

**DIAKONIA OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA  
2005 NATIONAL GATHERING  
TATAMAGOUCHE, NOVA SCOTIA  
April 5-8, 2005**

**Present:** Linda Clark, Nancy Corrigan, Lori Crocker, Karen Dale, Kay Dean, Deborah Deavu, Ted Dodd, Caryn Douglas, Kathy Douglas, Anne Duncan, Linda Ervin, Ellen Flemming, Madonna Fradsham, Nancy Fraser, Lynda Gow, David Hewitt, Annette Hoare, Laura Hunter, Cheryl Kirk, Roland Legge, Juanita McKinnon-Smith, Jessie McLeod, Sally Meyer, Yvonne Naismith, Ann Naylor, Dorothy Naylor, Martha Martin, Betty Lou McNabb, Carolyn Nicholson, Christina Paradela, JunnHee Park, Kathy Platt, Irene Rainey, Annika Sangster, Yoon Ok Shin, Karen Thorne, Kathy Toivanen, Joan Tuchlinsky, Eric Tusz-King, Deborah Vitt, Nancy Wetsalaar

**Business 1—Tuesday, April 5—4:00p.m. (Linda Clark recording)**

**History: Review of who we are and how we got here**

Dorothy Naylor provided a brief history of diaconal ministry within the United Church of Canada: How we journeyed from deaconesses to commissioned ministers to diaconal ministers. How the association of Diakonia of United Church of Canada (DUCC) was formed. She then reviewed the years in which national gatherings were held and invited folks to indicate which ones they had attended.

**Review of Consensus Model**

Roland reviewed the model for reaching consensus:

1. proposal presented
2. questions for clarification
3. open discussion—if necessary, small groups
4. check for consensus; a) ask or b) straw vote
5. if no or undecided, invite further questions for clarification
6. again check for consensus
7. if no consensus, either table the matter or take a vote with 2/3 majority needed—this would depend upon the issue itself
8. return to small groups to discuss implications

After a bit of discussion, we agreed to function using this model.

**Agenda Check**

Roland referred people to the Agenda, noting the following be added:

- Advocating for diaconal ministry within the system (to Wednesday's afternoon business session)
- Standards of Practice and Ethical Standards for Ministry Personnel (the Coordinating/Finance cluster will try to find time for this in plenary).
- Replaced Ethical Standards etc. with Restorative Care (break-out groups Wednesday afternoon)

### **Approval of 2003 Minutes**

Dorothy Naylor introduced this item, referring people to the précis that was sent prior to the gathering. She also mentioned that five people were enlisted to read the entire minutes; Dorothy asked for input from those people. With the exception of a few typos, it was agreed that the Minutes were an accurate reflection of the business sessions of the 2003 National Gathering.

### **Accountability Reports**

- (a) **Regional Reports** Lynda Gow invited representatives from the various regions to offer a brief report about activities in their area.

Newfoundland/Labrador Karen Thorne reported that there has not been a lot of activity among their group; there are only the two of them and they are twelve hours apart. She is feeling the need for better advocacy within the Conference. Karen recorded the need for inclusive language in the small group/break out group

Maritime Eric Tusz-King reported that they meet at the Conference Annual meeting; Lori Crocker indicated they had had a visit from Caryn Douglas (Principal at CCS) to an event for Pastoral Relations committees of the Presbyteries; she also reported on the numbers of new diaconal ministers and current students. David Hewitt said their conference still has a Ministry Personnel & Education Committee on which he serves as a diaconal representative.

Montreal and Ottawa Sally reported that her Conference Celebration of New Ministries last year was very inclusive of diaconal ministry.

Bay of Quinte No report

Manitou No report

Toronto A written report is in our kits. We decided to send a card to Margaret Collard letting her know she was missed.

Hamilton Deb Deavu reported that a small group has been involved in planning for this event, but we haven't had a large gathering for quite a while. One of the highlights is that Roz Vincent-Haven is the incoming President of Hamilton Conference. Deb offered a concern about the lack of full-time positions that would traditionally be identified as diaconal positions. Kathy also mentioned that our Conference is in favour of pursuing the one-rite of entry into ministry in the UCC.

London Lynda Gow referred folks to the written report included in the kits. (see appended report).

Manitoba-Northwestern Ontario Deborah Vitt reported that they had provided a Communications cluster report, but she did say they had gathered not too long ago with a presentation from Ted Dodd. They also meet at their Conference Annual Meetings, gathered specifically during a meal time. 35 of them gathered at Conference at Thunder Bay.

Saskatchewan No report. Roland is moving there in a few weeks and will be connecting.

Alberta-Northwest See written report in the kits. They too meet regularly at Conference Annual meeting to honour comings and goings.

British Columbia Linda Ervin provided a written and verbal report. (see appended report)

**(b) DUCC Coordinating Cluster** Roland referred us to the written report that was included in our kits asking us to read it and think about any questions.

**(c) DUCC Communications Cluster** Lynda Gow referred us to the written report that was included in our kits, asking us to read it and think about any questions.

### Business 2—Wednesday, April 6—11:20a.m.

#### **Accountability Reports (con't.)**

**DUCC Coordinating Cluster** Lynda Gow introduced their report indicating highlights including the membership numbers. (see appended report)

**DUCC Communications Cluster** Deborah Vitt referred folks to their report, identifying the highlights, including the creation of a website for DUCC which is now in existence at ducc.ca and is currently under construction. Their committee is recommending that an honorarium of \$200.00 a year be given to the webmaster. Thanks was expressed to this cluster for their good work. (see appended report)

#### ***Madonna Fradsham, brought greetings.***

Madonna was the ecumenical guest, from the Association of Anglican Deacons in Canada.

**National Gathering Planning** Cheryl Kirk reported on the activities of this planning group from London Conference. Joan Tuchlinsky talked about the issue of honorarium for those involved in the various aspects of our events. She referred to those involved in providing the theme times. Cheryl Kirk talked about changes to the travel pool structure, specifically that we no longer get substantial funding from the National church towards it, so the amounts that people receive may be substantially less than in the past. Thanks was expressed to this cluster for their good work.

**Local Arrangements** Lori Crocker reported that so far things seem to be going well here. She offered her thanks to those who had to wait at the airport for transportation to the Centre. She indicated that Tatamagouche Centre had been particularly great to work with and very supportive. Lori expressed that it has been helpful to be the Local Arrangements cluster because it has forced them to be in touch with one another and to come together as a Maritime Conference group.

#### ***Theological Schools***

- Francis Sandy Theological Centre—Dorothy Naylor referred folks to the written report that was included in our kits, then Betty Lou McNabb spoke to the report. (see appended report)
- Dr. Jessie Saulteaux Resource Centre—Lynda Gow referred to the written report that had been distributed. (see appended report) Deborah Vitt brought greetings from Melody McKellar.

- Centre for Christian Studies—Caryn Douglas showed a presentation to those gathered; it is a three minute presentation that can be used to introduced someone to CCS. She then referred people to the written report, highlighting what lies ahead. Things are great at CCS—strong, talented staff, a study body numbering around 50. The only not-so-great thing is the funding support; they have created a new committee to do some re-visioning with a mandate to imagine bold new initiatives. Their funding from the national church has been cut by \$100,000.00 so they need to really look at what needs to change in order to keep fulfilling the need that exists. Caryn encouraged us to seek out financial supporters in our communities.
- Ted Dodd offered a recognition of those in our midst who graduated from schools outside the three foregoing schools – namely Emmanuel College, and the Western Field-Based Program.

### *International Voices*

DOTAC—Linda Ervin referred to her written report, and presented brochures about the organization. (see appended report)

### **Business 3—Wednesday, April 6—2:00p.m.**

#### *International Voices (con't).*

DOTAC (con't.)—Linda Ervin continued her report by talking about the DiakAid project of World Federation of Diakonia. A few projects which have been funded through this fund are: Korean Diaconal Sisters; translation of several books for Methodist training in Indonesia; IELCB—a Brazilian Lutheran group; Zambia project—helped to buy chickens for orphans to care for and to sell their eggs for the purchase of medicine to fight AIDS. The World Federation is also supporting relief efforts in Southeast Asia. (see appended report).

**Kaufmann Fund** Roland referred us to the written report in our kits and invited us to read it over. Cheryl Kirk mentioned that she had applied to the Fund on behalf of the gathering, seeking a donation towards the travel pool. The Fund committee indicated that they felt that it was outside their mandate to do that, and that if we wanted their mandate changed, that would be something directed by this gathering.

**Barb Elliott Trust Fund** Roland referred us to the written report in our kits and invited us to read it over, then invited Eric to speak to it. Eric highlighted that he and Marilyn Anderson-Corkum are retiring from the Administrative Committee and that this gathering needs to name replacements. The Coordinating Cluster suggested Russell Mitchell-Walker from Regina and Christine Dudley from B.C. Lynda Gow invited questions. We decided to establish a term of five years and agreed to the appointments of Russell and Christine.

**MEPS (Ministry Education and Personnel Services)** Roland directed us to a letter from Jim Blanchard of MEPS, in which he responded to our invitation to send representation to our gathering. He also invites us to contact him or someone at General Council to arrange a meeting to share our issues/concerns in relation to advocacy and diaconal ministry. Lynda Gow reported that MEPS (and its former beings) had provided financial support to our educational events on a regular basis, but that in order to receive it, we need to ask for it. This is raised in particular for the incoming Coordinating cluster. This issue of advocacy will be discussed in one of our break-out groups.

### ***DOTAC—Discussion and decision re proposal***

Roland introduced this item, referring to the document that had been provided, outlining the proposal. There were a few questions for clarification, during which time it was suggested that in this case, we attempt to introduce a successor for our current representative who would be mentored toward replacing her after her third term. A question was asked if others can attend who are not representatives. It was explained that anyone can go but they are not a voting delegate, and the cost would have to be picked up by the person or by DUCC. It would be possible for a successor to attend meetings with our official delegate, to learn. The proposal was:

- a) that there be an election for this position every four years
- b) that the incumbent, following the first term, may stand for election for two additional terms.

### ***Madonna Fradsham***

As we headed to the break, our guest Deacon, Madonna Fradsham offered us a time of theological reflection on the parable of the farmer planting seeds.

### **Business 4—Wednesday, April 6—3:30p.m. (Karen Thorne recording)**

#### **DOTAC Proposal re representation (con't.)**

Discussion continued on the proposal, with the following addition.

- a) that there be an election for this position every 4 years
- b) that the incumbent, following the first term, may stand for election for 2 additional terms
- c) that at the beginning of a second or third term, whichever is applicable, a successor be elected as a non-voting member of DOTAC for the last 2 years of the term. Expenses would be covered by DUCC.

The whole group was not ready to make a decision at this time. The Coordinating Committee invited further input and suggested that they bring back a proposal for later discussion.

### **Feedback from Breakout Groups**

#### ***Group 1***

1. Advocacy for diaconal ministry within the General Council offices:

It is recommended that we add to our DUCC national structure another cluster called the 'DUCC liaison with the General Council Offices

The role would include:

- monitoring
- liaison
- support
- recruitment
- consultation

The group could be dispersed geographically and would report back to the DUCC coordinating cluster. CONSENSUS was reached on this recommendation.

2. Regarding the issue of diaconal ministers transferring into the UCC:

It is recommended that a letter be written to Ministry Vocations with a copy to Evelyn Rigby, who is on the Ministry Vocations Committee, that there be consideration given to diaconal formation for diaconal ministers transferring from other denominations into the UCC. The letter should include background explaining how important formation of diaconal identity is for preparation for UCC candidates for diaconal ministry. UCC diaconal ministers are wanting those entering from another denomination to have opportunity to be trained in the UCC ethos of

diaconal ministry and to develop connections and community within the UCC diaconate. CONSENSUS was reached on this recommendation.

3. Betty Marlin has drafted some suggestions for DUCC to consider – regarding the recognition of diaconal ministries that are currently not recognized, such as social ministries, and presbyteries appointments.(see appended letter from Betty). More information was needed on this matter . This was endorsed as an ideal at the last General Council but there had been no strategy for getting there. The new Coordinating cluster was requested to develop a strategy on this – such as, a letter to MEPS.

4. Regarding the study entitled 'Faith Talk' from the National Church. We were encouraged to hold informal gatherings to formulate a response to this study with particular attention to the section on ordered ministry (pg 19-21). For information, Debra Schweyer is on the committee of Theology and Faith.

#### **Business 5—Wednesday, April 6—7:00p.m.**

#### **Feedback from Break-out Groups**

##### ***Group 2***

1. Proposed Testamur. Discussion had been sparked by a proposal from Emmanuel College to Education for Church Leadership (ECL) requesting that they be permitted to train persons for Diaconal ministry. Irene Rainey is on ECL and brought this issue for discussion.

Recommendation: That a communication be written by the Coordinating Cluster to ECL and copied to Emmanuel College, raising concerns about the current proposal and requesting that they be in consultation with DUCC and the diaconal community.

Expressed concerns included:

Can formation for diaconal ministry be adequately done simply through a mentor, or is it important to have a residential, community experience?

Would such a proposal drain funds away from the Centre for Christian Studies?

The letter should be copied also to Kathy Toivanen and Caryn Douglas. Deborah Vitt agreed to draft a letter and then have it sent through the Coordinating cluster. CONSENSUS was reached.

2.Funding for Diaconal theological education.

Recommendation: That a letter be written by the Coordinating cluster regarding the issues of ethics and justice around funding formula for theological schools, since not all schools have the same financial resources. CONSENSUS was reached on this.

3. Internships—Caryn Douglas indicated that in a recent meeting of deans and principals, there had been discussion about reviewing the structuring of internships within the educational process for students in the ordination stream, in that it is disruptive to the educational process.

If funding is provided for the internship experience, then how should they, in a similar way fund the field-based component for diaconal students?

### **Group 3**

Staff Associates—Group 3 affirmed the decision made in 1997 to welcome staff associates to DUCC. The group found the statement in the registration brochure to be inclusive to others, such as staff associates: 'DUCC is open to those who see themselves as working in a diaconal style....'. Regional groups have sometimes included staff associates in their gatherings, and this was encouraged by Group 3. They suggested that there be regional contact persons for further DUCC events so that persons such as staff associates might be more comfortable to ask any questions they might have about the organization.

Concern was expressed how some positions are being divided up so as to circumvent the church rules around pensions, etc.

### **Group 4**

Diaconal Identity - the Ordination Question

The question of having one rite of entry into ministry for both ordinands and commissionands was discussed, including the idea of diaconal people being "ordained" to ministries of service, education, pastoral care. There have been church studies and discussions in the past on this issue that basically reaffirmed the status quo.

Recommendation: That the theme time for the next DUCC gathering be on this topic, with consultation invited also in advance of the gathering.

The large group offered a suggestion that instead of making it the theme of the meeting that there be an in-depth discussion of this issue, including adequate preparation time in advance of the DUCC meeting, i.e. a mail-out containing the history, concerns and implications. AGREED.

### **Group 5**

1. Budget 2005—Budget only to be presented tonight for approval by DUCC. AGREED  
Discussion followed as the budget was presented. (See attached) CONSENSUS was reached on the budget as presented.

2. Unionization: Information and strategy—It was recommended that people read their emails on this matter, and that it is important that if a vote is called, that people express their views by voting as opposed to refusing to vote. If even a very small number of people vote and the majority are in favor, it could mean that all ministers would be required to pay union membership dues, even if they refused to join the union.

3. Restorative Care for Diaconal Ministers in Outreach Ministries including overseas mission personnel. The Restorative Care Program is intended to provide funding for replacement personnel in situations where the ministry personnel becomes ill for an extended time. Pastoral charges contribute to this program; however those in alternate ministries do not have this paid.

Recommendation: That a letter be written to MEPS asking why restorative care is not available to personnel in outreach ministries, requesting that they find a way to enable contributions to be paid into the plan to enable restorative care to be available to groups currently not able to access the plan. The group suggested named in the letter that this issue especially affects diaconal ministers since so many work in outreach ministries. Anne Duncan agreed to initiate a draft on this and forward it to the Coordinating cluster. The group also suggested the letter be copied to the Chair of Mission Support Grants Committee. CONSENSUS was reached on this matter.







4. Education Project (Booklets and a process for education about diaconal ministry for Pastoral Relations and Education and Students committees, produced by CDM in 2003). Some changes had been formulated at the DUCC 2003 regarding the content of the booklets, however this task of updating the booklets had not been fully completed. Kathy Toivanen offered to write up a new introductory paragraph. The London cluster offered to make any other helpful suggestions for updating the remaining material, as well as preparing a power point presentation or DVD that could be used as a tool for education about diaconal ministry.

Once the booklets have been updated, the group imagined having some diaconal ministers approach Conference personnel ministers and persons in other appropriate positions to offer copies of the updated booklets and other created resources to them, suggesting that they might use the booklets to raise the profile and to promote diaconal ministry. A concern was raised about whether it is helpful for this group to be doing the work that rightfully should be done by the national church. More conversation tomorrow was deemed necessary on this topic.

### **Small Group Regional Clusters**

We were invited to gather into our regional groups to consider what role, if any, we would be willing to take on.

Maritime Conference offered to take on the role of Coordinating Cluster, with Kay Dean becoming the Treasurer.

London Cluster needed a break but was willing to do the work on the educational booklets.

Hamilton Cluster is willing to prepare the theme for the next DUCC meeting.

Ann Naylor and Kathy Platt have offered to be part of the newly formed liaison cluster and would welcome more persons to this group.

Manitoba Northwestern Ontario offered to continue doing communications.

Alberta/Northwest Cluster is willing to host the next DUCC meeting.

Linda Ervin is going to check with folks in B.C. and Sask. Clusters about possibly doing the planning for the next meeting.

The evening concluded with a presentation and theological reflection by our guest Madonna Fradsham, followed by worship service in the chapel.

### **Business 6 – Thursday, April 7, 2005 – 7:00 – 8:45 p.m. (Kathy Platt recording)**

Nancy Corrigan danced around the circle to call to order our business session.

Question: How will the follow-up to the educational project happen?

- The concern is that the national church is not doing the advocacy, so how will it be done if not by us?
- Needs to be part of the conversation that happens with MEPS
- Also need to consult more widely if major changes need to happen to the books – the budget that is available might not be enough to create totally new booklets
- Videos are very expensive to produce - \$1,000 per minute
- Why not use the web rather than produce a new booklet?
- London cluster will work with the present booklet, and then it could be presented to MEPS as a resource that is needed
- Between London and the coordinating cluster, they would decide what needed to be presented to MEPS
- Also need to find a way to involve the Conference Personnel ministers in the process

### **Representation to DOTAC – recommendations from business committee**

1. Re-affirm Linda Ervin for a third term
2. Future tenure be a maximum of 12 years or three terms
3. A person will be elected 2 years before the end of the incumbent's term – a non-voting rep. The appointment takes effect the following year.
4. The expenses for this one year will be covered by DUCC

Representative needs to be re-affirmed every 4 years and the incumbent needs to inform DUCC two years prior to the completion of the current term if the person wants to carry on for another term. The incumbent needs to be intentional about telling DUCC whether they will continue or not before every national gathering. The Coordinating committee needs to be intentional about reminding people to apply before the national gathering.

A large round of applause was offered in thanks for Linda's very capable leadership.

Consensus was reached for the above recommendations.

### **Kaufman fund**

It was proposed that we reaffirm the following people: Linda Appleby, Sue Browning, Margarete Emminghaus, and Elaine Graham to continue to sit on the Kaufman Fund committee. Consensus was reached. The Communication committee will send them a card of thanks.

A reminder that DUCC could encourage this committee to enlarge their mandate to include allocation of monies from this fund to support the travel pool for this national gathering. The Kaufman fund was created in 1985. Prior to DUCC – they asked DUCC to support it.

Suggest a letter be written asking for them to consider giving a lump sum for the travel pool, advising them that some that apply to the travel pool are students – wait for their response.  
Consensus was reached – the Co-ordinating committee will be asked to write the letter.

### **Newsletter – presented by Caryn Douglas from Communications committee**

Task group: Kay Dean, Linda Clark, Caryn Douglas, Ruth Cairns, Dorothy Naylor – phone conversation

- reviewed the previous mandate to come up with the proposal they are presenting
- recommending editorial committee; editor; layout committee/person

Proposing the name: DiakoNews – news for and about the diaconal community

Proposal is missing the current agreement between DUCC and the national church – need to include it in writing what the agreement will be – that they will run off and mail out

MEPS has not yet figured out how to circulate the newsletter other than in hard copy – will not likely know how to do that before the next national gathering of DUCC

Suggestion that it would be good to send it to theological schools; and each of the membership of DOTAC (12), and World Federation (about 60); Presbytery secretaries – asking them to circulate it to the Pastoral Relations committees and E & S committees

There was discussion about the proposed name.

Reached consensus on the proposal for the newsletter with the name remaining as Diaconal News, and with the additions to the mailing list as above.

### **Ethical Standards and Practice of Ministry – Anne Duncan**

- has been on this committee for 3 years
- began when there was contemplation of moving to a 3 court system
- kept going even when it was decided to stay at a 4 court system
- last March began a consultation across the church asking people to respond to several questions – received 142 responses back
- now will send out the draft standards and wait for responses
- Anne is only diaconal person on the committee
- On page 4, (h) – who should these standards be applied to?

Ended the discussion at this point, with the understanding people would look over the document and come back tomorrow for a 15 minute discussion.

Madonna ended the evening by sharing another reflection. And then we moved into worship.

### **Business 7—Friday, April 8—9:00a.m. (Linda Clark recording)**

#### **Revisit evaluation on how we need to plan our National gathering.**

Joan Tuchlinsky introduced this item making suggestions for upcoming gatherings. Any group or cluster that offers their gifts would not have an honorarium. She mentioned that they discussed the idea of looking after providing each aspect of our gathering ourselves so that we don't have extra costs. We entered into discussion about how this idea sits with everyone. The comments seemed to support this idea. Cheryl Kirk pointed out existing policy - that if someone involved in the planning requires assistance to be here then they could apply to the Coordinating Cluster for it. One other comment was that we keep in mind that it would be helpful to invite a visitor/guest from the World Diakonia to help keep us connected. It was questioned whether or not this inhibits the theme planners should they need to invite an outside resource person. It was clarified that this was an important notation to keep in mind that the theme folks would be allowed to do so. Roland summarized the discussion and sought consensus. CONSENSUS was reached.

Cheryl Kirk reported that with the contributions to the travel pool, and the fact that a number of people chose not to apply for travel pool money, the planning cluster will be able to cover 70%

#### **Idea for Continuing Education**

Eric introduced the idea that we could try to identify ourselves as a learning community with the General Council Continuing Education committee, which could offset a portion of the costs associated with putting on this event. This would preclude any of the participants from applying for an individual continuing education grant. It was suggested that a letter be written by the Coordinating cluster to the Committee to see if this group could be labelled a learning community. CONSENSUS was reached.

### **Standards of Practice and Ethical Standards**

Anne Duncan invited folks to offer any comments on the document. A question was raised about the definition of the term "bias" included in the document. Irene Rainey mentioned that she thinks the document generally is missing the notion of mutuality—that we are learning with and from those with whom we are in ministry. Anne encouraged us all to respond to the document.

### **Review of Responsibilities**

Coordinating Cluster—Maritime Conference with assistance from Newfoundland/Labrador (Kay Dean, Treasurer)

Communications Cluster—Manitoba/Northwestern Ontario

Theme Cluster—Hamilton/Toronto Conference

Hosting Next National Gathering—Alberta Northwest

Liaison with General Council Offices—Ann Naylor, Kathy Platt, Nancy Corrigan

Education Booklets—London Conference

Planning Next Gathering—BC Conference or perhaps Saskatchewan (Linda Ervin to check this out)

### **Items for Coordinating Cluster**

Letter to MEPS regarding ministry positions outside of pastoral charges (page 6)

Letter to MEPS re transfer of diaconal ministers from outside UCC (page 7)

Letter to ECL and copied to Emmanuel College regarding Testamur—to be drafted by Deborah Viit and Yvonne Naismith and forwarded to CC (page 6)

Letter to ECL regarding the funding formula for theological schools—it was expressed that even if the funding formula were changed to meet the justice concerns, it may not be enough. There was a suggestion that training for diaconal ministry perhaps needs to be more of a priority. (page 6)

Letter to MEPS drafted by Anne Duncan regarding Restorative Care applying to those outside of pastoral ministry—draft (page 7)

Letter to Kaufman Fund regarding the contribution of a block of funds being provided to the National Gatherings (page 9)

Letter to be written to the General Council Continuing education Committee re DUCC being labelled a learning community. (page 10)

### **Newsletter**

Irene Rainey asked if there are folks here who want to be part of the editorial committee or become the layout person. Folks were invited to approach the Communications cluster if they have an interest in this.

### **Next Gathering**

Lynda Gow tested the group on holding our next gathering in two years. AGREED. Linda Ervin suggested that a person from the World Federation and DOTAC be invited to our next gathering. She also asked if the Coordinating Cluster could look at creating a proposal for how to handle

our archival information. Yvonne Naismith indicated she has in her possession some of the history project items. Things to consider in setting the dates: after Easter; before Conference Annual Meetings; outside of the learning circles of CCS, Francis Sandy and Dr. Jessie Saulteaux.

Lynda Gow handed off the 'blue book' to the Maritime Conference group—the new Coordinating cluster.

### **Evaluation, Courtesies**

We had time to complete the evaluation forms.

Courtesies:

Thanks were expressed to:

- Worship Team: Ted Dodd and Jung-Hee Park for all the ideas and locations of worship
- To the theme leaders—what gifts! Dance, drama, wisdom—Deborah Deavu, Christina Paradela, Karen Dale, Kathy Toivanen, Linda Clark
- To the Tatamagouche Centre—sacred, comforting, beautiful place; we will thank that kitchen staff at dinner.
- Madonna Fradsham—for accepting our invitation and for her time with us; for her colours and her wisdom
- Local Arrangements—Lori Crocker; Kay Dean, Nancy Fraser; Eric Tusz-King, David Hewitt, Annika Sangster, Laura Hunter
- Coordinating Cluster—Roland Legge, Dorothy Naylor, Lynda Gow, Caroline Nicholson—kept us on track; had a lot of business to cover and keep in front of us.
- Planning Committee—Joan Tuchlinsky, Cheryl Kirk especially, but also including Nancy Wetselaar, Kathy Douglas, Nancy Corrigan
- God for all God's blessings
- Karen Thorne, Kathy Platt, and Linda Clark for taking minutes

Lori Crocker thanked the whole gathering of DUCCS for not quacking at the local arrangements committee; for being so cooperative.

Betty Lou McNabb thanked the gathered community for enabling her presence to represent the Francis Sandy Theological Centre.

Ted Dodd thanked all those who helped with worship arrangements.

Quack, quack, quack ...

Wednesday, April 6

Morning Worship: Wisdom Arising from the Diaconate Who Are Not Able to Be Here 9:00 - 9:30 a.m.

Song: Wellspring of Wisdom #287 VU

Scripture: Wisdom of Solomon 8:4-10

Yes, she is an initiate in the mysteries of God's knowledge,  
making choice of the works God is to do.  
If in this life wealth be a desirable possession,  
what is more wealthy than Wisdom whose work is everywhere?  
Or if it be the intellect that is at work,  
where is there a greater than Wisdom, designer of all?  
Or if it be righteousness you love,  
why, virtues are the fruits of her labours,  
since it is she who teaches temperance  
and prudence,  
justice  
and courage;  
nothing in life is more important than these.  
Or if you are eager for wide experience,  
she knows the past,  
she forecasts the future;  
she knows how to turn maxims,  
and solve riddles;  
she has foreknowledge of signs and wonders,  
of the unfolding of the ages and the times.  
I therefore determined to take her to share my life,  
knowing she would be my counsellor in prosperity,  
my encouragement in cares and sorrow.  
Through her, I thought, I shall be acclaimed where people gather  
and honoured, while still a youth, among the elders.

Journalling/Reflection

- pick one name of someone you know
- reflect on this person's wisdom
- write a post card/note to this person

In Pairs

- share how this person has shared wisdom with you

Prayer

- in a time of silence
- saying names of those not able to be here
- placing postcards in the basket

Song: Long before the Night #282 VU





**WORSHIP**

**Tuesday, April 5**

Opening Worship: Wisdom Arising from the Diaconate in this Gathered Circle

2:00 - 3:15 p.m.

Song: Wisdom 7

page 892 VU

Projected Presentation "Wisdom Arising: Images of Wisdom"

Scripture: Sirach 1:1

All wisdom is from God,  
and is with God forever.

Scripture: Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16

Wisdom is radiant and unfading.  
And she is easily discerned by those who love her,  
and is found by those who seek her.  
She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her.  
One who rises early to see her will have not difficulty,  
for she will be found sitting at the gate.  
To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding,  
and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care,  
because she goes about seeking those worthy of her,  
and she graciously appears to them in their path,...

Journalling/Reflection

- where do you experience wisdom arising in your life?

Check-in

- name
- location
- places/people/events/areas in your life where wisdom is arising
- lighting of candle

Community Response: **Wisdom is arising in you, \_\_\_\_nn\_\_\_\_.**

Projected Presentation "Wisdom Arising: In the Gathered Circle of Diaconal Ministers"

Song: We Are Many, We Are One



## **Making a prayer flag**

### **Materials**

Rectangles of cloth [ blue, white, red green, yellow]

Fabric markers

Yarn or thin string

Sewing materials or stapler

Corrugated card [ larger than cloth]

Push pins

Paper and pencils

**Before you begin** – sit quietly and think about your intention for your flag. Close your eyes and let images that represent your intention come into your mind. Sketch the images if that is helpful.

Write the words of your blessing or prayer. [ see Buddhist prayer below]

Reflect upon what colour would best complement the words and images that have come to mind.

Traditionally, flags are made in 5 colours, representing one of the 5 elements.

Blue –space White – water Red – fire Green – air Yellow – earth

**Step 1** Fold over 1 inch of fabric at the short end of the cloth and sew or staple the hem.

**Step 2** Stretch cloth onto cardboard and pin in place.

**Step 3** Draw symbols around the edges of the flag [ first with pencil, then with fabric markers].

Write words for prayer/blessing in the centre.

**Step 4** Thread string through folded edge.

### **Hanging flags**

When hanging your prayer flag, begin by creating a sacred atmosphere. Choose a location that is out in the open, where the wind moves freely. Tie the string securely.

### **Mahayana Buddhist Prayer**

May all beings everywhere with whom we are inseparably interconnected,  
be fulfilled, awakened, liberated and free.

May there be peace in this world

and through out the entire universe

and may we all together complete the spiritual journey.

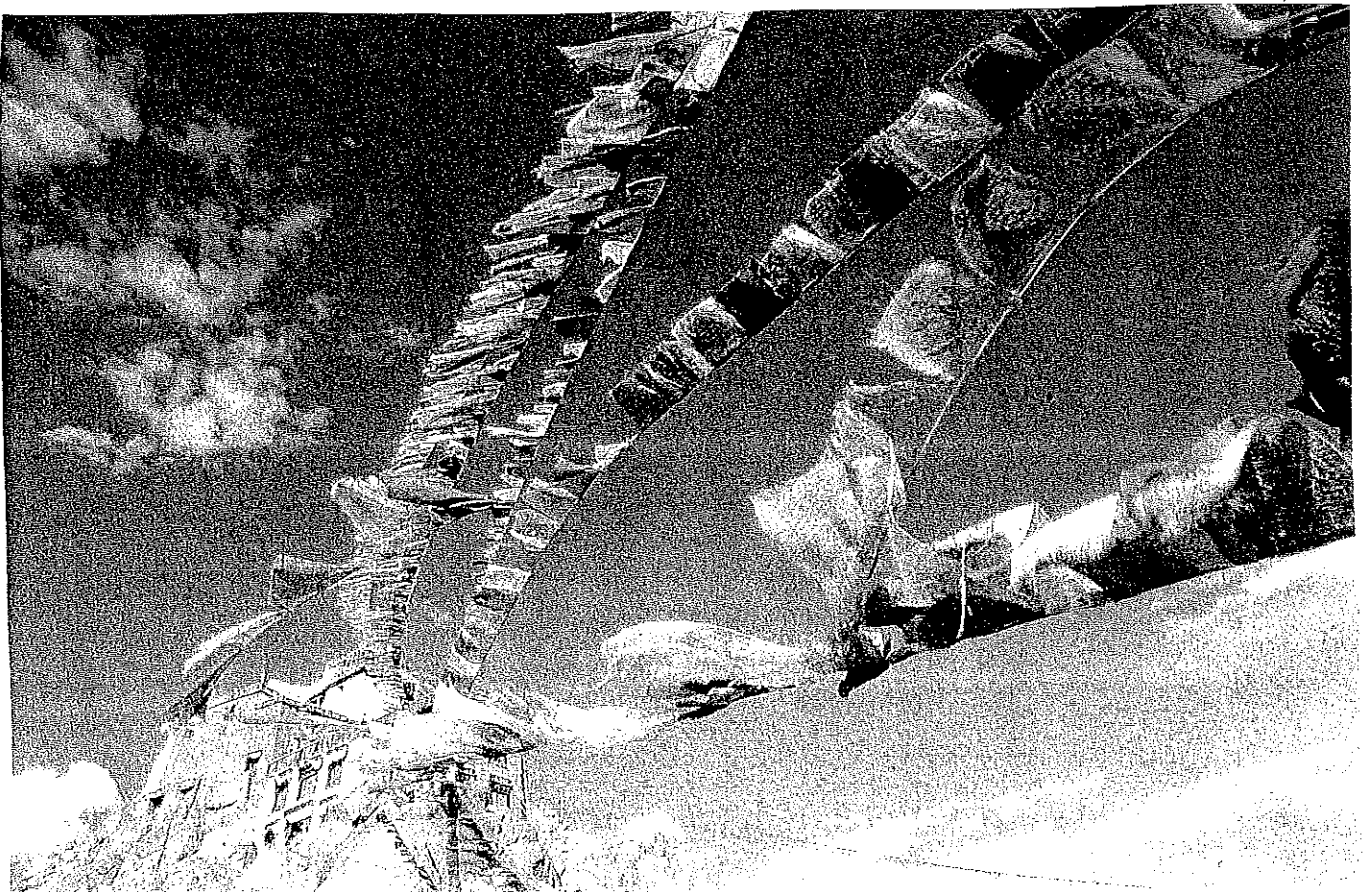
## PRAYER FLAGS – prayer in motion

### **Background**

Prayer flags are flown all over the Tibetan world – on mountains, roof-tops, at monasteries, from bridges – almost anywhere the wind is likely to catch them. When the wind blows through the flags, the prayers inscribed on them are carried to all beings. The Tibetan word for flag is *lung ta* meaning “wind horse”. The wind horse is a symbol of strength and freedom from fear that represents a transformative state of mind.

The Tibetan Buddhists believe the wind passes over the surface of the flag, consecrating and harmonising the air with the words and symbols that have been inscribed on it. The prayers are then carried by the wind to infinite destinations, blessing everything they touch. Ultimately the flags fade in the elements: this is seen as evidence that the blessings are being carried by the wind and being released into the world.

*[information adapted from “Sacred Rituals” by Eileen London and Belinda Recio]*



Wisdom is a state of the human mind and spirit characterized by deep understanding and profound insight. It is elaborated as a quality possessed by the sages but also treasured as folk wisdom and wit. Wisdom is the power of discernment, deeper understanding, and creativity; it is the ability to move and to dance, to make the connections, to savour life and to learn from experience. Its root meaning comes to the fore in the Latin word *sapientia*, which is derived from the verb *sapere* = to taste and to savour something. Wisdom is intelligence shaped by experience and sharpened by critical analysis. It is the ability to make sound choices and incisive decisions.

Wisdom, unlike intelligence, is not something with which a person is born. It comes only from living, from making mistakes and trying again and from listening to others who have made mistakes and tried to learn from them. It is perception of wholeness that does not lose sight of particularity, relativity, and the intricacies of relationships. Wisdom understands complexity and seeks integrity in relationships.

... Wisdom is neither a specialized discipline nor a discrete field of study. It is a radical democratic concept insofar as it does not require extensive schooling and formal education. Unschooled people can acquire wisdom and highly educated people might lack it.

... Her ways are ways of justice and well-being.

-from Wisdom Ways, Elisabeth Schussler Fiorenza



## **Rock & Stone**

"God is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer, My God, my rock, in whom I take refuge." – 2 Samuel 22:28&3

"For God will hide me in God's shelter in the day of trouble; God will conceal me under the cover of God's tent; God will set me high on a rock." – Psalm 27:5

"God drew me up from the desolate pit, out of the miry bog, and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure."

– Psalm 40:2

"I would feed you with the finest of wheat, and with honey from the rock I would satisfy you." – Psalm 81:16

"Everyone then who hears these words of mind and acts on them will be like a wise person who builds a house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock." – Matthew 7:24,25

"For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ." – 1 Cor. 10:4

"So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel. ... Then Jacob made a vow saying, ... and this stone which I have set up for a pillar, shall be God's house."

– Genesis 28:18,19, 22

"When God finished speaking with Moses on Mount Sinai, God gave Moses the two tables of the covenant, tablets of stone, written with the finger of God." – Exodus 31:18

"So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem. Joshua wrote these words in the book of the law of God; and he took a large stone, and set it up there under the oak in the sanctuary of God." – Joshua 24:25, 26

"David put his hand in his bag, took out a stone, slung it, and struck the Philistine on his forehead; the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground."

– 1 Samuel 17:49

"For God will command the angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. On their heads they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone." – Psalm 91:11, 12

"Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for bread, will give a stone?" – Matthew 7:9

"And suddenly there was a great earthquake; for an angel of God, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it." – Matthew 28:2

"A sower went out to sow seed; and as the sower sowed, some fell on the path and was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. Some fell on the rock, and as it grew up, it withered for lack of moisture." – Luke 8:5,6

"Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." – John 8:7

"Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ." – 1 Peter 2:4-6

## Light

"There is in every true woman's heart, a spark of heavenly fire, which lies dormant in the broad daylight of prosperity, but which kindles up, and beams and blazes in the dark hour of adversity." – Washington Irving

Kindle a flame, to lighten the dark and take all fears away.  
– The Iona Community

"Spark of God, Spirit of Life, I remember and celebrate your dwelling within me."

"O send out your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling."  
– Psalm 43

"Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw the light was good." – Genesis 1:3

"God is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?"  
– Psalm 27:1

"They feast on the abundance of your house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights. For with you is the fountain of life; in your light we see light." – Psalm 37:8

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."  
– Psalm 119:105

"The people who walk in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined."  
– Isaiah 9:2

"Who among you fears God and obeys the voice of God's servant, who walks in darkness and has no light, yet trusts in the name of God and relies upon God? But all of you are kindlers of fire, lighters of firebrands. Walk in the flame of your fire, and among the brands that you have kindled."  
– Isaiah 50:10, 11

"Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation: for a teaching will go out from me, and my justice for a light to the peoples." – Isaiah 51:4

"Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of God has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but God will arise upon you, and God's glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn." – Isaiah 60:1-3

"You are the light of the world. ...Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to God in heaven." –Matthew 5:14

"The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it." – John 1:5

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." – John 8:12

"The light is with you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. While you have the light, believe in the light so that you may become children of light." – John 12:35, 36

I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness."  
– John 12:46

"For once you were darkness, but now in God you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true." – Eph. 5:8,9



# DUCC 2005 PARTICIPANTS

PARTICIPANT	E-MAIL	TELEPHONE #	CITY/TOWN & PROVINCE
Anne Duncan	<a href="mailto:abdunc@mts.net">abdunc@mts.net</a>	204 338-8405	Winnipeg
Ann Naylor	<a href="mailto:anaylor@ccsonline.ca">anaylor@ccsonline.ca</a>	204 783-4490	Winnipeg
Annette Hoare	<a href="mailto:annette.hoare@stromax.com">annette.hoare@stromax.com</a>	902 894-4571	Moncton (CCS student)
Annika Sangster	<a href="mailto:annikasangster@hotmail.com">annikasangster@hotmail.com</a>	902 425-8751	Halifax
Betty Lou McNabb	<a href="mailto:blmcnabb@esolve.net">blmcnabb@esolve.net</a>	705 247-2034	Christian Island, Ont. (Francis Sandy student)
Carolyn Nicholson	<a href="mailto:cln@telus.net">cln@telus.net</a>	780 461-6719	Edmonton
Caryn Douglas	<a href="mailto:cdouglas@ccsonline.ca">cdouglas@ccsonline.ca</a>	204 783-4490	Winnipeg (CCS)
Cheryl Kirk	<a href="mailto:ckkirk@mnsi.net">ckkirk@mnsi.net</a>	519 627-5998	Wallaceburg, ON
David Hewitt	<a href="mailto:uccdhewitt@hotmail.com">uccdhewitt@hotmail.com</a>	902 678-6926	Canning, NS
Debora Deavu	<a href="mailto:ddeavu@sympatico.ca">ddeavu@sympatico.ca</a>	519 821-9771	Morrison, ON
Debora Vitt	<a href="mailto:vittdr@mts.net">vittdr@mts.net</a>	204 757-9896	Lockport, Manitoba
Dorothy Naylor	<a href="mailto:dan68@telus.net">dan68@telus.net</a>	403 282-2841	Calgary
Ellen Flemming	<a href="mailto:eflem@nb.sympatico.ca">eflem@nb.sympatico.ca</a>	506 356-2952	Plaster Rock, NB
Eric Tusz-King	<a href="mailto:etuszking@marconf.ca">etuszking@marconf.ca</a>	506 536-1334	Sackville, NB

Irene Rainey	<a href="mailto:irener@mts.net">irener@mts.net</a>	204 452-8610	Winnipeg
Jessie MacLeod		902 295-3099	Badeck, NS
Joan Tuchlinsky	<a href="mailto:jtuch@ezlink.ca">jtuch@ezlink.ca</a>	519 887-8240	Walton, ON
Juanita McKinnon-Smith	<a href="mailto:lighthouse7@shaw.ca">lighthouse7@shaw.ca</a>	204 338-8933	Winnipeg
JungHee Park	<a href="mailto:jungeheepark@sympatico.ca">jungeheepark@sympatico.ca</a>	519 877-2765	Brownsville, ON
Karen Dale	<a href="mailto:dale7808@rogers.com">dale7808@rogers.com</a>	905 542-7808	Mississauga
Karen Thorne		709 364-8083	Mt. Pearl, NFLD
Kathy Douglas	<a href="mailto:mainstreet@cyg.net">mainstreet@cyg.net</a>	519 348-4114	Mitchell, ON
Kathy Platt	<a href="mailto:kplatt@mts.net">kplatt@mts.net</a>	204 476-2008	Neepawa, Manitoba
Kathy Toivanen	<a href="mailto:Kathy.toivanen@sympatico.ca">Kathy.toivanen@sympatico.ca</a>	905 821-7026	Mississauga
Kay Dean	<a href="mailto:kay.dean@ns.sympatico">kay.dean@ns.sympatico</a>	902 847-9504	Aylesford, NS
Laura Hunter	<a href="mailto:nlhunter@istar.ca">nlhunter@istar.ca</a>	902 737-2619	Donkin, NS
Linda Clark	<a href="mailto:twodears@ispnet.ca">twodears@ispnet.ca</a>	905 383-8634	Hamilton
Linda Ervin	<a href="mailto:levin@telus.net">levin@telus.net</a>	250 493-2066	Penticton, BC
Lori Crocker	<a href="mailto:tucloir@eastlink.ca">tucloir@eastlink.ca</a>	902 752-4475 (764 8 H)	New Glasgow, NS
Lynda Gow	<a href="mailto:lngow@telusplanet.net">lngow@telusplanet.net</a>	780 437-1272	Edmonton
Madonna Fradsham	<a href="mailto:c-fradsham@pei.sympatico.ca">c-fradsham@pei.sympatico.ca</a>	902 874-4571	PEI

Martha Martin	<u>Martha.martin@hfx.eastlink.ca</u>	902 454-6309	Halifax, NS
Nancy Corrigan	<u>corrigans@wightman.ca</u>	519 335-6217	Bluevale, ON
Nancy Fraser	<u>nancy.fraser@ns.sympatico.ca</u>	902 755 3587	New Glasgow, NS
Nancy Wetselar	<u>nancy.wetselaar@sympatico.ca</u>	519 271-8975	Stratford, ON
Roland Legge	<u>rlegge@telus.net</u>	780 582-3516	Forestbury, Alberta
Sally Meyer	<u>sallymeyer222@yahoo.ca</u>	450 247-3564	Hemmingford, PQ
Ted Dodd	<u>tdodd@ccsonline.ca</u>	204 783-4490	Winnipeg
Yoon Ok Shin	<u>yshin@cablrocket.com</u>	780 387-7474	Millet, Alberta
Yvonne Naismith	<u>naismith@mts.net</u>	204 488-8276	Winnipeg