



**Diakonia of the United Church of Canada
National Gathering
May 12-14, 2020
via Zoom**

Participant Package

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Greetings!

It is with much excitement and a little trepidation that I welcome you to DUCC 2020 2.0! Because of the times in which we find ourselves, we have not been able to meet face-to-face in Ottawa as we have long planned. Determined to not let a pandemic stop us from getting our DUCCs in a row, the Theme & Worship Teams agreed to adapt our national in-person gathering to a virtual gathering. We are so glad that you have taken the time to join us on this adventure of meeting together by Zoom.

In order to make the best use of our two hours together each day, please bear in mind the following:

- Each day, the meeting will open 15 minutes early. Please sign on and ready to start on time.
- Everyone will be muted upon entry. We have nearly 80 people participating each day – it will be difficult to manage if people do not remain muted unless invited to unmute.
- If your internet is struggling to keep up, shut off your video – it will help. Also shut off your video if it's best that we don't see what you're doing – eg. eating your lunch, going to the bathroom (you might think I'm joking but it's happened 😊)
- Please use the chat room feature to pose any questions that you have during the proceedings. The chat room is being monitored and we will strive to address your questions as we move along.
- Please read the reports in advance of Thursday's business and send any questions you have IN ADVANCE of the meeting so that we can best address them without taking time to figure out the answer during the meeting. We have less than 90 mins for business and need to get through everything as efficiently as possible. The action items in the reports are in **Red**

Worship – please read the two attached documents from our worship leaders.

Our Theme features Gail Allan, Program Coordinator, Ecumenical and Interfaith for the General Council. She sends this note:

There isn't any "required" reading, but I thought people might like to remind themselves of some of the church's ecumenical and interfaith work. One way is to have a look at the related website pages and some of the documents linked there:

<https://www.united-church.ca/community-faith/welcome-united-church-canada/interchurch-relations>

<https://www.united-church.ca/community-faith/welcome-united-church-canada/interfaith-relations>

I'm also attaching a brief excerpt from Mending the World, as a starting point for thinking about "whole world ecumenism." **This has been included as an additional attachment along with this Package.**

Daily schedules with links for Zoom

Tuesday 9-11 am Pacific Time

Welcoming

Worship

Breakout Rooms with limited Share Backs

Memorials

Goodbye with reminders for tomorrow

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/191297711>

Meeting ID: 191 297 711

Dial by your location

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

+1 438 809 7799 Canada

+1 587 328 1099 Canada

+1 647 374 4685 Canada

+1 647 558 0588 Canada

Meeting ID: 191 297 711

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/ackKys4stN>

Wednesday 9-11 am Pacific Time

Welcoming

Worship

Theme

Sacred Dance

Goodbye with reminders for tomorrow

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/581895357>

Meeting ID: 581 895 357

Dial by your location

+1 647 558 0588 Canada

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

+1 438 809 7799 Canada

+1 587 328 1099 Canada

+1 647 374 4685 Canada

Meeting ID: 581 895 357

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/av7ytiByy>

Thursday 9-11 am Pacific Time

Welcoming

Music

Business (DUCC Purpose, Finances, Nominations, Barbara Elliot Kauffman, Archives)

Worship

Goodbye

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/691461183>

Meeting ID: 691 461 183

Dial by your location

+1 647 374 4685 Canada

+1 647 558 0588 Canada

+1 778 907 2071 Canada

+1 438 809 7799 Canada

+1 587 328 1099 Canada

Meeting ID: 691 461 183

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/abfr63Tz7V>



Thanks to Christine Dudley for the sharing of the image of the Duck

DUCC Coordinating Committee

2020 Report to DUCC

submitted by Vicki McPhee

Members: Vicki McPhee (Chair), Helen Reed (Treasurer), Denise Davis Taylor (Secretary), Lori Crocker (Communications), Christine Dudley (resigned January 2019), Marlene Britton Walfall, Ted Dodd (DOTAC), Eric Tusz-King (Staff)

Since the DUCC national gathering in Winnipeg, April 2018, the Coordinating Committee has met on a monthly basis, excepting July and August.

The highlights of the business before us during this time is as follows:

- Continued to follow up suggestions from the 2017 Gathering
 - Discussions concerning community building, cultural diversity, increasing membership, leadership and participation of young people – these discussions were ongoing over the past two years and were the foundation of much of the work of the Coordinating Committee
 - a task group (DUCC Engagement) was formed to consider putting into suggestions into action
 - subsidies were offered for young people and racialized DUCC members to encourage participation in DOTAC 2019
 - reviewed & adjusted the DUCC Purpose so as to better reflect what the national body of DUCC does and who we want to be within the wider church and world – this will be presented at this gathering for ratification
 - revised the DUCC budget to reflect the newly revised Purpose
- Invited diaconal folks to volunteer for various roles in the wider church – General Council 43, Board of Vocation – see the list of Diaconal Ministers working on behalf of GC included in the reports to DUCC 2020
- Established a Nominations working group to fill vacancies within DUCC as well as seeking volunteers to be Conference/Regional DUCC contacts with the hope to improve communication and connection within the UCC diaconal community – this is ongoing
- Supported the Ottawa DUCC 2020 Local Arrangements & Theme teams as they prepared for the national gathering. The Coordinating Committee would like to give great thanks to Janet Nield, Catherine Gutjahr, Dorothy Naylor, Laura Richardson, Jan Lougheed, Terrie Chedore, Susan Butler-Jones, Lorrie Lowes, Susan Toller, Tammy Allan, Denise Davis Taylor, Barbara Lieurance, Kelley Warner, Terrie Chedore, Jen Dresser
- We received reports from the DUCC staff person, Eric King; the rep to DOTAC, Ted Dodd; the Treasurer, Helen Reed; and the Communication Cluster through Lori Crocker.
- Encouraged the creation of an Archive team & Digital Library – See Communications Report for more details
- Requested and supported the creation of a new DUCC website
- Supported and helped organize this virtual national gathering
- Jen Dresser will join the Committee (June 2020), we are looking for one more member

DUCC Communications Cluster Report 2020 Report to DUCC

submitted by Lori Crocker

Membership:

Lori Crocker – Chair

Eric Tusz-King – DUCC Staff person

Kathy Toivanen – Editor of DUCC NEWS

Deb Kigar – Data Base Manager

Deborah Laforet- Webminder (began May 2018)

Annika Sankster

Kent Gibbons

Lynda Gow

Laura Hunter

Martha Martin

David Hewitt

Herbert Den Draak (joined May 2018)

Meetings:

Since the DUCC National Gathering in Winnipeg in May of 2018, the Communications Cluster has met 12 times by ZOOM conference call.

Data Base:

Deb Kigar manages the data base and consults with Helen Reed, Treasurer, with regard to those who are paid members and new members. Currently there are 94 paid members of DUCC and 333 in the data base.

The data base is well-backed up and is adjusted regularly as needed with updates to those on the list.

Deceased members are taken off the active list and are moved to another spreadsheet.

Contact information for individuals in various regional DUCC groups is provided upon request.

Thank you to Deb Kigar for her work in overhauling, updating and maintaining the data base. And it must be noted that many are very appreciative of the prompt and helpful replies they receive from Deb whenever they ask for information.

Mail Chimp and the DUCC Website

Kathy Toivanen is the Editor of DUCC News which is distributed electronically through the Mail Chimp platform. Kathy has sent out 19 DUCC News via Mailchimp since our last National Gathering. At one time it was anticipated that DUCC News Communications would be sent out quarterly but much information is time sensitive resulting in more frequent e-mailings.

As of March 2020 275 people subscribe to the Newsletter on Mail Chimp. There has been appreciation expressed to Kathy for the appealing look of the emails and the attention to prayer and pastoral care and creative presentation of the News.

Webminder. Deborah Laforet has been our webminder for the past two years and has been hard at work overseeing the updating of our entire site, which has the dual purpose of introducing newcomers to DUCC and providing up to date and historic information to the members of DUCC. A consultant was hired to guide the rebuild of the website without losing its crucial information.

Countless are the hours that Deborah has put in both to familiarize herself with the website and to work with the consultant. Kudos to her! As a result we have a website that is more comprehensible and user friendly.

Feedback on how our members experience it is helpful as improvements continue. Deborah would like to hear from you.

The DUCC website is ready to receive your profiles. Templates are on the website to help you to do this. Thanks to all those who have already provided their profiles and a nudge to others to get to work!

Memorials for the website are prepared by Caryn Douglas and we thank her for this work.

Requests to communicate DUCC news or areas of concern related to DUCC should be sent to either the chair of the Communications Cluster or to the coordinators of the specific communication platforms. (Mailchimp – Kathy Toivanen, Data base – Deb Kigar, Website - Deborah Laforet) If required, there may be further consultation with the Coordinating Cluster prior to posting an item of communication.

DUCC Photo Library Shortly after the 2018 National gathering work began to create a Photo library for DUCC. Kimiko Karpof was approached and agreed to become our photo Librarian. Work has been done to clarify the purpose of a photo library and to give direction in cataloging photos. There are now four members working on this sub- group – Kimiko Karpof, Ann Naylor, Lynda Gow, and Sally Meyer. There will soon be discussions with the Archives Committee to see how these two groups need to coordinate their work with each other.

Cards

Since May of 2018 our DUCC card secretary is Kay Dean, has sent out approximately one dozen cards, some congratulations on retirement, some for support during illness, and some to convey sympathy in the event of a family death. Most often individual members of DUCC contact Kay directly to request her to send a card. To date she has not received any requests via the link on the website. Cards can also be sent to celebrate anniversaries, graduation from CCS or Sandy Saulteaux and other special occasions.

PLEASE NOTE: As of the May 20th National Gathering the duties of the **Card Secretary will be handled by Kent Gibbons** (kentgibbons@rogers.com) as Kay has requested “time off” due to the demands of caring for an elderly aunt. Kent will be our acting Card Secretary until such time as Kay is able to return. Thank you Kent for agreeing to do this and thank you Kay for all your work on our behalf.

The promotion of Diaconal Ministry and of DUCC throughout the regions. At our January 2020 meeting we discussed the need to encourage members to arrange for tables at regional annual meeting to promote the work of DUCC and CCS and to educate about diaconal ministry. We also wondered about having a similar presence at events such as Rendezvous.

DUCC is on Facebook. This Facebook page is an independent project and is not part of our committee’s work. However, it is a welcome addition to foster communications, conversation and support among diaconal folk. Our committee plans to be more intentional about posting our information on this Facebook page.

The Communication Cluster seeks to keep the DUCC community informed and aware and welcomes your input to keep our community informed!

Report submitted by Lori Crocker with special thanks to Kathy Toivanen who creates such good minutes of all our meetings.

Regional DUCC Cluster Reports 2018-2020

Fundy St. Lawrence Dawning Waters (Region 14) *Submitted by Regional Contact Lynda Gow*

This small but faithful group joins with the Region 15 folks on a regular and irregular basis – most recently on zoom gatherings and before the pandemic on a biannual basis – at the annual general meeting of regions and at a cottage on a lake midway for everyone. Sometimes our time includes an overnight also. These gatherings welcome newcomers to the region. Our conversations vary, from check in's to topics that affect diaconal ministers. We make the most of our time together, eat well and enjoy one another.

Region 15 *Submitted by Regional Contact Lori Crocker*

Regions 14 and 15 cover what was previously known as Maritime Conference and our gatherings include folks from both regions. So I echo what Lynda Gow has submitted. Since the DUCC annual gathering of 2018 we have had two breakfast meetings at our regional gatherings. We catch up with each other and feast on eggs, bacon, French toast, homemade yogurts and jams. Each August we have invited our members to a gathering at the cottage of Eric Tusz-King. Even though the number attending is small, our time is rich with good food, an overnight sleepover and opportunity for canoeing and swimming. More recently, during this “Great Pause” Lynda Gow has organized a couple of zoom gatherings with 8 or 9 of us responding doing check in and sharing reflections and learnings. Our next one is planned for early June.

Lastly, a number of us are members of the DUCC Communications Committee which is centered in this region (with key members from other regions as well). Our committee meetings are held by zoom. We find that being involved in a task as a region ensures that we meet.

Pacific Mountain *Submitted by Regional Contact Linda M Ervin*

BC Diaconals met at the Pacific Mountain Regional first meeting for a lunch hour conversation. Introductions, updates and congratulations were shared. Some folks were moving to new pastoral charges, others were new to DUCC, and Lynn McGrath was commissioned at the Regional Meeting. So we in BC will have to do more to improve our connection. I will try and host a BC DUCC zoom meeting by the end of June 2020



DUCCS meet at the Pacific Mountain Regional Gathering in Langley BC, May 31, 2019, photo: Sharilynn Upsdell

Living Skies *Submitted by Regional Contact Jen Dresser*

Living Skies has nothing new to report. Prior to our DUCC 2018 meeting zoom calls were organized with minimal success. This was reported previously. Nothing has been organized since then.

Northern Spirit *Submitted by Regional Contact Denise Davis Taylor*

After the institution of the new regional structure in January 2019 Diaconal ministers in the new Northern Spirit Region have met twice to touch base. We gathered over a meal at the regional gathering in May 2019. After checking Kimberly Roy raised a concern about the issuing of marriage licenses to Diaconal ministers in the new region. Another smaller group of eight met in September of 2019 in Edmonton following the ReVITalize Event at St Paul's United. We enjoyed an evening of reconnecting. We were invited to join with other Diaconals again in February 20, 2020 in Red Deer where we were able to connect with friends in the southern region.

Prairie to Pine

Submitted by Regional Contact Joan Jarvis

Each year our Prairie to Pine (and previous Manitoba & Northwestern Ontario Conference) DUCC community meet at our Conference and now Regional Annual Meeting. At these gatherings, people take on various responsibilities for the upcoming year. One person organizes details for our time together, another facilitates conversation and a third person coordinates the purchasing of small gifts for those to be commissioned, for retirees or other celebrations. In this small way our community acknowledges significant milestones in our community's life. In addition to sharing what's been happening in our personal lives, our time together often includes significant discussions about aspects of diaconal life or requests for study about particular issues that come from the wider DUCC or United Church of Canada communities.

In April, 2018 our MNWO DUCC's hosted our National Gathering in Winnipeg. Many of our community were involved in local arrangements and other planning. The Theme for this Conference was *Courageous Risking*. We were pleased to have local guest speakers - Niigaan Sinclair (*Steps Toward Reconciliation*); Wilma Derksen (*Forgiveness*); Sonya Ballantyne (*Indigenous Artists and Social Justice*) offering their insights and wisdom.

Our regular monthly lunch time gatherings continue to be held at the home of Ted Dodd. Our average attendance is approximately 20 people. At times those who live outside Winnipeg are also able to join, though distance can make this more difficult. We tend to meet on or near the 26th of each month as a way of recognizing World DIAKONIA's designated day of prayer. Ted always prepares a variety of delicious soups and condiments and others contribute bread, cheese, veggies, desserts and we have a wonderful feast. Ted's hospitality is outstanding and appreciated by all. As a community we are pleased that Ted is now President of DOTAC and we appreciate hearing about the work of this diaconal body.

At each of our luncheons we offer a monetary contribution that goes to support the Centre for Christian Studies, *Ted Dodd Fund for Leadership*. This fund supports bursaries for students taking *Learning on Purpose*. Since 2018, our community has contributed approximately \$3,500.00 from our lunchtime gatherings. Following the meal we join together for a time of reflection and conversation based on the "question of the day." Some of our themes were....

- Stories about "helping" - discerning actions and attitudes that are helpful and those that are not
- Insights about "truth" - in this era of fact-bending, or fake news this was an important topic to explore
- Discussion about "fear" - How does fear shape our lives?
- Reflection on tears and insights/stories about crying
- What did you notice on the way here? What action did you take on the way here? This conversation came out of the biblical story of the Road to Emmaus
- Discussion about responsibility and accountability
- What does it mean to be a sensitive guest and appropriate host? What does it mean that most of us have benefited from being colonial guests?
- Experiences of guilt and our reflections on what we've learned
- Story-telling and learning related to racism
- Lenten exploration of the topic transformation

Deep and tender wisdom emerges from the community. Our conversations are rich, reflective and filled with grace and compassionate connection. We always look forward to our time together.

In August 2019, 11 DUCCS from the Prairie to Pine region travelled to Vancouver to attend the DOTAC Quadrennial Assembly. The theme explored was "Respecting Covenant - Risking the Journey toward Reconciliation." Workshops, site visits, bible studies and theme speakers examined the theme through the lenses of Indigeneity, Creation and Global Migration.

Our meeting April 16th would have been a time when as Local Arrangements, a month away from DUCC 2020, we would have had a packed agenda! Instead, we arrived on ZOOM looking pretty relaxed. Worship and check-in was nourishing for us all. We expressed our disappointment that after much preparation and anticipation we were not able to welcome you to Ottawa. It was agreed that although we had not been strangers to each other before, working together on a common goal over many months had had a powerful effect. We learned about each other's interests and gifts; we made meaningful connections through check-ins and follow up. The nine of us in Eastern Ontario Outaouais will meet in June to continue our renewed diaconal journey together. Restrictions allowing, Lorrie Lowes will be commissioned to diaconal ministry when the Regional Council meets in October.

**Barbara Elliott Trust Fund for Innovative Ministry
2020 Report to DUCC**

submitted by Susan Butler-Jones

The Barbara Elliott Trust Fund for Innovative Ministry was established in memory of Diaconal Minister, Barb Elliott. It supports innovative and/or nontraditional ministries that find it difficult to secure regular funding. Funding should be seen as seed money to get new projects started, or for new aspects of existing programs, or to enable a one-time special project, and not for support of ongoing work. A project is only eligible for one grant. An accountability report is required by the ministry following the implementation of the project.

Funding criteria and application form are available on the website: <https://www.ducc.ca/>
Donations to the fund to remember, honour or celebrate someone or a particular event or ministry are always appreciated.

The members of the administrative committee of BETFIM are:

Nancy Corrigan (Region 15)

Susan Butler-Jones (Eastern Ontario Outaouais Regional Council)

Denise Davis-Taylor (Northern Spirit Region)

The committee meets by video conference as needed. Applications are reviewed, and decisions re: funding are made as soon as possible (usually early March) following the February application deadline. Decisions are made in accordance with the Funding Criteria. All applicants are contacted with the decision of the committee as soon as possible following our meetings.

2019

We received one application and made one grant in the full amount of \$5000 to The Go Project to update their website. An accountability report has been received.

We received the accountability report from DOTAC for the 2018 grant.

continued next page...

2020

Two applications were received.

One was deemed to not fit the criteria.

One grant in the full amount of \$5000 was made to The Centre for Christian Studies for the “All Are Called” project; a recruitment and marketing initiative to enlarge *diakonia* through the Centre for Christian Studies. The project is intended to

- Equip lay leaders in areas under-served by clergy
- Engage with clergy and lay people seeking continuing education and professional development that integrates social analysis, reflection, and spirituality.
- Connect with those who are discerning a call to vocational diaconal ministry

We look forward to seeing the accountability report from CCS on this project.

For Consideration by DUCC:

1. Possible second call for applications in 2020. There are still funds available for granting this year. DUCC might consider a second round of applications for this year as has been done in the past.

2. Is the BETFIM intended only for Canadian ministries?

This question comes out of our discussion around an application that came from outside of Canada, which was deemed not to fit the criteria for other reasons.

The administrative committee would like direction from DUCC on this matter.

3. Members. Susan and Denise have agreed to continue this work on the BETFIM team on behalf of DUCC. Nan has served her term (and beyond) and will step down.

We request DUCC appoint one person to the BETFIM Administrative Committee in light of this vacancy.

REPORT ON THE BARBARA ELLIOTT TRUST FUND

Date: April 2020

2019 Fund Activity

This report covers the time period of January 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019.

Summary:

	<i>Rebate of 2018 Fee</i>	<i>\$ 438.32</i>
Opening Balance	<i>January 1, 2019</i>	\$156,821.20
Revenues	<i>Donations</i>	\$ 0.00
	<i>Unrealized Income (gain/loss)</i>	\$26,596.99
	<i>Revenue Total</i>	\$26,596.99
Expenses	<i>Grants</i>	\$ 5,000.00
	<i>Administrative Fees</i>	\$ 2,538.27
	<i>Expense Total</i>	\$ 7,538.27
Closing Balance		\$175,879.92

Grant Amount: \$16,563.02

If you have any questions please contact Sarah Charters at 1-866-340-8223 or at scharters@united-church.ca

**The Kaufman Renewal and Emergency Fund
2020 Report to DUCC**

Submitted by Lynda Appleby, Treasurer

All Graduates of The Centre For Christian Studies and the former United Church of Canada Colleges, and all Diaconal Ministers, are eligible to apply to the Kaufman Fund for a grant for emergency funding or a grant to attend an educational event or an event that offers rest and renewal.

In 2019, 8 people applied for and received grants to help defer costs to attend the DOTAC meeting held in Vancouver Aug. 14-20. One other person received a grant to help with costs to be a part of an educational course put on by B.C.Conference

The Administration Committee has 4 members. We meet mostly via email when we are deciding the amount of a grant someone that has applied should receive. We also took part in an online meeting. The present Administration Committee is: Lynda Appleby, Judith Astley, Ellen Baynton Walker and Linda Ervin.

The Administration Committee is affirmed when DUCC meets at their biennial meetings. That meeting should be in 2020 but unfortunately was cancelled but is having virtual meetings instead. **We ask that affirmation of**

the present Administration Committee, for The Kaufman Renewal and Emergency Fund, be on the virtual agenda of the 2020 DUCC meeting. Please let us know when and if we are affirmed for another two years.

**KAUFMAN RENEWAL AND EMERGENCY FUND
FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED DEC. 31, 2019**

<u>Balance on hand January 1, 2019</u>		\$68,227.58
 <u>Receipts</u>		
Fund interest income for year 2019		11,598.45
		<hr/>
Balance of fund plus interest income for 2019		\$79,826.03
 <u>Expenditures</u>		
Grants	2,400.00	
Fund Administration fees	1,108.82	
Total 2019 Expenditures	3,508.82	<u>\$3,508.82</u>
 KAUFMAN FUND BALANCE DEC. 31, 2019		 <u>\$76,317.21</u>

**DIAKONIA of the Americas and the Caribbean (DOTAC)
2020 Report to DUCC**
submitted by Ted Dodd, DUCC representative and DOTAC President

DOTAC Quadrennial Assembly

The Quadrennial Assembly of DIAKONIA of the Americas and the Caribbean (DOTAC) took place in August of 2019 in Vancouver on the University of British Columbia campus. A rich array of speakers, Bible study sessions, worship services, workshops, and site visits helped us to explore the theme “Respecting Covenant – Risking the Journey toward Reconciliation” through the lenses of Indigeneity, Creation and Global Migration.

Over 160 persons participated in this ecumenical and international diaconal gathering. Almost 40 of those participants were DUCCs. DUCCs were very involved in offering leadership at this event.



- Music: Bri-Anne Swan, Charmain Bailey, Barb Myers (who had to bow out because of health reasons)
- Local Arrangements
 - Cultural Night: Kimiko Karpoff
 - Technology: Caryn Douglas, Ellen Baynton-Walker, Sharilynn Upsdell, Melanie Ihmels
 - Sunday Morning Church Visits and Worship Support: Tracy Fairfield
 - Transportation: Tracy Fairfield, Kimiko Karpoff, Kim McNaughton, Linda Ervin
- Table Group Leaders: Karen Tjaden, Jacqueline Samson, Jenn Dresser, Josh Ward, Kelley Warner, Ken DeLilse, Kelley Warner, Ian McLean, Brenda Miller
- Worship: Michelle Owens, Deborah Deavu, Ted Dodd, Ken DeLisle, Tracy Fairfield, Kelley Warner, Marlene Britton
- Theme and Program
 - Theme Speakers –Marlene Britton, Caryn Douglas
 - Bible Study – Caryn Douglas and Marcie Gibson
- Facilities Liaison: Helen Reed
- Spiritual Practices Options: Linda Ervin, Lori Stewart
- Chaplain: Susan Everton
- Visa Support: Michelle Owens



We are most grateful for all their planning and effort to make this event a success. And we are appreciative of DUCC for sponsoring an ad in our Program Booklet. As well, the Coordinating Committee offered several persons financial support. This enabled us to sponsor several folks and enhance the diversity of our delegation. All being well the next quadrennial assembly will be in 2023 in the Caribbean, likely in Jamaica.

DOTAC Board of Directors

Since the last DUCC biennial in 2018, a lot has transpired in DOTAC. The former President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary have all had to resign for a variety of reasons. We offer our thanks for those who had to depart from these positions. Of course, these changes have involved a mix of gratitude, some tension and stress, and even sadness. But I contend that we have learned to operate with adaptability, good humour and grace. Each of these positions have been re-filled with competent and capable people. A lesser community would be reeling. We are not reeling. We have managed these transitions with faith and flexibility, and an unshaken and solid sense of purpose. We have embraced new initiatives and imagined ways forward.



In November 2018, the DOTAC Board of Directors met in Valparaiso, Indiana. We met face-to-face in August, 2019 before and after the Quadrennial in Vancouver. In between times, we have instituted a number of Zoom meetings.



- At each meeting, each of the twelve communities of DOTAC share reports which highlight celebrations and concerns, offer segments of community statements and/or theological reflection on diaconia. We are currently embarking on a study of diaconal theology and identity related to the variety and commonalities represented in our communities.
- We have studied the World Council of Churches *Ecumenical Diakonia* document and developed a study guide for others to examine this WWC material.
- We agreed to make the *Thursdays in Black: Toward of World without Rape or Violence* campaign our social justice focus for the year.
- We continue to work on enhancing the website and social media.
- The ELCA Ecumenical Engagement Affinity Group has been welcomed as a new member.
- A re-drafting of the DOTAC by-laws has been approved and was shared at the Vancouver gathering.
- We have been working on Financial matters. We have established a Finance Committee and are developing a set of financial policies.
- Diakonia Overcoming Violence Exchange (DOVE) was to be held in Kingston, Jamaica September 21-25, 2020. It was recently decided to postpone the event until 2021 due to the global virus situation. The event is designed to build an international team that will participate in a multicultural, hands-on, action-reflection experience, related to overcoming violence in the world. Four Canadian participants have been selected, and they are all DUCCs: Marlene Britton, Elaine Kellogg, Vicki McPhee and Karen Tjaden. As well, Ted Dodd will be attending as DOTAC President.
- Over the course of a term, the DOTAC President attempts to visit as many as possible of the 12 communities. The President brings greetings from DOTAC, and in this case, is also able to say hello from DUCC. Sadly, but necessarily, much of this planned travel has been postponed or cancelled due to the COVID 19 pandemic. DOTAC is most grateful that the DUCC Coordinating Committee and Kaufmann Renewal and Emergency Fund has financially supported this travel. Details about credit for future travel with registrars, airlines and accommodations people are currently under negotiation.

DIAKONIA World Federation (DWF e. V.)

DIAKONIA World Federation Executive Committee met in Berlin, June 2018. During that time, we went to Neuendettelsau to sign documents re: the change of domicile of DWF e.V. from Netherlands to Germany. We spent time evaluating the Chicago World Assembly of 2017.



Plans were underway for the next World Assembly in 2021 in Darwin, Australia. However, due to the COVID-19 crisis the event is postponed until 2022. The theme will be: “Weavers of the World.” In November 2019, we met in Neuendettelsau, Germany. We

discussed the lack of applications for DIAKAID and will be reassessing our approach with this fund. We also spent time evaluating our connection with ecumenical bodies:

- World Council of Churches
- Research-Diakonia (an academic association related to diaconal practice and theory)
- International Diaconate Centre (a Roman Catholic organization for permanent deacons)

We also had conversation about the finances of the organization and created a task group to work on these matters. Communication strategies were examined and a new on-line format for the newsletter was launched. Much time was spent in conversation about the future of the organization and how best to support our member communities and further our work in justice-making and compassion.

I am honoured to serve as the DUCC representative on the DOTAC board. Serving as President of DOTAC has been an amazing experience. My soul has been broadened by the rich ecumenical and international connections and relationships. My spirit has been deepened by the opportunities to worship and pray in various faith traditions. My mind has been expanded by the discussions and exploration we share.

DUCC Financial Statement to December 31, 2019
Income Statement: Reconciled with Bank Statement

	Actual	2019 Budget	Notes
Income			
Membership	12,781.28	12,000.00	
Donations	1,396.66	1,800.00	
DUCC Pin (in/out)	111	0	
Misc. Income Grant to support DOTAC (Justice & Reconciliation)	5,000.00	5,000.00	In/out
ELCIC support for DOTAC	500.00		In/out From Barb Elliot Fund
2018 Grant Funds for DOTAC		5,000.00	
Transfer of 2018 Funds for Website		5,000.00	
DUCC2020 registrations received	2,470.00		
Total Income	22,258.94	28,800.00	

Expenses			
Administration (Operating Costs)	171.29	200	Inc. Postage & stationery for 2018 tax receipts
Committee:			
Coordinating (Misc)			
Advocacy			
Membership			
Communications (Misc)	1,084.80		Annual Website Hosting Package
Website domain fee (op. costs)			
Software update			
Webminder Honorarium		600	
Website Update (Misc)	5,650.00	5,000.00	
Zoom registration (Op Costs)	120.00	120.00	
Regional Groups	42.6	400	
DUCC Liaison to UCC (Staff)	2,500.00	2,500.00	
Diaconal Connections:			
DUCC DOTAC rep	520	1,500.00	
DOTAC 2019 Vancouver			
Registration subsidies	5,499.00	4,000.00	\$423 for 13 people
Diversity/ new attendees	2,500.00	4,000.00	\$500 for 5 people
DOTAC income grants	10,500.00	5,000.00	In/Out
DOTAC Advertising	150.00		
DOVE every 4 years. 2020?			
DUCC 2020	1,355.00		
Financial Expenses:			
Treasurer Honorarium	600.00	600	
Bank Charges + new cheques	477.26	520	
Institutional Membership Affirm	100	100	
DUCC Pins (in/out) (Misc)			
Total 2019 Expenses	31,269.95	24,540.00	
Total 2019 Surplus/Deficit	-9,011.01	4,260.00	

2019 was planned as a deficit budget with the Coordinating Council being aware that there are sufficient funds available in the chequing account to cover the deficit.

December 31, 2019

Bank Balances:

Chequing: \$25,420.24
Savings: \$ 5,108.02
GIC: \$10,498.84
GIC: \$10,222.17
Total funds: \$51,249.27

Treasurer notes

Surplus/Deficit Reconciled

Adjustments: For funds available from 2018

-9,011.01 (Income Statement Balance Dec 31, 2019)
 +\$5,000.00 (DOTAC 2018 funds) *
 +\$5,650.00 (New Website 2018 funds) *
 +\$1,638.99 (Adjusted Actual Income Statement balance)

***Details:**

Expenses: \$5,000.00 paid to DOTAC funds that was actually collected in 2018.

Expenses: \$6,734.80 for the New Website. \$5,650 from 2018 funds + This includes \$1,084.80 that will be an Annual hosting fee to be budgeted for each year.

Membership:

December 31, 2018 - 93 members

December 31, 2019 - 96 members (62 on PAR, 33 Cheques/E-transfer, 1 Student)

DUCC Financial Statement to April 30, 2020

DUCC Financial Statement Reconciled with Bank Statement	Actual 2020 April 30	2020 Budget	Notes
Income			
Membership. Donations	6,390.40	14,800.00	
DUCC 2020 Registrations received	10,462.50		
DUCC Pin (in/out)			
DUCC2020 refund received	1,865.00		
Total 2020 Income		14,800.00	
Additional Funds from chequing account			
Total Income	18,717.90	14,800.00	
Expenses			

Administration (Operating Costs)	141.48	400	Inc. Postage & stationery for 2019 tax receipts
Zoom Subscription	30	120	
Clusters/Committees		200	
Communications			
Website domain Fee (pay 2021, 2024)			
Website Annual Hosting Fee	1,084.80	1,085.00	Annual Website Hosting Package
Regional Groups	468.28	2,000.00	
DUCC Liaison to UCC (Staff) Honorarium	600	2,500.00	
DUCC Liaison-- Registration & travel Expenses DUCC National Gathering		1,000.00	
National Gathering (DUCC) Expenses	510.00	2,000.00	
DUCC2020 registrations refunded	12,840.50		
National Gathering Subsidy/Cost		3,000.00	Students and Retirees
Diaconal Connections:			
DUCC DOTAC rep			
DOTAC Subsidies			
World Diakonia Subsidies			
DOVE (every 4 years) 2020		500.00	
DUCC 2020			
Financial Expenses:			
Treasurer Honorarium		600.00	
Bank Charges + new cheques	194.27	500.00	
Institutional Membership			
Affirm (misc)	250	250	
DUCC Pins (in/out) (misc)			
Marketing		100.00	
Total 2020 Expenses	16,119.33	14,255.00	
Total 2020 Surplus/Deficit	2,598.57	545.00	

April 30, 2020

In the bank:

Chequing 28,772.31
Savings 5,108.02
GICs Total 20,855.49
Total 54,735.98

Supporting Donors

April 30, 2020
81 Total Donors
(62 PAR: 19 Cheques/E-Transfer)

Compare to: April 30, 2019

In the bank:

Chequing: \$31,300.14
Savings: \$ 108.02
GICs Total \$20,377.42
Total funds: \$52,529.96

Compare to April 20, 2019

85 Total Donors
(60 on PAR, 25 Cheques/E-Transfer)

DUCC 2020 – Ottawa

All Registrations for the Ottawa DUCC2020 Meeting have been E-transferred or Mailed.

Community 2020-2023 4-Year Budget – Report to DUCC 2020

	2020 Budget	2021 Budget	2022 Budget	2023 Budget	
Income					
Donations	14,800	14,800	14,800	14,800	
DUCC Pins					
Misc. Income					
Total Income	+14,800	+14,800	+14,800	+14,800	
Expenses					
Administration	400	400	400	400	
Zoom subscription	120	120	120	120	

Clusters/Committees	200	200	200	200	
Communications					
Website domain fee (pay 2021, 2024)		190			
Website Annual Hosting fee	1,085	1,085	1,085	1,085	
Regional Groups	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	
DUCC Liaison to UCC (Staff) Honorarium	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500	
DUCC Liaison – Registration & Travel Expenses DUCC Nat. Gath.	1,000		1,000		
National Gathering (DUCC) For Expenses	(DUCC- Ottawa) 2,000	(Darwin/ World)	(DUCC- location?) 2,000	(DOTAC Caribbean)	
National Gathering Subsidy /Cost	3,000		3,000		
Diaconal Connections:					
DUCC DOTAC rep	980			1,500.00	
DOTAC subsidies				*Caribbean 8,000.00	
World Diakonia subsidies		Darwin, Australia 8,000.00			
DOVE (every 4 years) 2020, 2024	Jamaica 500				
Financial Expenses:					
Treasurer Honorarium	600	600	600	600	
Bank Charges + new cheques	500	500	500	500	
Institutional Membership (misc./Affirm)	100	100	100	100	
DUCC Pins (in/out) (misc.) as needed					
Marketing	100	200	100	200	
Total Expenses	-\$14,105	-\$15,895	-\$13,605	-\$17,205	
Total Surplus/Deficit	+695	-\$1,095	+\$1,195	-\$2,405	(-1,610)

Notes:

This newly rearranged budget reflects a deliberate focus on providing funding for Gatherings of DUCC, (National, International and Regional)

Registration for National Gatherings is expected to cover the cost of the event.

- An extra amount is included in the budget as a backup.
- Travel pool is to be included in registration fees but is self-sustaining and therefore not included in budgets.

We are transitioning to naming financial support from the Diaconal Community as “Donations” instead of “Memberships” This reflects both the language of the CRA and an acknowledging that not everyone is able to financially support the work of DUCC and welcome to this community is based on love not money.



Nominations Committee Report
2020 Report to DUCC
submitted by Ted Dodd

This winter, the Coordinating Committee agreed to establish a Nominating Committee to recruit, orient, support and thank volunteer members of Coordinating Committee, sub-committees, and representatives of DUCC on other bodies. Nominating Committee members will serve a term of four years and consist of between 3 and 5 members. One of the members of the Nominating Committee will represent the Committee on the Coordinating Committee.

As an Interim Nominating Committee appointed by the Coordinating Committee in March 2020, we have endeavoured to recruit folks to serve the organization following the May 2020 Biennial Gathering. During the gathering we will present a slate of nominees for the Biennial gathering's consideration.

The Nominations Committee will also handle the responsibilities of

- retaining related documents and share the same with new appointed persons to orient them to their new positions.
- offering support as appropriate to and/or as requested by volunteers serving.
- developing opportunities and mechanisms to thank volunteers who have served.

At the present time, we are aware of the following DUCCs who are serving on General Council committees or bodies – see next page...

Diaconal Ministers Serving in General Council Roles
April 6, 2020

Supervising Body	Committee	Contact Name	Start Date	End Date	Regional Council Membership (Contact Name) (Contact)
BOV	Admission Board	Sarah Bruer	23/10/2019	25/07/2021	Prairie to Pine Regional Council
	Anglican Church-United Church				
TICIF	Dialogue	Russell Mitchell-Walker	16/12/2019	31/12/2020	Living Skies Regional Council
GC	Board of Vocation	Patricia Baker	10/06/2019	15/07/2021	Prairie to Pine Regional Council
GC	Board of Vocation	Mark Green	01/01/2019	30/07/2021	Pacific Mountain Regional Council
	Canadian Council of Churches:				
TICIF	Governing Board	Martha Martin	01/06/2018	01/06/2021	Shining Waters Regional Council
BOV	Candidacy Board - Mountain	Ian McLean	22/03/2019	30/07/2021	Pacific Mountain Regional Council
BOV	Candidacy Board - Mountain	Vicki McPhee	01/01/2019	15/07/2021	Chinook Winds Regional Council
BOV	Candidacy Board - Prairie	YoonOk Shin Kang	22/03/2019	30/07/2021	Northern Spirit Regional Council
BOV	Candidacy Board - Prairie	Laura Fohse	22/03/2019	30/07/2021	Living Skies Regional Council
	Candidacy Board - South Western Ontario				Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council
BOV	Western Ontario	Ellen Baynton-Walker	22/03/2019	30/07/2021	Funcky St. Lawrence Dawning Waters Regional Council
GCO	Climate Advisory Circle	Eric Tusz-King	15/05/2019	30/07/2021	Regional Council
BOV	Credentialing Committee	Kenneth E. DeLisle	07/05/2019	15/07/2021	Prairie to Pine Regional Council
GC	Executive of the General Council	Debra Hinksman	01/01/2019	15/07/2021	Pacific Mountain Regional Council
GC	General Council 43	Carey Wagner	21/07/2018	21/07/2021	Antler River Watershed Regional Council
GC	General Council 43	Brenda Curtis	21/07/2018	21/07/2021	Living Skies Regional Council
GC	General Council 43	Kenneth E. DeLisle	21/07/2018	21/07/2021	Prairie to Pine Regional Council
GC	General Council 43	Maxine McVey	21/07/2018	21/07/2021	Canadian Shield Regional Council
GC	General Council 43	Kathleen Platt	21/07/2018	21/07/2021	Prairie to Pine Regional Council
GC	General Council 43	Kim Shantz	21/07/2018	21/07/2021	Horseshoe Falls Regional Council
GC	General Council 43	Christina Paradela	21/07/2018	21/07/2021	Horseshoe Falls Regional Council
GC	General Council 43	Deborah Laforet	21/07/2018	21/07/2021	Horseshoe Falls Regional Council
GC	General Council 43	Sarah Bruer	21/07/2018	21/07/2021	Prairie to Pine Regional Council
GC	General Council 43	Allan Gairns	21/07/2018	21/07/2021	Living Skies Regional Council
GC	General Council 43	Nancy Corrigan	21/07/2018	21/07/2021	Regional Council 15
GC	General Council 43	YoonOk Shin Kang	21/07/2018	21/07/2021	Northern Spirit Regional Council
GC	General Council 43	Tammy Allan	21/07/2018	21/07/2021	Chinook Winds Regional Council
GC	General Council 43	Susan Reed	21/07/2018	21/07/2021	Living Skies Regional Council
GC	General Council 43	Debra Hinksman	21/07/2018	21/07/2021	Pacific Mountain Regional Council
GC	General Council 43	M. Elaine Kellogg	21/07/2018	21/07/2021	East Central Ontario Regional Council
GC	General Council 43	Marcie Gibson	21/07/2018	21/07/2021	Horseshoe Falls Regional Council
GC	General Council 43	Lawrence Moore	21/07/2018	21/07/2021	Prairie to Pine Regional Council
	Regional Council Presidents	Lori Stewart	01/01/2019	01/06/2020	Prairie to Pine Regional Council
	Regional Council Presidents	Helen Reed	01/01/2019		Chinook Winds Regional Council
BOV	Remedial Committee	Mary Piercy	01/01/2019	15/07/2021	Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council
BOV	Response Committee	Marcie Gibson	22/03/2019	30/07/2021	Horseshoe Falls Regional Council
TICIF	Roman Catholic-United Church	Maxine McVey	15/06/2017	15/06/2020	Canadian Shield Regional Council
					Western Ontario Waterways Regional Council
BOV	Standards Committee	Deborah Deavu	01/01/2019	15/07/2021	Council
GCE	Sub-Executive of the General	Debra Hinksman	26/01/2019	21/07/2021	Pacific Mountain Regional Council
	Theology and Inter-Church Inter-Faith Committee	Michelle Owens	22/07/2018	15/07/2021	Prairie to Pine Regional Council
	Theology and Inter-Church Inter-Faith Committee	Jamie Bradshaw	22/07/2018	15/07/2021	Prairie to Pine Regional Council

DUCC Staff Liaison Report

submitted by Eric Tusz-King, DUCC Staff Liaison

I regret that this report must be presented when we are physically distancing from each other. DUCC has been so important for our members as a community of support. As DUCC's Staff Liaison, I feel blessed to be able to connect with such a great group of committed and caring people during important work.

General Comments:

- DUCC has continued to exhibit all the signs of a vibrant professional diaconal ministry association:
 - The numbers of Diaconal Ministers paying membership fees is increasing
 - The Coordinating Committee and the various standing and ad hoc committees are working well
 - Key volunteers are showing committed and competent leadership
 - DUCC's financial resources are being well managed and sufficient to enable most of the initiatives which are important for DUCC.
- My role as staff liaison continues to be constructively used and is meaningful to me. I feel my ministry with DUCC is effective and appreciated.

Involvement since the National Gathering in Winnipeg in 2018:

- Liaison with General Council
 - Not dynamic, but not a problem. There has not been much need to engage, beyond administrative tasks, such as record keeping of the names and contact information of Diaconal Ministers, and the payment of fees to DOTAC and World DIAKONIA.
 - The Advocacy Cluster of DUCC, which I usually convene, has not met or been consulted since mid-2018 and that was regarding General Council Executive's recommendations on the creation of the Association of Ministers, at which time we decided that DUCC was well represented by Diaconal Ministers and took no action.
 - There are other members of DUCC who share aspects this relationship:
 - Debra Kigar, who is member of the Permanent Committee on Ministry and Employment and has contacts to receive updated data on Diaconal Ministers
 - Ted Dodd, who on behalf of DUCC's relationship with DOTAC, conveys information on dues to DOTAC and World DIAKONIA.
 - Vicki McPhee, who has been introduced to our staff liaison in GCO, Adam Hanley, when she became the chair of the Coordinating Committee. Hopefully Adam will be able to participate in our virtual gathering.
 - Other Diaconal Minister, some of whom are members of DUCC, on GC Committees are listed.
- Support to develop the Digital Library and DUCC Archives Committees.
 - These two new committees have important work to do and have needed my support to help them find members, clarify their roles, and develop good working relationships within DUCC and external groups, such as the United Church Archives. My role is clearly to be supportive while enabling them to be self-reliant, i.e., not dependent upon staff, as I move onto other tasks assigned by the Coordinating Committee.

- Relating to the Discussions in Regions Regarding the Development of an Association of Ministers:
 - General Council Executive has assigned the support of minister to the regions and has not offered any appreciable assistance to any organizational development beyond the regions. At least one region (Region 15) has chosen to expand their purview to consider what it take to create a national Association of Ministers. Lori Crocker is on the committee in Region 15 pursuing this possibility.
 - Vicki McPhee, Helen Reed and I have corresponded with the Region 15 group to answer questions relating to the journey DUCC took to form as a professional association of those engaged in diaconal ministry.
 - Questions such as, how DUCC might relate to a national Association of Ministers and what are other regions doing to develop their supports for ministers, have not been explored up to this point.
- Making DUCC Stronger in Connecting with Individual Diaconal Ministers
 - The Coordinating Committee created a small group (Helen Reed, Tracy Robertson, Deborah Leforet, Jen Dresser and me) to pursue several ideas that originated at the Chicago Biennial Gathering in 2017 to help maintain contact with individual Diaconal Ministers. We are concerned particularly that those who are working outside of the church, retired, or on disability leave lose contact with DUCC and are members.
 - We believe that the primary vehicles for developing and maintaining these relationships are the regional clusters. In May 2019 we wrote to all the regional contacts to encourage more gatherings of the regional clusters, but only heard from one region. Again, in February/March 2020 I corresponded with DUCC members in three regions who have not recently met to encourage such meetings and to inform them of the funds DUCC has to offset the costs of meeting. This resulted in one more region to express an interest in meeting. Hopefully this concern will be discussed at the National Biennial Gathering (in whatever form it takes) to identify outstanding obstacles and other supports which might be offered.

Centre For Christian Studies Report to DUCC

submitted by Michelle Owens, Principal

The visual representation of the Centre for Christian Studies changes from time to time – when I was a student we had dancing purple people and “Living a Theology of Justice”. Other graduates might remember the circle and cross logo, or the tapestry with “Reflect. Act. Be Transformed”. Our current expansive colourful logo is accompanied by “Imagine Church Differently”. We have all been pressed to imagine church – and education for leadership – very differently in the last two months. And we are called to keep imagining differently into the future.



The last Diakonia of the United Church meeting was in Winnipeg, and overlapped with our learning circles, graduation and annual celebrations. Since then, we have continued to implement the program re-design, which included transitioning from theme years (Pastoral Care, Social Ministry and Education/Worship) to a more flexible program, in which we offer one week learning circles which maintain the ‘themes’ with a more concentrated focus in areas such as “Relationships” (Spiritual/Pastoral Care), “Oppression and Resistance” (Social Justice) or “Living Scripture” (Education/Worship). Our program continues to integrate field education, mentorship and external academic courses, and emphasizes transformative learning through praxis, feedback and reflection. We implemented our first online learning circles in January 2019, which provided a solid foundation for this year, when we had to quickly transition our learning plans for the spring learning circles in Winnipeg to online learning in response to pandemic restrictions.

At the same time as implementing our own program changes, we adapted to the governance and candidacy process changes within the United Church of Canada. We have worked to maintain relationships and build new ones with the Office of Vocation and Candidacy Boards, to advocate for diaconal education and ministry and collaborate with the General Council staff so that the education and timelines of diaconal candidates were taken into account as processes were designed.

We continue to celebrate our educational partnerships – the relationship with the Sandy Saulteaux Spiritual Centre, and the joint degree programs with St Andrew’s College in Saskatoon and St Stephen’s College in Edmonton. We have appreciated the opportunities to connect with the diaconate at regional gatherings, at DOTAC in Vancouver and through student field placements.

In 2019 the Central Council of CCS worked on strategic planning. We affirmed the school’s mission – educating leaders for justice, compassion and transformation. We reflected on the history of the diaconal education in Canada. We asked questions about the diaconate’s identity as marginal/cutting edge, and wondered about the rooting of that in the social location (particularly gender) of earlier generations of diaconal ministers. We wondered about the intersection today between the ‘cutting edge’ of the church, and the social location of diakonia.

We confirmed the mission of the school – educating leaders – and also identified that the operative, unspoken mission was educating the vocational diaconate of the United Church of Canada, and is entwined with holding (with Sandy Saulteaux) the diaconal testamur for the United Church. The operative mission, preparing diaconal ministry candidates for one denomination, was narrower than the stated mission. We looked to the DUCC vision statement, and felt the call of the opening lines: “*God calls us to diaconal ministry. The gospel of Jesus invites all to this ministry.*” We thought of all the people – especially laity and ordained clergy – who have expressed a wish

that they had education like that of diaconal ministers. And we wondered how to open our circle so that all leaders who the gospel invites to diaconal service and action might be invited and encouraged to become part of our learning community.

Our vision is to support our core diploma program in diaconal ministry through broadening and diversifying our student community to include more continuing studies students – including diaconal alumni, laity, and ordained colleagues. Therefore, we are focusing on raising the profile of the school and our program offerings through recruitment and marketing initiatives. We are very grateful for the support from the Barbara Elliott Trust Fund for Innovative Ministry at The United Church of Canada Foundation for this initiative.

This direction aligns with a general shift in mainline theological education, where enrollment in M Div programs by candidates for ordered ministry is dropping while enrollment in other programs increases. In fact, many newer programs offered in other schools appear to be attempting pedagogy and content that we have been doing for decades!

We know that our community, and the members of DUCC are our most effective recruiters. Many of our students and alumni describe contact and conversation with a diaconal minister as a key moment in their path towards diaconal education at CCS. We also hope that you might be interested in coming back to circle for continuing education!

We rely on the diaconal community for so much. Thank you for mentoring students, for facilitating field placements, for being a diaconal presence and advocate on Candidacy Boards, for serving on CCS committees, for joining the learning circles as resource people and chaplains, for participating in CCS Sunday, for attending our Annual Meeting. And thank you for your financial support. Our alumni and friends are faithful and generous donors, and we are so grateful for you. We could not continue to educate and innovate without you. Immersion in diaconal education truly is transformative.

DIAKONIA OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
National Gathering, April 17 – 20, 2018
MINUTES

April 17, 2018

Registered Participants

Tammy Allan, Marilyn Anderson Corkum, Lynda Appleby, Paula Ashby, Judy Astley, Patricia, Baker Beth Baskin, Carolynne Bouey Shank, Jamie Bradshaw, Marlene Britton-Walfall, Patricia Chabluk, Terrie Chedore, Lori Crocker, Penelope Cummine, Leila Currie, Denise Davis-Taylor, Deborah Deavu, Ken DeLisle, Ted Dodd, Kathy Douglas, Caryn Douglas, Jen Dresser, Christine Dudley, Anne Duncan, Linda Ervin, Paul Gehrs, Kent Gibbons, Marcie Gibson, Richard Golden, Joan Golden, Lynda Gow, Catherine Gutjahr, Jim Hatt, John Helps, David Hewitt, Joan Jarvis, Kimiko Karpoff, Debra Kigar, Deborah Laforet, Mark Laird, Lora Laleva, Roland Legge, Patricia Lisson, Karen Lumley, Betty Marlin, Martha Martin, Maureen McCartney, Sherri McConnell, Betty Lou McNabb, Vicki McPhee, Yvonne Naismith, Ann Naylor, Dorothy Naylor, Michelle Owens, Christina Paradela, Kathy Platt, Irene Rainey, Susan Reed, Helen Reed, Nancy Renwick, Heather Robbins, John Robertson, Tracy Robertson, Heather Sandilands, Annika Sangster, Margaret Scott, Thea Sheridan-Jonah, Jenny Stephens, Lori Stewart, Sue Taylor, Anne Telford, Karen Tjaden, Kathryn Toivanen, Lynda Trono, Joan Tuchlinsky, Eric Tusz-King, Oriole Veldhuis, Deborah Vitt, Joshua Ward, Kelley Warner, Kristin Woodburke, Lyn Workman

Opening

The afternoon began with music, community building, and opening worship. After a break the business session began with Vicki McPhee welcoming everyone to the meeting and reviewing the agenda. She identified some changes. This afternoon we will be looking at the budget and finances. Consensus and DUCC history is moved from today to Wednesday morning.

Vicki introduced everyone from the Coordinating Committee: Ted Dodd (DOTAC Rep); Lori Crocker (Communication and Membership), Eric King (staff), Marlene Britton-Walfall (member-at-large); Helen Reed (treasurer), Lori Stewart (secretary).

Jan Cherry sent greetings and prayer through Facebook. The following guests were introduced: Team Leader for PC MEPS—Jenny Stephens, and ecumenical guests—Penny Cummine (Anglican Deacon), Paul Gehrs ELCIC (ordained minister with experience in diaconal formation in that tradition), and Beth Baskin (ACC lay).

Finance Report

Helen Reed let us through her report which can be found on page 11-13 in the compiled reports. We have money. There was an \$8000 surplus in 2017 which is attributed to moving from 36 to 96 memberships in DUCC (which generated \$11,000) in last year. \$5000 more came in than we spent. There was \$24,000 in the bank at the end of the year. We have a savings account and a GIC that gained interest. The United Church pays for our memberships in DOTAC and World Diakonia and for insurance for events like this one (\$2500). Income from registrations was \$25,000. Anything with an asterisk means we don't really know how much money will come in or go out but they are in and out. As of March 31, we received \$42,845.08 with \$4000 in travel pool. So far we have spent \$1,983.81. Helen went over the expenses. There are two honoraria, which require T4 slips: one to treasurer and one to staff person.

Communications Cluster recommended that we no longer budget for a newsletter editor or mail chimp sender. There will still be an honorarium for the web minder.

Motion: (Denise Davis-Taylor/Carolynne Bouey-Shank) That two people be designated to review the books. CARRIED. Mark Laird and Ann Naylor volunteered.

- Helen explained that we can't donate to of Diakaid through DUCC but individually we can.
- Thanks were expressed for making it possible to do e-transfers.

Budget

There is a four-year budget but it is not very accurate—it is being confirmed as time passes.

Announcements

- The members of the Planning Team for this event were named and thanked.
- General Council attendees were identified.
- Tracy Robertson led us in a movement grace.

Theme

Supper was followed by a theme session with Wilma Derksen speaking on courageous risking through letting go and forgiveness. Her presentation was followed by a small groups who could choose to do an exercise in forgiving or a worksheet on risk assessment and choices.

Theological Reflection

Our ecumenical guests, Penny Cummine, Paul Gehrs, and Beth Baskin offered their reflections on being part of this gathering.

Memorials

Memories and tributes were offered for those deaconesses and diaconal ministers who have died since our last gathering.

April 18, 2018

Opening

The day began at 5:45 with a sacred fire and prayer ceremony at the Odena Circle at the forks. Melodie McKellar and Deborah Vitt made the arrangements and Melodie led a ceremony for giving thanks and greeting grandfather sun.

After breakfast, Melodie introduced herself and told of her life and work in spiritual care at the Selkirk Mental Health Facility. She read excerpts from a piece she wrote in a book called *Multifaith Views on Spiritual Care*. We entered into a time of prayer and then we made tobacco ties to take back to our communities and places where we minister. She closed with a healing song. Karen Tjaden thanked her with a gift.

Theme

Sean Loney was our guest for the theme presentation this morning speaking about social enterprise. He has started 11 social enterprises. Sean is the author of *An Army of Problem Solvers*. He currently works with Akki Energy. He challenges governments and business to work with those who are building on the resilience in their communities.

DUCC History

Eric Tusz-King (staff person of DUCC) did a review of DUCC history using a slideshow.

Nominations Report

Lori Crocker gave a nominations report, including an overview of the present DUCC organizational structure.

She reported that with the exception of a couple of key positions, we have many good people in place to be about the work of our organization. Here are the people who will be serving throughout the next two-year period from National Gathering 2018 to National Gathering 2020.

Coordinating Committee

Chair: Vicki MacPhee

Secretary: vacant

Treasurer: Helen Reed

Staff: Eric Tusz-King

Communications/Membership Committee

Chair Lori Crocker

Secretary: Kathy Toivanen.

Database: Deb Kigar

Mail chimp: Kathy Toivanen

Web Minder: vacant

Staff Liaison: Eric Tusz-King

Card Secretary: Kay Dean

DUCC Representative to DOTAC Ted Dodd

Communications/Membership Liaison Lori Crocker

Member at Large Marlene Britton –Walfall

Web Minder: Deb Laforet

David Hewitt

Laura Hunter

Kent Gibbons

Annika Sangster

Martha Martin

Advocacy Committee (just getting regrouped)

Michelle Owens, Carolynne Bouey Shank, Ann Naylor, Catherine Gutjahr, Keith Simmonds

Staff Liaison Eric Tusz-King (with the possibility of others to be added as the work gets underway)

National Gathering 2020 Local Arrangements

Dorothy Naylor and friends with the intention of the National Gathering being planned for the spring of 2020 (post Easter)

National Gathering 2020 Theme and Worship

TBA

Barb Elliot Trust Fund

Nan Corrigan, Susan Butler- Jones, Denise Davis Taylor

Kaufman Fund

Lynda Appleby, Judy Astley, Ellen Bayton- Walker

Those retiring from Committees and Positions were offered thanks for their service.

Secretary of the Coordinating Committee - Lori Stewart

Webminder and Mail Chimp - Caryn Douglas

Positions still needing to be filled at this 2018 Gathering

These are three key needs that we have at this time, so please folks give this prayerful thought

- Coordinating Committee Secretary
- Website Minder
- Theme and Worship people for the 2020 National Gathering

We are still looking for a secretary of the Coordinating Committee and a team to look after Theme and Worship for the 2020 National Gathering. We need to appoint or reappoint a coordinating committee for the Kaufman Fund. The Barb Eliot Fund management is also appointed.

Linda Ervin expressed thanks to the present Communication and Membership Cluster and to the Treasurer who have all done great work to get us organized.

Identity and Advocacy Conversation

For 10 minutes we were asked to discuss this question and bring back notes to Ann Naylor:

What are the images, passages, concepts that are shaping our understanding of diaconal ministry today?

- Herding ducks
- Companionship
- The good Samaritan story
- Happenstance
- Jesus empowering people to heal
- Go out in 2's--Protest march holding arms—who is diaconal
- Church is no longer in the centre—forced to margins which is where we are comfortable
- Philip—preaching, teaching, baptizing—oops in unlikely places
- Ethiopian eunuch being brave enough to ask
- Syro-Phoenician woman challenging exclusionary thinking
- Jesus' turning over tables
- Jesus eating with everyone—core of diakonia is building community
- Overlapping circles of engagement—outside and inside with different groups
- Subversive Midwifing—Puah and Shiprah

Site Visits

The afternoon was spent in visits to various sites around Winnipeg. These included:

- Corrections and Restorative Justice
- Centre for Truth and Reconciliation
- Social Enterprise Initiatives
- Community Ministries
- Indigenous Art
- Workshops at Hotel--Being Allies and Artful Reflection/Reflective Art

Dinner and Evening

The group gathered at Knox United Church for a meal and table conversations facilitated by the Centre for Christian Studies. Back at the hotel the local arrangements committee hosted a Manitoba Socail for the evening.

April 19, 2018

Opening

The day opened with music and worship reflecting on gratitude for each new day.

Kaufman Fund Report

Judith Astley and Lynda Appleby and gave background on the Kaufman Fund. Their terms of reference require them to report annually to DUCC. All United Church diaconal ministers and graduates of CCS are eligible to apply for a grant for continuing education, refreshment, and emergencies (rest, renewal, and emergencies). It was set up in 1989 with an administrative committee, which is affirmed each time DUCC gathers. The members of the committee live in close proximity. They were reaffirmed last year for 3 years. Last year gave 6 grants, but there are not a lot of applications. A discussion of how to advertise the fund ensued. Kimiko Karpoff offered to write a story for CCS communication (Tapestry and Common Threads). The suggestion was made that the DUCC e-mail might also be a good idea. The money was placed in the United Church Foundation a few years ago. This year they received \$6000 in interest which is available to disburse. \$75,000+ available in the capital. Looking for one more to join the committee. Linda Ervin agreed to do that.

Nominations (continued)

Lori Crocker reported that they are still looking for a secretary for DUCC. Christine Dudley has offered to come on as a member-at-large. Two people have offered to lead worship for the next gathering. The nominations committee is still looking for people to take on the theme planning.

Images and Scripture Relating to Diakonia

We continued a conversation about the images and scripture relating to diakonia. The background is that issues arise and people ask: what is the position of DUCC? It takes time to come to consensus. Mediation training teaches us to move from positions to interests. This is an exercise to think of UCC issues and discuss the interests that you hold. The following were named:

- Value of community
- Celebrating diversity with respect
- As we change in presbyteries and regions, who is not at the table
- Consensus is valuable despite the difficulties
- Value of education and experience together
- Issue of being placed or settled into an outreach ministry—murky and messy
- Value of diakonia to the church
- Educational process changes how we do ministry
- ability to function in ministry—recognized—to be able to operate ecumenically or in settings outside church or congregation—express ministry diaconally
- rooted in our historical context
- diaconal identity—using it as a lens through which to view issues

Collecting our values, interests, identifying lenses means we can name things that need to be said when we are at the table.

Announcements

- Thanks were expressed to Cathie Clement for her participation in the registration process.
- Beatrix Shirner passed on her greetings—she was hoping to come but was prevented by health concerns and is now doing well.

Theme

Karen Tjaden introduced Niigaan Sinclair, our theme speaker for the morning. His topic was Indigenous and Canadian Futures. He holds the Graduate Program Chair in the Department of Native Studies at the University of Manitoba. He is with us through the Treaty Relations Commission of MB. Niigaan is Anishnabe originally from St. Peters-Little Peguis. Following Niigaan's presentation, we went into small groups to discuss questions.

Human Rights Museum

In the afternoon, DUUC went over to the forks and had a group picture taken and then visited the Canadian Museum of Human Rights.

Theme

In the evening, following a song, David Lappano who is on program staff at the Centre for Christian Studies, introduced Sonya Ballantyne, an indigenous film maker from Manitoba. Sonya showed some of her films and spoke about the messages she is trying to convey with them.

Theological reflection

Our ecumenical guests, Penny, Paul, and Beth offered their reflections on being part of this gathering.

Closing

The evening ended with worship and a social time.

April 20, 2018

Opening

The day opened with singing and worship.

Decision-making at DUCC

Ann Naylor and Eric Tsuz-King gave an overview of the DUCC consensus process.

It was revealed that there needs to be additional clarification about who is eligible to participate in decision making, should that be necessary. It was suggested that for today, we should trust that people discern whether to participate or not. Further discussion on this matter will be left to the Coordinating Committee—who is eligible to participate in decision-making? E.g. those who have completed a DUCC membership form, those who are in the DUCC database, those who are UCC diaconal ministers?

MEPS has come to DUCC for our opinion on what diaconal identity is—we have done several things through the time together and have gathered a set of descriptive lenses: community, respectful diversity, awareness of marginalization, honouring diaconal history, vision of peace and justice. We used the consensus model to agree on the lenses of diaconal identity. These are a framework for our next discussion.

Sacramental Licensing for Diaconal Ministers

We looked at a proposal on sacramental licensing for Diaconal Ministers that has come from MEPS for our input. The question arises about who will grant sacramental licenses. Because this licensing has to do with the function and practice of ministry and needs of pastoral charges it would rightly belong to the Regional Councils not the Office of Vocations. This proposal is an implementation piece in our new structure.

PC MEPS cannot bring things to GC that are counter to the results of Remit 6 e.g. receive licensing for sacraments at commissioning.

We discussed the wisdom of this proposal. Jenny Stephens made notes on the points in the discussion which included concerns about people in non-traditional ministries, retirees who are not in covenanted relationships, those who do not feel called to sacramental ministry and do not want to administer the sacraments, enabling sacraments elders as leaders. We eventually moved into a process of consensus seeking led by Vicki McPhee. We did not reach consensus and a vote was called.

Motion: (Ken DeLisle/Michelle Owens) That DUCC affirm the proposed statement from MEPS: “the regional council will grant a license to administer the sacraments to diaconal ministers when they are covenanted to their call, appointment, or employment in ministry”. CARRIED.

Jenny Stephens thanked DUCC for the invitation to participate in the gathering.

Ann Naylor offered some words of reflection on our consensus process and encouraged us to keep working on getting it right.

DOTAC Report

Ted Dodd spoke about the work of Diakonia of the Americas and the Caribbean. It’s an organization of diaconal communities in the western hemisphere. The last assembly was in 2015 in Brazil with the theme of “From crumbs to full communion”. Diakonia Overcoming Violence Experience (DOVE) which is an event of DOTAC was held in 2015. Ted introduced all of the member groups in DOTAC.

In 2019 DOTAC will meet in Vancouver from August 14 (travel day) to August 20. At UBC with the theme of “Respecting Covenant: Risking the Journey towards Reconciliation”. We will be looking at the theme through three lenses: indigenous voices, creation, and global migration. It will be an experience of solidarity and excitement in commonalities and sense of kindred spirits even though diaconal expressions are diverse. Registration information will be coming out some time this summer.

World Diakonia Reflections

Karen Tjaden reported that she was privileged to be a part of this gathering. It inspired and encouraged her in her own practice especially because of so many expressions of diakonia. She has a stronger sense of the diakonia of all believers and the importance of that call to the church. The majority were outside of congregational ministries. It piqued questions and pointed out ecumenical expressions of diakonia. Most powerful learning happened on the edges—outside sessions, on streets, at meals, etc.

Kent Gibbons was interested in the communal aspects of some deaconess orders. He met one young woman who was committed to social justice and was part of a German order. Deaconesses were doing pastoral care and palliative care in Africa in order to save lives in orphanages, hospitals, schools. One of the speakers, Michael Kinnamon, talked about the emerging global issues stemming from nationalistic policies. Kent named three things that were mentioned in his talk: the witness of religion in an age of fear. Working toward living in hope rather than fear. Meeting with a diverse group of men for coffee each week. Kent is trying to do that with evangelical ministers in his area.

Next world event 2021 in Darwin, Australia.

Linda Ervin reflected on other opportunities to become friends with other diaconal folk across denominational lines—attend events if invited and go to their conferences. She urged people at this gathering to attend DOTAC and World Diakonia Assemblies.

Announcements

Deborah Laforet introduced the youth she brought with her to expose them to the work of diakonia. They offered their reflections:

- Risk of coming into a group that they didn't know but see that there is life in risking
- Missing school but worth it
- Liked hearing from Sonya—her story was inspiring—used her difficulties as fuel to the fire to become an amazing film maker. No power in putting people down.
- Liked the sunrise ceremony—indigenous ceremony seems to be in connection with the church—not happening at school or in city
- Human Rights Museum and workshop on Truth and Reconciliation: we have a past in Canada; we are working to become better.
- Memorial service was revealing of history—how women worked for diakonia even when not recognized
- Take home: knowing that we care about them as people not seeing them as trouble makers. Felt special and welcomed and have a place, offer a different perspective on what is going on now.
- Thanks

They will also be at GC. Deborah urged us to bring youth to DOTAC.

Nominations (continued)

Lori Crocker reported that she is excited that people came to her. Christine Dudley will be the new member-at-large on the Coordinating Committee. Jen Dresser and Terri Chedore will coordinate worship for the next gathering. Tammy Allen has offered her region to do theme. The good news about a secretary is that there have been nominations. They will be contacted and checked in with.

Theological Reflection

Penny Cummine spoke about her anti-poverty work in Kenora which this gathering brought to mind. Relationships are key to survival for those living in poverty, middle class fear the future, in wealth people fear instability. In Kenora did a workshop called Bridges out of Poverty and followed up with a committee within the community to support those transitioning out of generational poverty. It is critical work of diaconal ministry.

Paul Gehrs felt this was a spirit-led event, people that needed to be here were here. Planning brought in amazing voices that needed to be heard. Feel emotional but it has been transformative experience—some of those voices about what is needed for the world to heal were very important. Ken and Ted invited Paul—have a good reputation and came out of respect for them. Paul and Ken share experience of the Deaf church. Reflections on DUCC as community—working at the margins is hard so need the community as a support. Paul sees the work as helping the baptized participate in God's work of loving and healing the world. Ordered ministry is a strategy not the core of being the church. Baptism is our primary calling—diakonia is about the liturgy after the liturgy--taking the food from the table to feed the world (welcome, equality, feeding). He closed with a commissioning.

Thanksgivings

Ken DeLisle and Ted Dodd thanked those who were involved in this event: theme planners, Ann Duncan and Irene Rainey who were registrars, Cathie Clement for her work in the background, worship planning team, music team (for music and technology), Heather Sandilands and Joan Jarvis, Patricia and Marilyn Anderson Corkum, Michelle Owens and Ann Naylor—facilitators, community building team, memorials—Caryn Douglas and Beth McLean, coordinating committee members, staff person—Eric King.

The also thanked the following people who helped or participated: Jenny Stephens (GC staff), ecumenical guests: Paul Gehrs, Kimiko Karpoff (photography), cookie bakers (Heather Robbins, Irene Rainey, Anne Duncan, Maureen McCarthy, Deborah Vitt, Marilyn Anderson Corkum), Kathy Toivenan who helped feed the planning team, those who let spiritual options, and workshop leaders.

The event closed with a song.