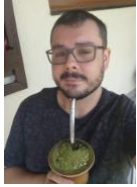




DOTAC Report to DUCC National Gathering 2026

The **DOTAC Board** is made up of the following representatives:



President - Deacon Dionata Rodrigues de Oliveira, Igreja Evangélica de Confissão Luterana no Brasil

Vice-President - Reverend Helen Mallieu-Maurose, Wesley Diaconal Community – Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the America



Treasurer - Jo Sheetz, The Office of Deaconess, Home Missioners and Home Missionaries-The United Methodist Church

Amie Stewart, United Methodist Deacons and Diaconal Ministers



Reverend Ann Blane, Presbyterian Church in Canada – Order of Diaconal Ministries, Second Representative to DIAKONIA World Federation

Dr. Holly Hoffman, Ecumenical Deacon Group of the ELCA, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



Nancy Ford, Association of Anglican Deacons of Canada/Association Anglicane des Diacres au Canada

Reverend Vicki McPhee, Diakonia of The United Church of Canada





Deaconess Adrainne J. Gray, Lutheran Diaconal Association (LDA)

Sister Dottie Almoney, Directing Deaconess of the ELCA Deaconess Community



Deacon Michelle Collins, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

The Board meets 4-5 times a year via Zoom and once a year in person for a longer period.

The Board met in-person **November 2024 in Houston, Texas**. Incoming and outgoing board members were recognized. People were selected to fill the roles of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and the Second Rep to the DIAKONIA World Federation. The region of the next DOTAC Assembly was decided upon. The Board met with local faith leaders as well as served in the kitchen of a downtown shelter for the unhoused.

Throughout the meeting, board members participated in a book study of the recently published book: *Diaconal Studies Lived Theology for the Church in North America*, edited by Craig Nesson and Darryl Stephens. This was an opportunity to dig deeper into our diaconal identities and helped shape our ongoing diaconal formation.

<https://www.fortresspress.com/store/product/9798889838678/Diaconal-Studies>

We used a study guide that was developed by Ted Dodd.

<https://darrylwstephens.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/Diaconal-Studies-Study-Guide-Final-1.pdf>

Following the current American Administration's stance on immigration, the Board decided to meet in Canada for its 2025 in-person meeting. In **November 2025, the Board gathered at the Crieff Hills Retreat Centre, near Guelph, ON**. The primary purpose for our meeting was to establish future goals and expectations for the new Board. With the departure of a few very active board members, the Board needed to set new priorities anchored in the capacity and interests of its current members. Another important purpose for meeting was to establish the location and details of the 2027 Assembly in Panama. The Board had a day of touring and visiting the near-by Six Nations Reserve.

Following the practice of meeting in the location of the next year's Assembly, in **August 2026 the Board met in-person in Panama City, Panama**. Our time together focused on



planning for the Assembly. We had one day of touring Panama City – including the Panama Canal. We are excited to be returning to Panama next July to host everyone at the Assembly!

Social Justice Committee Programs

- Fall 2024, 2025 & 2026 - 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence
 - From November 24 (International Day to Eliminate Violence against Women) to December 10 (International Human Rights Day), participants can follow a calendar of related activities, attend Zoom study sessions, and daily pray the intercessions written by DOTAC folks and posted on our Facebook page.
- Winter 2026 - For Lent, the Social Justice Committee offered the AMMPARO Lenten “Welcome the Stranger” Challenge
- Fall 2025 – Belonging and Engagement Workshops featured Implicit Bias Training from the Virginia Synod Tapestry Team.
- Fall 2026 – sharing with the DOTAC community the learnings from Deaconess Mable Kifwabantu that will be presented at the upcoming DUCC National Gathering

Education Committee Programs

- Mondays in May
 - 2025 – followed the book study done by the DOTAC Board in the fall of 2024 – *Diaconal Studies Lived Theology for the Church in North America*, edited by Craig Nesson and Darryl Stephens – see above for links
 - 2026 - speaker series on deaconess history and women deacons

DOVE – Diakonia Overcoming Violence Experience



- 2024 - Explore issues related to immigration. Five Americans, 3 Brazilians, 2 Canadians (both DUCCs Vicki McPhee and Lynda Dickson) and 3 folks from the Caribbean made up the delegation, from October 14-19 at the Texas-Mexico border. The group stayed with residents of La Posada, undocumented immigrants, in San Benito, Texas. If you would like more information about this amazing experience, please see the letter written on behalf of its participants: <https://dotac.diakonia-world.org/182-2/dove/>
- 2028 – will be taking place in Brazil – likely sometime in the fall. See Vicki if you’d like updates as more information is provided.

Next DOTAC Assembly – Panama City, Panama, July 14 – 20, 2027 (Travel days are July 14 and July 20). The theme will be: Where the Waters Meet – get it...? The Panama Canal connects the two oceans. ☺ The President of DIAKONIA World Federation, DUCC’s very own Rev. Marlene Britton, will be attending and speaking at the gathering. The Kauffman Fund will be accepting applications for funding assistance.

