presbytery recognized ministries
- Recruiting personnel will be grounded and conversant with the nature of Diaconal Ministers and diaconal ministry.
- Broad scope of opportunities for ministry and affirm that all opportunities presented be examined and considered for diaconal ministry.

Recommendations:

- All future permanent committees have Diaconal Ministers as members to facilitate health and vitality of ministry
- The re-establishment of the Committee on Diaconal Ministry
- Field placement positions for diaconal personnel be supported financially by General Council
- If a college of ministers is established, Diaconal Ministers must be equally represented.
- Clarification is needed with reference to item F on Page 139
- Presbytery recognized diaconal ministers be allowed to contribute to the pension fund and group insurance benefit plans.
- National standardization of the process involved with licensing for the sacraments (before and after retirement). There seems to be a discrepancy that ordained can serve sacraments forever but the same privilege is not given to diaconal.