

DOTAC and DWF Report to  
DUCC National Gathering  
October 3-6, 2022



### DOTAC Board

- A DOTAC Board Meeting has been meeting via Zoom every other month
- Plans are underway to have our first in-person meeting in person November 14-18 in Minnesota

### Finances

- DOTAC finances are in good shape
- We appreciate Helen Reed has stepped into the role of chair of the Finances Committee

### Spirituality

- *Monthly Prayer Zoom Meeting*
  - Since June 2020, DOTAC has been organizing a prayer gathering on the first of each month.
  - Odd months at noon Central Time
  - Even months at 5 pm Central Time
  - If interested in joining us, send an email -- [teddodd@live.com](mailto:teddodd@live.com)



- *Weekly Prayer*
  - Lectionary-based prayers were posted on the DOTAC Facebook page for most of COVID
- *Spiritual Practice Session*
  - One session on integrating contemplation and creativity was offered in 2021
  - Hopes are to encourage other of these opportunities

### Education Committee

- *Thanks*
  - To Marcie Gibson, who represents DUCC on the DOTAC Education Committee
- *Mondays in May*
  - 2021 and 2022 Seminar Series was positively reviewed by the committee
  - Agreed to go ahead with a 2023 Series
    - Names of potential presenters atwelcome

#### Education



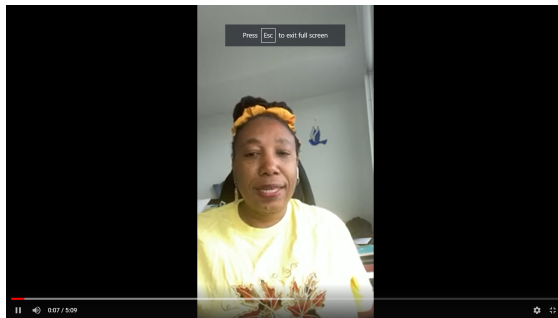
#### *Mondays in May: Seminar Series on Diakonia*

- In May of both 2021 and 2022, DOTAC organized a seminar series featuring scholars who have written and conducted research related to diakonia.
- The speakers' presentations have been recorded and made available on the website.



- *Video Project*

- One profile from each of the 12 communities/associations
- Participants to answer the following questions:
  - What lead you into the diaconate?
  - What is your diaconal work/ministry focus?
  - What biblical story guides your diaconal ministry?
  - What image of diakonia is important to you?
- Videos will be used as a profile on the individual and will be spliced together with “sound bits” for each of the four questions
- Videos will be posted on the website and shared on the DOTAC Facebook page and DOTAC YouTube channel
- Thank you to Marlene Britton for representing DUCC  
<https://youtu.be/waLZDly3XXQ>

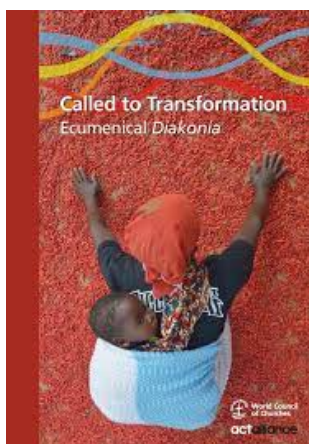


- *Diaconal Formation*

- Paragraphs describing the diaconal formation process of each of the 12 communities/associations
- Paragraphs will be added to the website and posted on the DOTAC Facebook page – one a week for twelve weeks

- *WCC Document*

- The World Council of Churches document "Called to Transformative Action: Ecumenical Diakonia" was the focus of a September Zoom study. [Called to Transformation Ecumenical Diakonia Web Med Res.pdf](#)
- Presenters were:
  - Monday, September 12 -- Matthew Ross, WCC Staff
  - Monday, September 19 – Marianne Uri Overland, DRAE President
  - Monday, September 26 – Hyuk Cho, UCC delegate to WCC Assembly



- *Study Exchanges*
  - The idea of having students, and those already in the diaconate, attend other DOTAC diaconal formation courses was discussed. Background: In situations where the formation is largely seminary-based the concern was raised that diaconal identity is not attended to with much intentionality.
    - Some could attend hybrid or virtual courses, e.g.
      - Centre for Christian Studies <https://ccsonline.ca/program/courses-and-circles/>
      - United Methodist Deaconess and Home Missioners, Theology of Mission
      - Lutheran Diaconal Association, Seminar Week
    - Some could attend in person, e.g.
      - ELCA Deaconess Community, J Term <https://deaconesscommunity.org/j-term-2019/>
      - AED or ADC Diocesan retreats for Deacons
    - Would DUCC be willing to consider funding tuition (or travel) for those from the south who might benefit from these programs?

### DOTAC Assembly 2023

- August 14-18, 2023, in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA
  - Costs will be US Dollars \$425 plus accommodation and travel
- Theme and Program Planning Team met in early July and considered the feedback from the DOTAC Board
  - Theme will be:

#### **Gather at the River**

#### **Connect Heal Engage**

We will gather on Dakota land, near Bdote – the sacred place where two rivers meet

To connect as ecumenical and international diaconal community

In lament of a world of

racism and ecological gloom

poverty and pandemic

war and uprooted people

To claim healing for ourselves, the planet, and its people

And move toward holy joy in our work for justice



- Registration
  - Registration went live on October 1
- Publicity
  - A Save the Date message was shared widely since August 14 (a year out from the Assembly)

### Social Justice Committee

- *16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence: November 25-December 10.*
  - This programming was considered helpful in 2021 and DOTAC will offer more programming in 2022
  - It included;
    - A daily prayer from various members of DOTAC posted on the Facebook page
    - A calendar of daily activities and learning that participants could follow

- Five Zoom gatherings for bible study, worship, or prayer services
- Thanks to Marlene Britton for her passion and commitment to this project on the planning team



- **Anti-Racism**

- DOTAC followed up in 2021 on the Racial Justice discussion and learning group



- The World Council of Churches gave a grant to DOTAC through their Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace program, to continue our anti-racism work



- This enabled DOTAC to partner with other organizations: Kairos Canada, Christian Peacemaker Teams, and Together Here Ministries.



- **Diakonia Overcoming Violence Exchange (DOVE)**

- Originally scheduled for an in-person exchange in Jamaica in September 2020, the event was moved to a virtual format in September 2021. Participants were exposed to scholarship, and a number of agencies and initiatives, in Jamaica that are addressing the impact of violence in their culture.
- DUCC was represented by Vicki McPhee, Elaine Kellogg, Marlene Britton, and Karen Tjaden



**VIRTUAL ASSEMBLY**  
**DIAKONIA WORLD FEDERATION**  
**Dates: 24th and 25th October**  
**Theme: [Dis]embodied Diakonia**

**About the theme**

***Embodied ('in body')***

We each embody and live out diakonia in different ways. How do we live out our understanding of diakonia in our different contexts? What is the gift my tradition gives to you? What from your tradition is a gift to me?

(Receptive ecumenism/diaconal ecumenism)

John 1:14 The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighbourhood.

***Disembodied – spiritual connections***

COVID has disconnected us from meeting in person. We may feel as if our 'online' connections are 'disembodied'. But there is a spiritual thread that connects us as God's Spirit weaves us together.

Ephesians 4:4 There is one body and one Spirit - just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call.

**What you need to know**

The Assembly will be "held" October 24th & 25th, 2022

**People do not need to register - all information will be on the website in September.**

**Organise a time for a 'watch party' at a time that suits you.**

Videos will be posted on the DWF YouTube channel those days that will include:

- Worship times provided by member communities,
- DIAKAID reports from our recent DIAKAID Grant recipients
- Regional Reports from DIAKONIA regions
- President Sandy Boyce's report
- Selected videos from individual member communities from around the world
- Some short presentations from speakers about DIAKONIA

After the videos have been presented (according to the program) on these two days, they will be posted to the DIAKONIA World Federation YouTube channel for viewing at any time.

**Cost**

We are just asking you to give what you can as a registration fee. You can pay through the DWF PayPal link, found on our [website](#).

Note: Because we expect very minimal costs to do this assembly, all remaining money from registration will be added to our travel fund, which provides transportation and registration fees to insure the attendance of at least one person from each of our member communities at an in-person Assembly.

**'Viewing parties'**

We are encouraging you to gather other diaconal people together to have "viewing parties" for this assembly. Because we will be posting the videos on YouTube, these would not have to necessarily occur on those days in October!

## **New Structure**

### *Executive Committee*

Previously, the Executive Committee of DWF met once a year in person. During COVID we have been meeting monthly via Zoom. The meetings tend to be short as the time zone differences mean that the folks in Australia are getting up very early in the morning, and the Africans and Europeans start the meeting very late at night. Despite the shortness of the meetings, this regularity of contact has empowered the organization and enabled accountability and deep relational energy. Ted Dodd serves on the Executive Committee as President of DOTAC.

### *Committees*

DIAKONIA World Federation is in the process of forming several committees. These committees are:

*Communication* – oversight of the various communication platforms of the World Federation (e.g. E-news, Web Site, Monthly Prayer, President's Blog, social media).

*DIAKAID* (grants) –review grant applications, promote donations, and support those involved in DIAKAID projects.

*Membership Connections* – encourage relationships between and amongst DIAKONIA World Federation member communities and individuals, i.e. animate affinity groups and on-line connections.

*Diaconal Formation*– coordinate and support a network of those doing diaconal formation and training, and encourage sharing of information across the Federation.

*Donor Development* – promote donor development for the DIAKONIA World Federation. Caryn Douglas serves on this committee.

*Finance Committee* – oversee the financial management and budgeting process.

*New Member Communities* – recruit and support new member communities in DIAKONIA World Federation.

*Justice Committee* –Currently, the committee has chosen to focus their work on climate change. Eric Tusz-King chairs this group.

*Theology of Diakonia* – encourage theological discussion, study and reflection about the nature, purpose and aims of diakonia.

*Volunteer Coordination* – recruit, orient, and support the volunteers in the committee structure. Ted Dodd chairs this committee.

### *DIAKAID*

In 2020 fifteen projects were funded around the world. These projects focused on response during the pandemic. In 2021 ten more projects were awarded grants. It was decided in 2022 to re-group in order to systemize the application process and deadlines, and seek donations to refurbish the fund. For more information, or to make a donation, go to: <https://diakonia-world.org/diakaid/>

Respectfully submitted,

Ted Dodd -- DOTAC President and DUCC representative to DOTAC