

HISTORY OF SPECIFIC SUPPORT BY UCC FOR Diaconal Ministry since 1984

WORK AND TASKS THAT UCC STAFF DID ON BEHALF OF DIACONAL MINISTERS

At the March 1990 National Gathering, Ginnie Coleman and Ann Naylor, both diaconal ministers working at the General Council Office, reported to DUCC regarding their work on behalf of diaconal ministers in the context of their staff positions.

Ginnie Coleman:

- Revisions to Manual
- Producing Assessment Handbook
- Transfer and settlement process
- resource to Committee on Diaconal Ministry
- visited Western Field Based diaconal ministry program
- attended meetings at Centre for Christian Studies
- attended DOTAC and World Diakonia on behalf of DUCC and the denomination of UCC

Ann Naylor

- 5% of her staff time is dedicated to diaconal ministry work
- updated brochures on diaconal ministry
- updated slide presentation on diaconal ministry
- responsibility for Diaconal Ministry newsletter
- some responsibility for Committee on Diaconal Ministry

Other work carried out by the Committee on Diaconal Ministry:

- Candidacy process monitored
- Transfer and settlement processes monitored
- Diaconal presence re programs at CCS
- Advocacy for a couple of “exceptional cases” - education process
- Some monitoring of Observer articles
- Input into development of services for ordination and commissioning
- Production of DUCC newsletter with some payment from DUCC
- Advocacy for DM positions, esp rural western Canada

FINANCIAL NOTES - MEMBERSHIP IN WORLD DIAKONIA AND DOTAC HISTORY RE FINANCES

Prior to the formation of DUCC in 1984, Diaconal Ministers related to the Association of Professional Church Workers (APCW), an ecumenical organization. This association related to Word Diakonia and Diakonia of the Americas and the Caribbean (DOTAC). Through APCW, United Church of Canada diaconal ministers had a denominational membership in these international, ecumenical

organizations, and thus could attend their conferences. The membership in both organizations was paid by the UCC. It was a specific fee for each employed DM in the United Church of Canada.

Following the formation of DUCC, the group APCW dissolved in a few years. The Committee on Diaconal Ministry saw that membership fees were paid by UCC for several years. In minutes from 1984 onward there was often discussion about whether fees should be paid for every diaconal minister in UCC or just those who were members of DUCC. (The concept of denominational membership has not been mentioned and fully understood – KD) Although most diaconal ministers who have been active in DUCC have always understood that fees paid to World Diakonia and DTOAC have been for every Diaconal Minister in paid accountable ministry in UCC.

PROPOSAL discussion – March 1993

The membership in DOTAC and World Diakonia was a UCC membership. Do members want it changed to a DUCC membership in these two organizations ? If non members of DUCC wanted to attend DOTAC and World Diakonia they would need a United Church Denominational membership in order to attend.

PROPOSAL - That DUCC equally share the membership fees of all diaconal ministers with the Committee on Diaconal Ministry and that we establish a fund to assist members of DUCC to attend World Assemblies (World Diakonia) and DOTAC Conference.

DOTAC AND WORLD DIAKONIA REPS – For several years General Council staff member, Ginnie Coleman, attended DOTAC and World Diakonia. She reported that many representatives on the executives of these organizations were denominational staff persons. This enabled DUCC to be represented without having to pay travel support for many years.

DUCC has been supportive financially to its DOTAC representative. In the 2009 budget \$1500 is noted for travel support to DOTAC rep.

From 1997 to 2001 – the UCC paid DUCC half of the assessed membership fees for DOTAC AND WORLD DIAKONIA.. (\$1400 of the \$2800)

There has been varying amounts paid to DUCC for educational purposes between 1984 and 1999.

From 1999 to 2005 the UCC paid \$1000 toward the cost of the National Gathering in the year it was held and \$2400 for DOTAC and World Dakonia membership fees. In 2005 and 2006-\$3200 was paid to DUCC for membership fees and national

gathering.

In 2008 UCC paid DUCC \$6000 for DOTAC/World Diakonia fees and National gathering.

NEWSLETTER -

For a few years the national staff compiled, edited, printed, and sent out the newsletter for DUCC.

In 1992 a DUCC member collected articles and edited it. The Committee on Diaconal Ministry looked after production costs and DUCC paid the editor an honorarium. There was discussion about shared costs. DUCC agreed to pay \$435 per issue to UCC in 1993.

Since 2005 DUCC members, through the Communications Cluster, have compiled and edited the newsletter. It was mailed out by the national office. DUCC has paid an honorarium to the editor, and layout costs.

As of March 2009, the newsletter was posted on the DUCC website. The UCC sent out 242 newsletters to those diaconal ministers who did not appear to have internet access. This included many retired diaconal ministers. UCC wants clarification as to who does what with regard to the DUCC newsletter. For 2008 and 2009, the DUCC budget for editing and layout is \$1600 a year.

SUGGESTION -by treasurer. Due to the complexity of who has email or not , DUCC take over the complete cost of the newsletter. Hopefully, the need for hard copies will lessen over time. The DUCC database might be used to determine who is a member , who does not have email, etc.