

Summary of Business- Written by Karen Tjaden
DUCC National Gathering - Kelowna, BC September 15 – 18, 2026

“At such a time as this”

68 members of DUCC gathered in Kelowna and eight online to respond to this call from Esther 4:14. Our gathering included time to attend to DUCC Business in addition to daily worship and theme sessions.

Our first three theme sessions, on transformational diakonia and the call to justice, were offered virtually by Mable (Sichali) Kifawabantu, Community Development and Social Justice Secretary, United Church of Zambia, with support from Vicki McPhee and Eric Tusz-King. The week concluded with a final theme session focusing on our place in the national church conversation Towards 2035, led by Beth Baskin, General Council staff.

Reports from DUCC Coordinating Committee, Archives, Communication, Nominations, and Advocacy Committees were received and are available on our website. Nominations Committee reported a number of vacancies filled, including Lorrie Lowes from Bell's Corner, Ottawa, as incoming Chair, and the establishment of a new Justice Committee. Terms of reference for the newly formed Justice Committee will be established and four particular justice issues were identified during our theme time for further reflection and action: climate justice, food security, affordable housing and Palestine. A task group will be formed to consider options for future national gatherings and report back to an online gathering of DUCC members early in 2027.

“You will find this information on the DUCC website” was a common refrain during business sessions and ducc.ca and our monthly DUCC News will continue to help all of us stay connected across the country. We also have Regional contacts for almost every Region across the country. Vicki McPhee represents DUCC at DOTAC (Diakonia of the Americas and the Caribbean) and highlighted the upcoming DOTAC gathering in Panama City, Panama in July 2027. Application can be made to the Kaufman Fund to assist for costs to attend DUCC, DOTAC or World Diakonia. The President of Diakonia World Federation, Marlene Britton, brought greetings and news that the next world gathering will take place in the Philippines in 2029.

We welcomed new DUCC staff person, Caryn Douglas, and thanked Eric Tusz-King for 10 years of service in this role.