

Reflection by Allison Abuloc - October 2026

This was my first time attending a DUCC conference and on the first day I heard many people echoing the sentiment “I am home” and “I am surrounded by my people”. It is wonderful to be surrounded by so many people from different places, different ages, different passions, but one vision for God’s community.

I connected with friends and Mentors I hadn’t seen in years, and I met new people with fascinating stories and wisdom to share. The theme speaker Mable Kifwabantu shared her reflections on the Esther Story and the calling to Diaconal ministers to be a prophetic voice in ‘times such as these’. I was inspired and invigorated by her words to the church; and in talking to others, I gathered I was not the only person who felt that way.

I confess, I have attended several conferences in the past where I felt inspired, but left blank on the “what next” step. At DUCC, ever invested in the spiral, we got the inspiring theme reflections but didn’t end there; we followed up with our concerns about our communities, our feelings about them, the causes of the oppression, and finally what action we can take to address our concerns.

One of the most moving parts of the conference was the memorial service we had for diaconal ministers who had passed since the last conference. I am used to memorials where there would be a picture on the screen and a list of names read. This memorial was so much more personal and honouring. It really spoke of a diaconal community who cares deeply for one another, who is willing to take time for grief, who respect the contributions of the people who came before.

The whole conference was a reflection on how so many people who I didn’t know could be of one mind. They came from across Canada, and some even from outside of Canada. They were of all different experiences, from people who attended the very first DUCC conference, to students like myself, attending for the first time. They had all different passions, activism, Palestine, Children’s ministry, Education, climate action... But they were all connected through diakonia.