

Staff Report to 2026 National Gathering – Kelowna – September 2026

This year will be my 11th year in this position as DUCC Staff. This report will be the last report I make to the full membership of DUCC, as I will be completing my work on September 30, 2026.

This report will therefore have at least two themes – what has happened in the last two years since we met in Drumheller and work ahead for Caryn Douglas, who has assumed the role already as DUCC Staff, and for DUCC.

Regarding the work I have done for the last two years there are many parts, many of which should be reflected in reports from the committees with whom I have worked.

I have continued to work very closely with the Coordinating Committee and to its chair, Tracy Robertson. At least, this means collaborating on preparing the agenda and participating in the meeting itself, but often included special meeting, and several conversations via emails and/or calls. I most often prepare an accountability report for each meeting, which are made available to the members of the Coordinating Committee. This has been rewarding work.

The only committee to which I have significant responsibility is the Advocacy Committee which still has no chair, so I convene the meetings when necessary. As of this date, I have not seen an Advocacy Committee report, so I will provide my perspective on that work. The primary work of this Committee is to advocate for diaconal ministry and Diaconal Ministers collectively, rather than individually. There have been two dimensions of this advocacy work.

There continues to be irregular use of the guide for regionally recognized ministries. Some regions use this national guide, that was developed several years ago, and some regions who ignore it. This makes for inequities from one region to another. We work with Adam Hanley, General Council staff person who directly relates to DUCC, and then try to work with the specific region. Because of regional autonomy, this is often a challenging process.

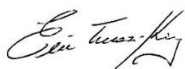
The second topic for the Advocacy Committee this year has been raising the knowledge of and profile of diaconal ministry and the policies related to Diaconal Ministers with General Council and Regional staff. This work again means working with Adam Hanley, and currently, we are working with the Communications staff in GCO and Deborah Laforet to develop one or more resources on telling our story for specific audiences and themes. Some of those audiences include: GCO and Regional staff in their onboarding, volunteers on Search Committees and Candidacy Boards, people exploring ministry vocations, and recently for those engaging in Towards 2035 and the gifts and training Diaconal Ministers bring to the challenges facing the UCC.

There is room for volunteers to participate in both aspects of this advocacy work whether you serve on the Committee or not.

As Caryn engages with me in her orientation to this role, it has been pleasing to see the strength of DUCC in many fronts. DUCC continues to be primarily a volunteer led organization that has high goals and standards. As DUCC Staff our role is to accompany and assist.

It has been a pleasure and honour to work in this role, and I am confident that things will continue to go well for DUCC as it continues to advocate and support diaconal ministry and us, as Diaconal Ministers.

Together in ministry,



Eric Tusz-King