

# Diakonia of The United Church of Canada

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## Minutes of the National Gathering, June 21-24, 2011,

### University of Winnipeg, Manitoba

Present: Vicky Aldersley, Tammy Allan, Patricia Baker, Carolynne Bouey Shank, Jamie Bradshaw, Terrie Chedore, Margaret Collard, Lori Crocker, Ken DeLisle, Ted Dodd, Caryn Douglas, Bill Doyle, Jen Dresser, Christine Dudley, Anne Duncan, Bob Duncan, Linda Ervin, Sue Everton, Allan Gairns, Joan Golden, Cindy Gossling, Catherine Gutjahr, Joan Jarvis, Deborah Laforet, Heather Landry, Roland Legge, Barbara Lieurance, Mary Anne MacFarlane, Betty Marlin, Beth McLean, Russell Mitchell-Walker, Micheline Montreuil, Ann Naylor, Christina Paradela, Nancy Post, Irene Rainey, Brenda Reimer, Heather Robbins, Heather Sandilands, Beatrix Schirner, Lori Stewart, Debbie Stockdale, Kathy Toivanen, Lynda Trono, Sharilynn Upsdell, Deborah Vitt

#### **Tuesday, June 21, 7:40 pm** (Margaret Collard minute-taker)

Kathy Toivanen introduced the Coordinating Cluster present: Kathy Toivanen, Christina Paradela, Margaret Collard and indicated that most of the decisions to be made over the next four days would be decided upon by a Consensus method. Only financial budgets and other financial matters that are affected by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) need to be formally moved/seconded and voted upon.

Russell Mitchell-Walker asked that we establish a clear understanding of making decisions by consensus. Consensus process:

- An item of business is presented.
- Discussion takes place. A decision is made to choose a certain action for the matter at hand.
- Everyone present indicates whether they can 'live with' that action even if they have voiced disagreement
- individuals can voice disagreement and still choose not to block the action
- If someone cannot 'live with the action' they can voice their concerns and the discussion continues
- another round of consensus is taken. If some still cannot live with the action there are a couple of options: take a vote or postpone the business item for further study and reflection and bring it back to the meeting at a later time
- If everyone can at least live with the decision, the matter is ready to be put into action or the action is complete with the decision.

*The gathering came to consensus that the minutes of the 2009 National Gathering held at Five Oaks in April 2009 was an accurate reflection of our business.*

#### **Records and Archives**

In following up from the last national gathering, the Coordinating Cluster has searched as much as possible in a variety of places and made website and email requests but can't find the book of policy, procedure, and matters of consensus that was created around 1994 "known as the blue book". After inquiries to Kay Dean, she sent the cluster a book of minutes that cover many years of National Gatherings but it is only minutes and not the desired blue book on policy. The Coordinating Cluster for 2009-2011 has not had such a book nor has the previous Coordinating Cluster.

The Coordinating Cluster has been informed that important documents, such as Diakonia of The United Church of Canada's Charter of Ministry, are in the Archives. In recent years, it has been difficult to make contact with General Council to receive consideration or replies to requests. There is a sense of eroding relations between Diakonia and national church structures.

**ACTION: The incoming Coordinating Cluster will follow-up to be certain that the DUCC and historical information is in the UCC Archives.**

Betty Marlin reminded us that there are 2 people on MEPS who are diaconal, and that it is important to contact them and ask them to help and advocate for us.

### **Financial Reports, Budgets, Statistics**

Members were reminded that they need the financial sheets that report the income and expenses for each of the three years, 2009, 2010, 2011 for the financial portion of the DUCC meeting. The budget based on a National Gathering in 2 years and 3 years will be handed out at our meeting.

Joe Ramsey and Tom Broadhurst were contacted by Christina Paradela. They told Christina that the historical statistics for diaconal ministers had been on the back burner because a problem in accuracy had occurred when Deaconesses and Certified Churchmen were joined together as Diaconal ministers. They have been working to clarify the numbers and the correct numbers are supposed to be the 2010 Annual Statistics Records which will be published later this year. Presently for payment of our World Federation and DOTAC dues, we used the current statistics in the 2009 Records which indicated there are 287 Diaconal Ministers, of which 157 are involved in active ministry (congregational or justice and outreach). However, when we pay our international dues we pay for all 287 Diaconal ministers, not just those in active ministry.

The historical stats list that is missing is the one for deaconesses. Note: A question arose and Coordinating Cluster needs to clarify whether those who are "retained on roll" is part of active list.

**ACTION: Incoming Coordinating Cluster to clarify with General Council UCC the criteria for being 'retained on the roll'.**

At the last National Gathering in 2009, Diane Bosman from General Council Office encouraged us to consider applying to fill vacancies in positions on GC committees. That information excited us and there have been some recent vacancies filled with Diaconal applicants.

**ACTION: All Diaconal ministers are asked to examine availability of national volunteer vacancies and apply for positions in which they are interested.**

Betty Marlin asked: Do we know anything about the recent list for the names for Standing Committees? The following short list is what we know to the date of this gathering.

The most recent General Council UCC Standing Committee & Task Group List:

1. Lynda Gow: PC MEPS (second term) and Annika Sangster new to PC MEPS
2. Debra Kigar and Roland Legge: Ministry Compensation Task Group
3. Anne Duncan: Oversight Discipline Task Group
4. Ken DeLisle: Partners in Mission and Covenanting for Life and Creation
5. Denise Davis-Taylor: Ecumenical Affairs Theology and Faith – (new name)
6. Heather Robbins: (not a diaconal representative) on Transfer Committee
7. Kellie McComb: Executive of the GC, Member at Large
8. Marlyne Myles: Mission and Service Fund Advisory Committee
9. Linda Ervin: General Council Planning Committee

### **MEPS Meeting with 2 members of Coordinating Cluster**

Christina Paradela indicated MEPS was willing to meet with representatives from the Coordinating Cluster. Kathy Toivanen, Karen Dale and Christina met for about an hour in September 2010 with MEPS. The Committee seemed interested in keeping the lines of communication open. Christina said that they listened with interest and respect, but didn't forward the Coordinating Cluster any minutes or follow through in any other way. Christina indicated she felt they covered the same territory around diaconal ministries and formation, and got the same general lack of understanding.

## Communication of Clusters Between National Gatherings

- Limited communication has been indicated by some clusters – feeling that we need to do better.
- Debra Kigar has created the data base. She has just been settled to Harrington Harbour, Quebec and will continue to maintain the data base. She does not need to be attached to Coordinating Cluster to do so. She will of course maintain contact with the Treasurer and whatever cluster maintains membership rolls. Those on the roll include those doing ministry in a diaconal style whether or not they have the official title of DM. This is also an archival data base as it contains the names of those who have died, and present and former CCS students, grads and non-grads.

**Action: Membership Cluster needs to be in contact with Debra Kigar**

## Agenda

Business items to be discussed in later business sessions will include: DUCC staff person; AFFIRM's model of relating to General Council UCC; Treasurer's report; Diaconal pin; becoming an AFFIRMING organization and focus groups for Thursday.

Some of the documents to be discussed include:

- Candidacy Pathway: settlement or call.
- Revised Statement on Ministry: Communities of social justice ministries and others made arrangements for submitting replies to this statement well past the original deadline. The Theology and Inter-Church Interfaith Committee will accept a response to the statement as follow-up from this gathering. It was acknowledged that the Coordinating Cluster had previously submitted a report.
- Roland Legge voiced concerns over the mixed messages on the ministry report to date in terms of educational centres and whether or not CCS will have to change how they do the integrating year.
- Barb Elliott Trust Fund: The representatives from the BETFIM attending DUCC (Nancy Post, Russell Mitchell-Walker) requested that the written report be read and considered – The standing structure process for the BETF was that applications were processed once a year with the deadline for requests being February 1 each year. In reality there was not that many applications and so the requests were processed with some flexibility. The report presented to the DUCC national gathering suggested that we change from the present method of offering grants as they come in to a twice a year process

## Reports

- **BC:** written report plus the following: Christine Dudley and Sharilynn Upsdell are on Conference Interview Board. BC is one of three areas that are testing the new ministry candidate process – also intentional interviews of Diaconal ministers with Diaconal Candidates.
- **Alberta and NW:** Written report and Carolynne Bouey-Shank adding that they haven't had an annual Conference Meeting for over 3 years. Northern portion of the conference responded to CCS funding needs through Denise Davis Taylor who hosted a fund raising event which raised over a \$1000 for CCS. 8-10 others also met with Charlotte Caron (Acting Principal) at CCS, including several from the Red Deer area. (See the written report on the DUCC website and a hard copy in the Minute Binder appended to these minutes.)
- **Saskatchewan:** Written report plus Russell Mitchell-Walker reported that Deborah Laforet became President of Saskatchewan Conference – we congratulated her. We also expressed our concerns and care to Deborah as she had just learned she needed to return home – her church and her home were both flooded and a pastoral situation had also arisen.
- **Manitoba:** Ken DeLisle reported that at Manitoba Conference a change in polity had been passed, requesting that sacraments be granted at Commissioning. This must go to the 41<sup>st</sup> General Council. (See the written report on the DUCC website and a hard copy in the Minute Binder appended to these minutes.)
- **London Conference:** Joan Golden reported that email has been an important way to keep communication open across the country and with all Diaconal folk in London Conference. Cheryl Kirk keeps the email connections active and up-to-date. Dorothy Naylor and Caryn Douglas have stepped down from their positions with the website and NEWS and we need new people for the rolls. There is an interest in setting up a SKYPE network. (See the written report on the DUCC website and a hard copy in the Minute Binder appended to these minutes.)

- **Hamilton Conference:** Kathy Toivanen reported that Christina Paradela is the new president-elect for Hamilton Conference. The **Hamilton/Toronto** Conference regional group have continued to report on the website and in the printed report at this meeting.
- **Bay of Quinte and Montreal & Ottawa** are a very small group – in touch with Dorothy Naylor. As a follow up to the 2009 DUCC Gathering, they had a wonderful display of DUCC and diakonia materials at the annual meeting of Bay of Quinte Conference. (See the written report from M&O regional group on the DUCC website and a hard copy in the Minute Binder appended to these minutes.)
- **Manitou:** Roland Legge reported gathering in Sudbury and trying to build community with 6-8 diaconal ministers in the area. However the distances are large and it is difficult to gather very often.
- **Maritime:** Lori Crocker reported that they hold cluster meetings and arrange to meet at the annual meeting of Conference. There are 9 who attend regularly for support and to strategize. Although they haven't been able to do the assigned liaison work – they pointed out the inconsistencies where the use of the word Commissioned is used in National GC documents [many say Commissioned Ministers] and sent in suggestions regarding the difference between Diaconal ministries vs. the action of commissioning to these ministries. They went on a field trip to visit Jessie Macleod and spoke of how Jessie is still very present with the diaconal community. Laura Hunter and David Hewitt are diaconal ministers working in the Conference Office and Janis MacLean, who has a diaconal heart, is also working in the Conference office. There are 4 diaconal ministers on pastoral relations committee.
- **Nfld & Labrador:** no report.

**Kaufman Fund:** Joan Tuchlinsky sent a written report and a copy is attached to the minutes.

**Barb Elliott Trust Fund for Innovative Ministries:** a written report was submitted (see Appendix 2): Nancy Post, Christine Dudley and Russell Mitchell- Walker reported that 4 grants totalling \$6,000.00 were provided from the Trust Fund. The balance in the fund as of April 15, 2011 is \$116,193.00. They have also written to Caryn Douglas for stories on Diaconal Ministry.

### **Centre for Christian Studies**

Charlotte Caron attended the Tuesday evening session of DUCC and added to the written report from CCS (See the written report on the DUCC website and a hard copy in the Minute Binder appended to these minutes.)

Charlotte thanked and named the continued need for DUCC support. There are six DUCC folk on committees. She made a chaplain request for the Learning Clusters. Being a chaplain is a volunteer position and can be used as part of continuing education. DUCC members need to be CCS recruiters. CCS also needs a bigger budget; trying for a balanced budget but they need more financial support – 20 more people on PAR would make a difference. Without national Diaconal staff at General Council, CCS often receives calls seeking guidance and help related to diaconal ministry and diaconal formation. All the advocacy work that DUCC can do is necessary and important. CCS has not been asked to make the changes to their student program but we need to be vigilant. Those who volunteer as mentors and facilitators are vital to the CCS program and to the formation of new DMs. The majority of those present at the current DUCC gathering have filled/are filling those roles.

Carolynne Bouey-Shank thanked Charlotte Caron for her work as acting principal and noted that throughout her time with CCS, she has offered much wisdom and insight.

CCS' new principal is Maylanne Maybee– an Anglican who is at home with diaconal ministers. She is a wonderful addition to CCS. She sent her regards to us via Christina Paradela.

Students of the Centre for Christian Studies invited DUCC to come and tell the CCS students about Diakonia of The United Church of Canada, and about the World Federation and DOTAC.

**Action: Membership Cluster needs to follow-up on this request for fall programming at CCS and for the Sauteaux Resource Centre after October.**

**Dr. Jessie Saulteaux and Francis Sandy Centre:** These two native centres for theological education are uniting in two weeks – how can we help? The Francis Sandy Centre at Five Oaks, Paris ON is now closed. There is a Learning Circle this week at Dr. Jessie; physically, the students will be at Dr. Jessie Centre. The Learning Circle for the students of the newly named restructured centre (**Saulteaux- Sandy Theological Centre**) is in October.

## **DOTAC**

Sharilynn Upsdell, our DOTAC representative, indicated she had first come into the work of DOTAC at the rise of the World Conference of Diakonia in 2009. It is an 8 year term. Linda Ervin encouraged her to go to a couple of meetings before she became our representative at the conclusion of Linda's term. DUCS supported Linda's invitation and Sharilynn thanked DUCS for creating that opportunity for her to explore the work before she began her term. There are 12 members on the DOTAC executive from various global communities that attend the Central Committee meetings. The upcoming DOTAC Conference is in July 2011 in Oklahoma. It is encouraging to hear about the various diaconal ministries around the world. The World Federation and DOTAC meet alternately each two years. This year is DOTAC and then 2 years from now (2013) will be World Federation in Berlin. DOVE is a program of the World Federation: "Diakonia Overcoming Violence Experience" – coming up again in 2012. We need 4 people from Canada to go to Recife Brazil for the DOVE gathering (this is a learning event and delegates can access funding for this). The four Canadian representatives can come from the Anglican, Lutheran, Presbyterian, and The United Church of Canada. The event is hosted by Evangelical Lutheran Confession Church in Brazil which elected Ingrid Vogt, as Executive Secretary. Ingrid is the first woman and the first deaconess in that position. Sharilynn is the webweaver for the DOTAC website, in three languages, English, Spanish, Portuguese. At present it is limited but she has ideas on how to make it more interesting; she just needs some time to do so. She also welcomes DUCS members' ideas. Up to now, DUCS did not have a pin, so at the 2009 National Gathering, Sharilynn was charged with creating one. She made contact with a designer in Toronto who does design work for The United Church of Canada. She received some drafts and then sent those out all over the website and by email. Then the designs were narrowed down to two, further work and comments and finally the pin – 50 of which are available at this DUCS gathering, with more to be ordered if there is a desire for them. Now Sharilynn would like a banner to represent us at the DOTAC and World Federation meetings. She'd like to take a new banner design, even if it is temporary, to the DOTAC meeting in July. The theme of the DOTAC meeting this July is "Chairs at the Feet of God". After the bombing in Oklahoma, a chair memorial was created, hence the theme. Maybe our new pin can be the design as we have permission and the work of the designer for use of the design in other ways. Sharilynn also needs a mascot (tiny – needs to carry it in her baggage when travelling). As this need was voiced, a small gray DUCS ducky made its way to her across the circle. The new president of DOTAC and Sharilynn were starting at same time into the DOTAC work, thus when time came for the DOTAC president to come to our DUCS National Gathering, there had not been enough time to make the arrangements and she (president) was not able to come. In the past we have had DOTAC and World presidents as guests to our national gatherings. Conversations to have someone here for our next National Gathering.

**Action: Sharilynn Upsdell, DOTAC Representative will invite a representative from either DOTAC or World Federation to come to our next national gathering.**

DUCS is responsible to pay the conference fees for the DOTAC representative (400.00 for this year). DOTAC covers the travel expense for our delegate. Linda Ervin offered to check into this matter because when she was our delegate, the payment system was different (DOTAC had paid the registration fee).

**Immediate Action: Linda Ervin will research the fees for DOTAC representatives and who pays what. DUCS has already paid Sharilynn's \$ 400.00 conference fee.**

Linda will provide her findings to the Gathering later in the meeting. In the past there have been two \$500 bursaries for people that are not representatives to go to DOTAC gatherings.

Linda found out that the fee for the representatives to DOTAC used to be paid by DOTAC or the World Federation when she was the representative for DUCS to DOTAC. However, that is no longer the case, as

funding has become much more stringent. Now each member of DOTAC must pay for their representative to be there. Therefore it is the responsibility of DUCC to pay Sharilynn's fee for the conference, which we did – the fee was \$400.00. As a result of the new policy, Linda pointed out again to the plenary that it is important that two bursaries be set aside over the next year to assist the designated representative(s) who will attend World Federation.

**Action: What do we need to do to encourage participation and offer financial help?**

The Tuesday evening segment of business concluded and the evening ended with worship and a reception.

**Wednesday, June 22, 9:30 am** (Kathy Toivanen & Christina Paradelo minute-takers)

### **Financial Reports, Budgets,**

Margaret Collard, treasurer presented financial statements and budget proposals – one for 2 years; one for 3 years

### **Financial statements for 2009, 2010 and Jan – June 30, 2011 (see these statements posted on the DUCC website and labelled as Appendix 4)**

- DUCC only needs a financial review, the cost of which is about \$400, which is much less than an audit; we are not required to have an audit for our association
- there were no questions on the financial statements

### **Budget for the 2011 National Gathering**

- The complete budget for the 2011 National Gathering is attached to the minutes
- \$24,000 budget for the National Gathering
- Room & Board is \$13,500
- some of our room rental costs will be less for the event than projected
- travel pool will be worked out and cheques will be issued after the gathering
- only those who request travel pool assistance will receive it
- there will be forms made available to those who wish to apply
- Russell will apply for funds from the Justice and Reconciliation Fund to help finance the cost of the elders at the gathering

**ACTION: The DUCC treasurer and incoming Coordinating Cluster will follow-up with Russell to determine whether or not we received funding for the elders)**

### **Budget 2011 for 2 years & 3 years**

- Margaret offered comments on the two budgets (following) and then invited the gathering to break out into small groups to discuss the two budgets
  - difficulty in receiving the \$3000 '**grant**' from General Council for DUCC
  - this amount pays for our international memberships in DOTAC and in World Diakonia
  - expenses for our fees to international organizations fluctuates because of the value of the dollar
  - we pay for 287 people for these world organizations
  - only 49 people paid membership dues to DUCC in 2010
  - Margaret spoke about using PAR as a means of paying DUCC dues
  - the number of folk who paid their DUCC fees usually increases in national gathering years
  - the 3 year plan includes a DUCC national gathering every 3 years
  - the 2 year plan includes a DUCC national gathering every 2 years
  - the focus group that is looking at DUCC and UCC structure could look at approaching GCE with a recommendation that a policy be made to support DUCC (don't go through MEPS)
  - currently, there is no room in the budget for outreach projects
  - we have a \$10,000 savings account to be used for bursaries and educational events/projects
  - we need to do some creative thinking on how we encourage memberships. Part of the challenge is that we are not connected to the institution (e.g. like a union or like professional dues)

- perhaps one or two people could take on the challenge of increasing DUCC ‘membership’
- membership could be encouraged with students if the voice of DUCC was heard at some of the learning circles of CCS
- why do we pay the DOTAC and World Diakonia Fees for every diaconal minister? because this is part of the UCC’s obligation and whenever anyone is commissioned a DM by the UCC they are included in the number of DMs for the international fees
- the original obligation of the UCC has been forgotten and now the UCC believes that these are DUCC fees, not national UCC fees
- this is just one example of a shift in perspective and a loss of history.
- how might we encourage donations to DUCC?
- have a Diaconal Ministry Sunday (same as theological colleges often have a ‘colleges Sunday’)
- student recruitment – do a ‘DUCCumentary’ –perhaps community college students with media training could assist with such a project and keep the production costs lower
- Linda Ervin noted that ‘diakonia’ is becoming a ‘rare’ breed in the world; many associations are closing
- the growing places for ‘diakonia’ are in countries to the south; finances are limited and so they have a different fee structure so that they can be part of the association
- there were inquiries as to the history of the Kaufman fund
- Betty Marlin told us that it was a grant from the Kaufman family and it was used primarily in support of diaconal ministers (individuals only can apply)
- Emma Kaufman (of Kaufman Shoes) had a family cottage and when it was sold the funds were set aside as a fund for rest and renewal for deaconesses
- the Barb Elliott Trust Fund for Innovative Ministries is much newer
- the Fund was created after Barb’s death
- Betty Marlin and Eric Tusz-King, who were part of the initial advisory committee helped to set it up for projects in the areas of innovative, social justice and community endeavours
- these are generally start-up grants rather than ongoing but we have the power to change those guidelines if we so choose.
- Nancy Post addressed the proposal for the Barb Elliott Fund. Sarah Charters from General Council is suggesting that we would receive better visibility if we were a part of the Seeds of Hope and we’d know twice a year how much money we would have to award/grant. This proposal would not change the criteria for the fund but would simplify the disbursement. Presently the fund is housed at the General Council office and the staff who formerly oversaw it has changed. Kathy suggested that this proposal be further discussed in the focus group time.

### DUCC Staffing Position

Kathy led a conversation on the DUCC staffing position.

- noted that the General Secretary had been directed by 40<sup>th</sup> GC to: “**consult with diaconal ministers to determine the most appropriate mechanisms for supporting and encouraging diaconal ministry within the church’s life and work**”
- noted that there was no individual or group in the structure of the General Council Offices that advocates for, monitors, promotes and educates the church re DM

### What are the key issues?

- development of resources that promote DM & educate the church re DM
- sustaining corporate memory re DM
- advocacy
- monitoring UCC statements about ministry and various UCC publications re ministry
- recruitment of candidates for DM

### Potential Responses

- strategize to encourage more diaconal ministers to serve on committees at all levels of the church

- find out what committees folks are on at all levels of the church
- DUCC Coordinating Cluster takes on responsibility to monitor minutes of GCE and other national committees
- explore Affirm United's relationship with the UCC and their work of education and advocacy as potential model for DUCC
- could create a way for diaconal ministers on similar committees to network
- create a blog: for example - DMs on E&S committees...this could lead to a document/resource that is distributed to E&S committees across the country
- promote DM through bulletin covers, articles in Observer, Mandate
- encourage DMs to name their ministry
- encourage DMs to staff a discernment committee
- contact the chairs of E&S to offer time to serve on a discernment committee

Betty Marlin suggested that money could be granted from the Barb Elliott fund to go towards an honorarium for a DUCC staff position. Could we link this with the General Council Ecumenical Relations office? Tammy Allan texted Gail Allan in this regard. After a few minutes Gail Allan responded to the text that she would get back to us.

**Action: Incoming Coordinating Cluster to follow up on this.**

**Christina led a discussion on Affirm's relationships to UCC as a model that DUCC might use:**

- any group can go to a GCE meeting (non-voting) and Affirm does this in order to make their voice heard
- Affirm Executive meets in GC offices in February, not necessarily at the same time as GCE; they are trying to get someone to go to the GCE meetings
- Christina referred to the Hamilton/Toronto Cluster's model of meeting at the Hamilton Conference office in order to make our presence known
- Kellie McComb is a diaconal representative on the CGE
- The question was raised about Maritime cluster's role?
- Lori Crocker mentioned that they have done some monitoring of GCE but that they haven't followed up as fully as they might have
- at their annual meetings, Affirm invites someone from General Council staff to do a workshop or make a presentation
- Affirm had a joint project of creating a video with national
- Ken DeLisle provided an outline of Affirm's structure:
  - membership is individual plus 'Affirming Ministries' are members
  - six elected positions, two co-chairs, there are terms and there is a one-time renewal of a term
  - there are members-at-large who are selected according to the particular focus that requires attention during their term
  - Affirm has experienced a loss of regional and local groups and they are struggling with wondering how to serve isolated areas
  - Affirm is financed with memberships (90%) and donations, (\$3000/yr. from General Council)

**Diaconal Pin**

Sharilynn reported:

- many of our sister communities have a pin and DUCC didn't
- in 2009 we set aside a budget for an artist to design a logo
- Joyce Cosby was hired as an artist
- Robert Hall was chosen as the artisan. In researching his studio she found that he did not use lead pewter; he supported local labour; in other words he reflected DUCC's concerns with regard to just labour and resources
- in the survey about the pin design all but three requested the 'open' back (they wanted the crest shape)
- however even the open back has the crest shape

- the current design has both a pin and pendant capability
- we needed GC approval to use the crest shape and Nora Sanders has seen it and approved
- we will need to clarify the process of how sales will be managed
- for the price of her design, Joyce has included colour renditions
- we could use these colour renditions in other ways (a small focus group can look at this)
- do we want to use this new design in print or on the DUCC website?
- an Observer article around the new pin?
- a banner to take to DOTAC?

**We reached consensus that the new DUCC pin would cost \$25.00.** One pin per person at the gathering would be available. On Friday morning, any extras may be purchased for those not attending the gathering.

### Focus Groups

Focus groups for discussion of some of the business were announced and folks attending the gathering were invited to choose one focus group for the business session on Thursday morning.

- Revised Statement on Ministry & Sacrament discussion (there is a later date for feedback, the comments submitted by the Coordinating Cluster are available)
  - Candidacy Pathway: Debra Kigar's report and Vicky Aldersley's experience offer two perspectives
  - Examining the DUCC Structure and Relationships with UCC using AFFIRM's model
  - Titles and By-lines (how DM folk refer to or title themselves under official photos on letterhead etc.)
- Action Note: No one selected this group, so this is something which the incoming Coordinating Cluster will need to address, perhaps by inviting regional groups to discuss it and share their thoughts.**
- Membership (originally this was linked with the structure group & then became its own focus group)
  - Communications (website/ NEWS)
  - DUCC Organizational Structure: How should we go forward for the future of DUCC? copies of the current structural model were offered
  - Becoming an Affirming ministry
  - Proposal to GCE to institutionalize the funding for World Diakonia and DOTAC membership fees
  - Barb Elliott Trust Fund

### Other Miscellaneous Business

- How will the Coordinating Cluster deal with the budget discussion knowing that the structure of DUCC may change?
- How will we elect representatives to the World Federation of Diakonia in 2013?

### Thursday, June 23, 9:30 am (Christina Paradela minute-taker)

People went into their chosen focus groups for discussion. After the break, some of the focus groups shared their recommendations. The reports of the focus groups along with the consensus decisions will be reported in the minutes for Thursday evening and Friday morning.

### Thursday, June 23, 8:00 pm (Christina Paradela minute-taker)

#### Focus Group Reports

#### DUCC Structure Report

In the reporting back it was noted:

- we value community – worship, check-in, community building, meaningful work, communication.
- we need a shared membership list – e.g. a diaconal directory
- we should explore partnerships with clusters to strengthen weaker clusters
- create mentorship buddies
- clusters need a sense of community as does the entire organization; structure follows:

Proposed Clusters:

- coordinating
- national gathering to include: theme, worship, planning, local arrangements
- advocacy and action
- communications
- membership
- Clusters would meet by conference call and e-mail but would not be geographical /regional
- Russell's partner, Brian has wisdom on another way of conference calling. It was noted that Daisy chain calling can be much less expensive.
- It was suggested that there be an *Initiator* who calls the other *Initiators* to share updates (they are essentially reps from all the clusters). Building community and communication need to be intentionally done to keep the energy high enough for the work.
- Working beyond regional groups and moving toward passions would be worth a try. Kathy tested if the group could move towards consensus on this proposal.
- It was noted that folks who live close together and are passionate about the same thing could be in the same cluster.
- Question: If there are 5 clusters are there 5 areas of the country where there are active and committed folks could it still be done regionally?
- The folks who have expressed interest in the membership cluster for example, are not geographically situated but are committed to doing the work they feel passionate about.
- Lori Crocker shared that the Maritime cluster is prepared to be the local arrangement cluster and host the next gathering in the Maritimes. (*applause*)
- Joan Golden shared that London is prepared to continue the communication cluster. (*applause*)
- Margaret Collard has volunteered to continue to be the treasurer. (*applause*)
- Toronto/Hamilton cluster had indicated that if the previous structure of DUCC continued, they were willing to continue as coordinating cluster.
- Terms of service was discussed as well as frequency of meeting. There were no firm decisions made at this time. Non-regional clusters make space for folks who happen to live in a region where there is a lower level of commitment to participate in a more active way.
- Questions were raised about building bridges between our aboriginal diaconal sisters and brothers in the ANCC and training centres.

Kathy tested consensus to see if we could we agree in principle to the new structure.

Concerns about sufficient numbers in each cluster were shared so we stood to indicate our own personal willingness to be part of designated cluster and seeing sufficient numbers. **Consensus on the new structure was reached.**

Those who are prepared to join the work of a specific cluster will sign up on Friday morning. Other DUCC members who were not present are invited and encouraged to sign up for the work of one of the clusters. It was also noted that personal/work commitments may preclude some folk from joining the work of a cluster; however all are encouraged to be part of a regional group for support and community.

### **DUCC Staff person**

The Barb Elliott Trust fund folk (Nancy Post, Christine Dudley, Russell Mitchell Walker) indicated that they would give due consideration to an application for \$5000 for this **innovative ministry** to **plant seeds** for **building relationships** (these are important words to include in the application!)

Betty Marlin spoke to the flip chart notes:

- Proposal: a DUCC staff person to liaise and advocate with UCC
- Funding: \$5,000 honorarium from BETF over 2 years - \$2,500/year
- Job Description:
  - Advocacy toward ensuring a permanent relationship with DUCC and the UCC, including recognition of DUCC as an official professional association of the UCC (check minutes and documentation – Phil Cline 1982)

- Monitoring of GC Minutes:
    - MEPS (candidacy, transfer & settlement, ministry vocations)
    - GCE
    - Faith & Order, ecumenical global
    - Gender Justice
  - Building Positive relationships with the above named groups
  - Ensuring and encouraging diaconal nominations and representation on relevant committees
  - Keeping the UCC informed of the work and plans of DUCC and diaconal ministers
  - Ensuring the identity and the distribution of the BETF remain with DUCC
  - Securing funding and support for DOTAC and DIAKONIA memberships by the UCC
  - the staff position will be accountable to the DUCC Coordinating Cluster
- Questions: The honorarium would cover about 10 hours a month for 2-3 years; some concern was raised about the timing of the application to BETF and who would submit the application.
  - Kathy asked if we can agree in principle with the staffing proposal and then apply for the funding (from the Barb Elliott fund or maybe even the UCC Foundation).
  - Some concern was raised that this step toward a staff person may be perceived by some as adversarial in nature and erode relations with the UCC. Others perceived a value in having a staff person for the sake of having an accessible spokesperson.

*Kathy tested consensus and it was reached. We agreed in principle with the staffing proposal and the request of funds from BETFIM.*

**Action: The Coordinating Cluster will begin the process of applying for the funds.**

### Communication Group

Notes from Flip Chart:

- the webweaver honorarium be a separate budget line and that it be increased annually for the next 2-3 years by \$100
- Website fees \$150/year
- Software upgrades \$125/year

Margaret Collard asked some clarifying questions: the suggested numbers were incremental Margaret suggested using \$500 from our savings or increased membership would offset these costs. It was noted that we own the pin design so could use it in other ways, such as in communications.

Newsletter flip chart notes:

- the newsletter continues to be a valuable tool for diaconal identity, interpretation and archival history
- Recommendation: To thank Caryn Douglas for her dedicated work.

**Action: Incoming Coordinating Cluster to do a formal appreciation of Caryn's work.**

- To search for a new editor/imaging layout person using a pro-active approach.

### Friday, June 24, 9:00 am (Christina Paradela minute-taker)

Folks gathered in proposed clusters and gathered a list of names and contact info which was turned into the existing coordinating cluster for recording in the minutes. Contact persons were selected in each cluster.

### National Gathering Cluster:

*(First meeting time is September 13<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 Manitoba time)*

Vicky Aldersley	<a href="mailto:vicky.aldersley@gmail.com">vicky.aldersley@gmail.com</a>	(Initiator)
Deborah Vitt	<a href="mailto:vittdr@mymts.net">vittdr@mymts.net</a>	
Joan Jarvis	<a href="mailto:jjarvis@confmnwo.mb.ca">jjarvis@confmnwo.mb.ca</a>	
Barb Lieurance	<a href="mailto:blieurance@telus.net">blieurance@telus.net</a>	
Kathy Toivanan	<a href="mailto:kathy@emuc.ca">kathy@emuc.ca</a>	
Lori Crocker	<a href="mailto:lori.crocker@eastlink.ca">lori.crocker@eastlink.ca</a>	
Anne Duncan	<a href="mailto:ABDUNC@mymts.net">ABDUNC@mymts.net</a>	
Lynda Trono	<a href="mailto:ltrono@hotmail.com">ltrono@hotmail.com</a>	

Tammy Allan	<a href="mailto:tallan@telusplanet.net">tallan@telusplanet.net</a>
Ted Dodd	<a href="mailto:tdodd@ccsonline.ca">tdodd@ccsonline.ca</a>
Lori Stewart	<a href="mailto:loristewart@hagerman.ca">loristewart@hagerman.ca</a>
Irene Rainey	<a href="mailto:irener@mymts.net">irener@mymts.net</a>

Local Arrangements

Lori Crocker *	<a href="mailto:lori.crocker@eastlink.ca">lori.crocker@eastlink.ca</a>	(Initiator)
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(Maritime Conference)

Advocacy and Action Cluster

Jen Dresser	<a href="mailto:jdresser@ntl.sympatico.ca">jdresser@ntl.sympatico.ca</a>	705-335-3566 (Initiator)
Ken Delisle	<a href="mailto:delisle.k@shaw.ca">delisle.k@shaw.ca</a>	204-772-4322
Russell Mitchell Walker	<a href="mailto:sunsetunited.russell@sasktel.net">sunsetunited.russell@sasktel.net</a>	306-586-3613
Betty Marlin	<a href="mailto:betty35@shaw.ca">betty35@shaw.ca</a>	780-436-2166
Christina Paradela	<a href="mailto:christinaparadela@hotmail.com">christinaparadela@hotmail.com</a>	905-628-9992

Membership Cluster

Terri Chedore	<a href="mailto:terrijune@yahoo.ca">terrijune@yahoo.ca</a>	(Initiator)
Catherine Gutjahr	<a href="mailto:catherinegutjahr@gmail.com">catherinegutjahr@gmail.com</a>	
Micheline Montreuil	<a href="mailto:smallfarmgal@yahoo.com">smallfarmgal@yahoo.com</a>	
Patricia Baker	<a href="mailto:pbaker@shaw.ca">pbaker@shaw.ca</a>	
Christine Dudley	<a href="mailto:dudley@mac.com">dudley@mac.com</a>	
Debra Kigar	<a href="mailto:debrakigar@yahoo.ca">debrakigar@yahoo.ca</a>	(database)

Coordinating Cluster

Roland Legge*	<a href="mailto:rolandlegge@gmail.com">rolandlegge@gmail.com</a>	(Initiator?)
Margaret Collard *	<a href="mailto:knohillunitedchurch@bellnet.ca">knohillunitedchurch@bellnet.ca</a>	(Treasurer)
Ann Naylor *	<a href="mailto:anaylor@ccsonline.ca">anaylor@ccsonline.ca</a>	
Sharilynn Upsdell *	<a href="mailto:spiralspirit@telus.net">spiralspirit@telus.net</a>	

Communications Cluster

Allan Gairns *	<a href="mailto:revallan@mymts.net">revallan@mymts.net</a>	(No Initiator)
Kathy Douglas*	<a href="mailto:kathymdouglas@hotmail.com">kathymdouglas@hotmail.com</a>	
Mary Anne MacFarlane*	<a href="mailto:mamacf@sympatico.ca">mamacf@sympatico.ca</a>	
Cheryl Kirk *	<a href="mailto:rckirk@mnsi.net">rckirk@mnsi.net</a>	
Joan Golden	<a href="mailto:standrewsucgra@rogers.com">standrewsucgra@rogers.com</a>	<a href="mailto:randjgolden@porchlight.ca">randjgolden@porchlight.ca</a>

(\* = contact information found through other sources)

**Focus Group Reports (Con't.)**

**Letter to GCE**

Lori Crocker read the draft of a letter asking the UCC to pay the fees for DOTAC and World Federation. Letter would be sent to General Council Executive; General Secretary Nora Saunders; with copies to: Kellie McComb, Diaconal Minister, GCE Member; Tracy Fairfield, Diaconal Minister, MEPS Member; Alan Hall, Executive Officer, Human Relations, General Council Office; Bruce Gregersen, General Council Officer, Programs, General Council Office; Gail Allan, Ecumenical Shared Ministries, General Council Office.

Suggestions for the final draft were offered:

- to be as concise as possible;
- stronger language was encouraged- “calling” on the UCC to honour its commitment”;
- use full wording and acronyms afterwards,
- add clarifying dates and concerns

**Consensus was reached to send this letter with additional comments to be added to the final copy.**

A final copy of the amended letter is appended to these minutes (Appendix 3) and has been forwarded to the incoming Coordinating Cluster.

**Action: The letter will be sent by, and responses received by, the incoming Coordinating Cluster of DUCC.**

### Finances

Margaret Collard presented a final draft budget for 2 years for DUCC. It was suggested that we add a line for the DOVE (Diakonia Overcoming Violence Event) in Brazil of \$500. (See Appendix 4 on the DUCC website.)

The money in the savings account was originally set aside for education as moneys left over from the Committee for Diaconal Ministry at the national level of the UCC. Coordinating Cluster will look into the use of this money for the purpose of education.

**Motion: Ken DeLisle moved and Margaret Collard seconded to accept the budget as presented.**

**Carried**

**Motion: Betty Marlin moved and Carolynne Bouey-Shank seconded that we elect Margaret Collard as our treasurer. Carried**

### Membership

Notes from flip chart:

- Propose a 2 year Membership Cluster = Catherine Gutjahr, Patricia Baker, Terrie Chedore, Micheline Montreuil, Debra Kigar, Christine Dudley
- Propose a budget of \$500 to start/where would money come from??? Barb Elliott Fund???
- Propose a mandate for membership drive:
  - Promotion card with clear basic info for new members to ALL Diaconal Ministers
  - Build up sense of belonging
  - Membership card for fees paid with new pin logo (possibly duck wearing new pin???) (Same logo on info card sent out to possible new members)
  - Time frame for membership to be clearly defined (Jan. To Dec.???)
  - Clarify fee schedule/who pays what amount??/criteria for amount of fees???
  - Facilitate timely distribution of membership receipts & membership cards/e-mail???

### Barb Elliott Trust Fund for Innovative Ministry

A letter from General Council Office was read regarding GC wanting to administer the BETFIM fund.

Flip Chart notes:

Location of Fund:

- Leave as it is and ask the administrative committee to explore the possibility of the fund being held in CCS pooled fund as a separate entity
- this would maintain a level of income and ensure greater diaconal control

Administrative Committee:

- maintain administrative committee to make decisions about allocation and to report to DUCC Coordinating Cluster on an annual basis

Criteria:

- The Administrative Committee of BETF and Ann Naylor will review the criteria and bring a proposal to the next DUCC gathering

Publicity:

- Include current information for DUCC website and CCS website to draw attention to the availability of the Fund and to solicit donations
- ask the Communications Cluster to include a notice to DUCC about the availability of the fund twice yearly

After small group discussion and report back to plenary a concern was expressed that we would lose control of the funding, and its direction if we gave over the administration of the fund to GC.

**Motion:** Nancy Post moved and Margaret Collard seconded that the administrative committee of the Barb Elliott Trust Fund for Innovative Ministries (BETFIM) explore with the Centre for Christian Studies (CCS) the possibility of placing the BETFIM in the CCS pooled fund and if successful to request that the BETFIM be transferred accordingly. **Carried.**

Caryn Douglas noted that this may not be legal.  
Concerns were raised about the differentiation between DUCC and CCS.

**Motion:** Betty Marlin moved and Nancy Post seconded if further negotiation or motions are needed that we empower the coordinating cluster to make them and take action. **Carried**

**Immediate Action: Investigation towards the legality and CCS acceptance are pending. The Coordinating Cluster will follow through with next steps.**

### **Candidacy Pathway**

Jen Dresser reported from her laptop notes inserted below:

Discernment:

- Read notes from Deb Kigar
- Vicky Aldersley shared her experience
- Both had a positive experience
- Deb organized her own discernment
- We identified
  - that presbytery should be leading this process
  - Need appropriate people on discernment committees
- Winnipeg presbytery has one person responsible for organizing/training discernment committee
- Aboriginal students – identified by community/training is a discernment process – everyone has same training

Settlement/Call

- Candidates have to make choice Feb 1
- There are incentives for settlement
- Vicky shared experience of call
  - Questions about how to look for call – resume/cover letter/process
  - Lack of support /process/resource
  - How to find out about appointments
  - BC – helped with finding call/appointment
- What is reasonable accommodation in new settlement process?
- New ministers are competing with people with experience

Candidacy model – being tested in Manitou, B.C. and Bay of Quite conferences starting July 1

- Outcomes based
- No discernment
- 3 years on campus/2 yrs. supervised
- No reference to any of the in-community programs
- Physical/psychological assessment
- Presbytery to form accompaniment groups
- CIB trained by outside organization
- DLM not included

The letter will include the following concerns and questions:

- Importance of integration and adult education model
- Discernment

- Need for congregations to support students
- Lack of supervision
- Diaconal folks / in-community folks are ready to go on graduation
- Accompaniment group need to be able to feed into CIB - communication
- Question about how outcomes will be measured without integration
- Checks and balances being lost – candidacy/ordering
- Power being placed into hands of a few
- Want to maintain integrated learning CCS/Dr. Jessie/Francis Sandy/AST/St. Andrews
- Where do Designated Lay Ministers fit in this process?

**Action: Jen /Cindy will draft a letter to be sent by advocacy cluster to MEPS and General Secretary/GCE/MEPS/Tracy Fairfield/Lynda Gow/Kellie McComb with copies to the Moderator and all theological schools with the expectation of a response. Incoming Coordinating Cluster to follow up on this.**

Noted:

- This new strategy originated from MEPS to GC.
- This is how things were done in the past.
- Integrated learning being vital is a key point.
- We all receive this letter and take action.
- This process is embedded in a much larger process to minimize Pastoral Relations work

**Proposal that the Coordinating Cluster send a letter from DUCC to General Council Executive**  
*Consensus was reached on the proposal that was previously agreed to in principle.*

### **Becoming an Affirming Ministry**

Russell Mitchell Walker made a report on the work his group did.

Flip Chart Notes:

- At our next national gathering we would spend time responding to the following questions:
  - What do we understand about sexual orientation and gender identity?
  - What questions do we have
  - What affirmations/concerns do we have about becoming an Affirming Ministry?
- We would spend time making a decision about whether or not to become an Affirming Ministry
- Possible implications of becoming an Affirming Ministry include:
  - logo on our national DUCC website
  - cost of \$100/year
  - mission statement/vision statement would need to be amended in the 3rd paragraph to include "Welcomes people regardless of sexual orientation, gender, race, culture, class, ability, gender identity, age, faith.

DUCC is significantly different from a congregation so our process would be different. A process was outlined by Russell. Suggestions were made that at our next national gathering we focus on how to be intercultural which also includes affirming.

There was some discussion on making changes to the DUCC vision statement; however this was postponed.

***The Coordinating Cluster will be responsible for disseminating the work of becoming an Affirming Ministry. Consensus reached.***

**Action: The Coordinating Cluster will disseminate the work of becoming an Affirming Ministry.**

### **Sacramental privileges**

- This is a time to assess a diaconal perspective and to take that voice to the 41<sup>st</sup> GC as well as to inform the students at CCS who are constructing a proposal.

- There is an awareness that our primary concern is the administrative nightmare when arranging sacramental privilege, while also aware that at GC it will become a theological nightmare.
- Theologically the sacraments belong to the community; it is also a pastoral care issue.
- Alberta Northwest conference licenses their diaconal ministers when they are commissioned to diaconal ministry. Maritime conference licenses anyone in ministry whose job description includes the sacrament.
- We affirm that the sacraments are in the hands of the session; the sacraments need to be held in the community and are theologically supported through traditions and scripture
- We should lean towards the way of Alberta Northwest and Maritime Conferences in licensing upon commissioning to diaconal ministry.
- It was noted that when the sacraments belong with the session, it excludes non-congregational ministries (such as Community and Social Justice Ministries).
- The laity do not care about the documentation and qualifications of the person at the table. People in the pews can get fed up with red tape. We have forgotten about the priesthood of all the people.
- People who are elected into office (chair of presbytery, president of Conference and moderator) are given sacramental license without training.
- Continued learning should be offered for all members of the community to further understand the sacrament.

**Action: It was recommended that the Communications cluster share these points with the membership of DUCC so any GC commissioners can raise them at the 41st gathering of the GC.**

### **Statement on Ministry**

To begin with the language in the document is exclusive in nature and one initial way to help correct this would be to move the final paragraph up to the beginning. It was noted that individual responses can still be received until about mid-September.

**Action: The outgoing Coordinating Cluster would send word to Theology and Faith committee at the General Council regarding our initial response to the draft statement (written statement prepared by the Hamilton/Toronto Coordinating Cluster).**

*Consensus on this action was reached.*

### **Additional Business**

*A process for the election of DUCC representatives (2) to the World Federation of Diakonia in 2013 was assigned to the Coordinating Cluster. Consensus.*

Kathy read a letter written by Betty Marlin, requesting GCE to affirm the practice of Presbytery recognized ministries in social justice situations and pastoral counselling situations that are consistent with United Church of Canada theology and practice as already established by Edmonton Presbytery and Waterloo Presbytery. Upon recognition of these ministries, ministry personnel serving in these ministries shall be retained on the roll of Presbytery without term.

We immediately referred it to the advocacy and action cluster. It is work that we have been doing for a while and will continue to do. *Consensus was reached.*

The DUCC National Gathering concluded with courtesies and thanks, as follows (Note: This report was developed with the whole circle's contributions. Thus, there is no particular order):

- Kathy Toivanen - her role in starting DUCC; her facilitation at this meeting
- local arrangements folk; an appreciation of our meeting space and accommodations at McFeeters Residence
- an appreciation of the new friends made, reconnections with friends, and the hugs shared
- Stan McKay's wisdom and leadership
- Inez and Janet's stories and wisdom

- Russell Mitchell-Walker and the Theme Committee
- Patricia Baker's hospitality, airport greetings, organization of travel arrangements
- the worship space - visual aspects added richness
- an appreciation of the welcoming nature of the DUCC community
- a blessing to observe the consensus process; inclusive and respectful
- thankful for the grace and wisdom in the circle
- acknowledgement of the power of story
- thanks and appreciation for the sweat lodge and all who made that possible
- an excitement to take the learnings and the experiences home to share with others
- the welcome of one as student, and the efforts folks made to get to know me (Jamie)
- the memories of those gone before, the stories shared of their ministries
- musicians - Patricia, Jamie, Tammy
- appreciation of the "late night organizers" - local arrangements and coordinating cluster
- an appreciation of being able to just "be" in the circle
- thanks to the Spirit throughout the planning for this event, and for this time together
- an appreciation for the passion and energy of the whole group
- thanks for the support for worship
- sacredness, life-giving circle of sharing
- the learning circle on Thursday, at Thunderbird House was a healing time
- a place to be as a non-commissioned DUCC, welcome (Terrie)
- thanks to Micheline for worship; cultural sensitivity
- to be in community, in the circle, connected to community - especially helpful to those whose ministry back home happens in isolation
- for sacred moments throughout the time together
- for Spirit, and birth of new energy and vision
- for the nurturing of Spirit that happened in many ways; laughter, games, circle times
- welcome of "DUCC" friendly people into the circle
- for DUCC, as a home for vocation
- an appreciation of the focus groups and what was accomplished in that time
- Deborah's game fun!
- Sue, for her time in "sitting with" at the lodge experience
- Dorothy's work on the memorial piece
- for unconditional welcome
- Sharilynn - an appreciation for the work she did developing the new DUCC pin
- for those that nurture connections to DOTAC and the World Federation of Diakonia; Linda Ervin and Sharilynn
- for the book display and those who made that possible
- for our treasurer - Margaret Collard, for work done and her willingness to continue in this role
- for those who acted as secretary at this meeting - Christina Paradela, Kathy Toivanen, and Margaret Collard
- thanks to Mary Ann for bringing her cards and offering them for sale

Micheline Montreuil and others led us in a closing worship and after lunch people departed for their homes (see Appendix 1).

## **Contact List of e-mail addresses of those who attended the 2011 National Gathering of DUCC**

Allan Gairns <revallan@mymts.net>;  
Ann Naylor <annnaylor@shaw.ca>;

Barbara Lieurance <blieurance@telus.net>;  
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## Appendix 1 Offerings/Notes from DUCC 2011 Closing Worship

- I take home a renewed commitment to DUCC and an eagerness to welcome people to the Maritimes in 2 years.
- I will continue to be a voice bringing awareness of First Nations presence in the UCC in congregations where I am called to be in ministry.
- With the energy received here, I will attempt to incorporate new learnings with others in a small circle and pray that the Spirit of that small circle will blossom.
- I bring questions with me.
- Energy and hope/commitment to learning more deeply about reconciliation and healing.
- I have learned and now I can speak. I have experienced and now I can share and encourage.
- I offer my gift of presence to the path of reconciliation.
- I will be more intentional about remaining in contact with DUCC sisters and brothers.
- I will be in touch with Inez in her spirit journey as she prepares her celebration of thanksgiving.
- To encourage and nurture the respectful sharing of stories/listening with the heart (without the judgments of the mind.)
- Include reconciliation discussions at CCS learning circles.
- When invitations are extended from First Nations communities for pow-wows or feasts, ATTEND, LISTEN, GET TO KNOW.
- An energy for reconciliation/the building of small circles of concerns.
- To be mindful of all my relations.
- Move into the future with hope and love.,
- I bring the gifts of laughter, tears, and listening.
- Reclaim the power of story, of listening and of creating sacred spaces.
- Continue to engage in walking the path toward right relations with indigenous people.
- Sharing in community time "feasting" and sharing stories.
- Inviting others from this circle to participate in Sharing Circles and partnering with other congregations.
- Will Do: Bring the circle to my church and community, wherever, whenever possible; live in greater awareness of the circle of life. Will Bring: Openness to new experiences, willingness and patience to listen.
- The Spirit's wisdom in the circle and the sweat.
- Gift of responsibility for reconciliation with all my relations.
- Return with the gift of renewed commitment to journey with folks in the pain and to call the church to accompany us.
- A renewed desire to highlight the presence and gifts of our Aboriginal brothers and sisters throughout the land.
- Courage, passion, commitment/the presence of the Great Spirit enable and bless us as we go into the time ahead of us.
- Companions and stories.
- I plan to create a spiral in our new back yard. It will look similar to our centre piece at DUCC with a fire bowl in the centre marked in the four corners of the earth (in colour) and I will invite people to come and talk about its meaning and its relationship to First Nations theology.
- Learn from/connect with elder from my community.
- To connect with my Aboriginal Diaconal sister to the north of me, Adeliene Harvey. To share with my congregation the gift of the Sweat Lodge and the power of storytelling.
- Connect with Native Friendship Centre in Cochrane.
- Educate people about Diaconal and Designated Lay Ministry.
- Hope for the future of DUCC.
- Offering: an openness to explore bridge building through personal engagement in aboriginal cultural opportunities; congregational education in relationship to compassion for all who suffer and are part of the circle.

- Work at deepening relationships with all my relations.
- I will continue to be more intentional and active in creating community groups that are representative of a wide variety of faiths, orientations, cultures, classes, ages,...
- Attend a Right Relation in April; begin work with St. Andrew's Cochrane and Springbank UC about Residential School in Morley and those who survived.
- I learned what it means to lean on the strength of others and to be caught(?) with compassion and strength when I needed it. May I take that wisdom and help our church be that strength and compassion in the world.
- Identity, quests, and commitment to building bridges of support and understanding.
- I will share my new appreciation for Aboriginal Culture and the Residential School issue with my church where I am.

Holy One: Guide my feet to continually walk closer with other nations with whom I share the earth and my community, accepting their hospitality and gracious teachings and offering hospitality to all.

**Appendix 2**  
**Report to DUCC 2011 National Gathering**  
**Barbara Elliott Trust Fund for Innovative Ministries**

The Barb Elliott Trust Fund for Innovative Ministries is a fund that is available for diaconal projects that are innovative and difficult to fund. This fund is still relatively new and needs ongoing donations to build its capital in order to provide a substantial amount of available interest.

In 2009 a grant of \$3,100.00 was awarded to Moscow United Church to help upgrade a small building for community use. Funds were used to purchase a composting toilet, a used flat top grill, commercial grade pots and pans and some miscellaneous kitchen utensils. Our contact was Elaine Kellogg.

In 2010 a grant of \$4,500.00 was made to the Sexual Assault Support Centre of Waterloo Region for a project Male Allies Against Sexual Violence (MAASV). Our contact was Joan Tuchlinsky.

In 2011 two grants were approved.

The first, \$1,000.00 for a spa day sponsored by Community Ministry, an outreach partnership of Calvary memorial United and St. Mark's Lutheran Church in downtown Kitchener. The intent is to initiate an ongoing foot care program. Our contact is Marilyn Shaw.

The second, \$5,000.00 will bring women and men together to participate in the community biography work related to stories of deaconesses and diaconal ministers being undertaken by Caryn Douglas. The project will draw on the concept of research as a lived process of empowerment. A tangible result will be a print resource and story material.

Grants are decided by a committee of three: Nancy Post [nanpost@tbaytel.net](mailto:nanpost@tbaytel.net) of Thunder Bay, Christine Dudley [nuc-dudley@telus.net](mailto:nuc-dudley@telus.net) of Nelson BC, and Russell Mitchell-Walker [sunsetunited.russell@sasktel.net](mailto:sunsetunited.russell@sasktel.net) of Regina. For information on the application process and funding criteria please contact any member.

The fund needs your support. Please send donations to The United Church of Canada, 3250 Bloor Street West, Toronto ON, M8X 2Y4 and mark it clearly for the Barbara Elliott Trust Fund for Innovative Ministries (both on the envelope and on the cheque).

### Appendix 3 Letter to GCE re Paying Membership Dues

DATE

General Council Executive  
Attention: Nora Sanders  
United Church of Canada  
3250 Bloor St. W. Ste 300  
Toronto, ON M8X 4Y4

Dear gentlefolk,

At the 2011 National Gathering of the Diakonia of the United Church of Canada (DUCC), we discussed that the fee for membership in the International diaconal organizations, Diakonia World Federation and its regional group Diakonia of the Americas and the Caribbean (DOTAC), have not been paid by The United Church since 2009. The United Church of Canada is a member of these organizations, in a similar manner in which the church holds membership in other international ecumenical bodies.

The United Church is privileged to be one of the many denominations worldwide to have a diaconate. One of the gifts of this expression of ministry is membership and involvement in these international organizations. The Diakonia World Federation constitutes a powerful ecumenical network of 80 diaconal organizations and communities. The United Church became a member soon after its establishment in 1947.

When the Committee on Diaconal Ministry (CDM) existed in the previous Division structure, it fulfilled the responsibility of the church and paid the fee. When CDM was dissolved, DUCC agreed to take on the administrative responsibility for the United Church to facilitate the church's obligation in paying the fee. The church made a commitment to provide the money for the fee to DUCC.

The awareness of this history has been obscured over the last years and it has been a struggle for the Coordinating Cluster of DUCC to ensure that the money has come from the church. The language of exchange shifted, and the church, through MEPS, named the transfer as a "grant" to DUCC, which is not an accurate way of describing the money, which is a payment of a membership fee that is the responsibility of the United Church, not DUCC. Last year (2010) the Church did not provide the money, leaving DUCC to make the payment to the World Federation without receiving any reimbursement.

And so, for the all these reasons, we are calling on The United Church of Canada to honour its commitment to membership in Diakonia World Federation/DOTAC by directly paying the membership fee (annually \$3,000) and then informing DUCC, on an annual basis, when this has been done. The responsibility for paying the fee lies with the United Church because diaconal ministers are accountable to the United Church, not to DUCC.

Yours in Christ,

DUCC Coordinating Cluster

cc Kellie McComb, Diaconal Minister, GCE Member  
Tracy Fairfield, Diaconal Minister, MEPS Member  
Alan Hall, Executive Officer, Human Relations, General Council Office  
Bruce Gregerson, General Council Officer, Programs, General Council Office  
Gail Allan, Ecumenical Shared Ministries, General Council Office  
Lori Crocker, Diaconal Minister, DUCC