

Report for 2007 DUCC National Gathering From Hamilton Conference Region

Greetings one and all. It's great to be coming together again ... to reconnect with old (note: not age old!) friends and to connect with new friends.

The activities of diaconal folk in the Hamilton Conference region (which includes one person from Toronto Conference) have revolved around our planning and preparation of the program theme for this national gathering.

Even though we all have busy pastoral charges or outreach ministries, I think I can safely say that we all look forward to seeing each other and to getting that nurturing and nourishment that comes only from being with our diaconal sisters (we currently have no diaconal brothers in our region).

For this national gathering, when seeking a relatively central location to get together for our planning meetings, it occurred to one of us ... "why not meet at the Hamilton Conference office." We all wondered why this brainwave did not occur to us in other years, but oh well. It has turned out to be a brilliant move ... not only do we get to meet in a nice space with a huge whiteboard for spelling out our planning ideas, but we also raise the profile of diaconal ministry to the Conference staff and perhaps indirectly to the Conference in general. The staff have been very welcoming and accommodating, even so far as to coming in the room to officially welcome us.

We've been meeting officially since last June; in September we kicked it up a notch and began meeting more regularly, sometimes twice in one month. At the time of writing this report (mid-March), we are just about to wrap up the final plans and processes for the theme times, as well as the worship celebrations.

I look forward to reading about the activities that have been happening in other parts of the country.

Blessings,

Linda Clark
(on behalf of our group)