

DIAKONIA OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
APRIL 30-MAY5, 2013
TATAMAGOUCHE, NOVA SCOTIA

Business 1: May1, 9:30am

Small Groups : Accountability for Co-ordinating Cluster, regional groups, theological colleges, Barb Elliot Trust Fund, Kaufmann Renewal and \Emergency Fund, DOTAC and DIAKONIA, Communication, Advocacy and \Action

Consensus Process was explained by Roland Legge.

Ann Naylor explained the small group purpose:
to identify highlights, concerns, celebrations, issues for further work/discussion.

Groups met for 30 minutes and then reported back as follows:

Group 1: Kathy Toivenan. Co-ordinating/Finance

- Celebrated appointment of Sharilynn Upsdell
- Recommend that the job description be reposted on the DUCC webpage
- Questions about membership: paid or not, limited funds to promote membership, difficulty recording members and memberships
- Archives: David Hewitt & Maritime Conference
- Treasurer: creation of finance team, pay pal, CANADA HELPS,
- Celebrating six people going to World Diakonia
- Need to prepare budget for 2013-2015
- Cluster work: urgency to be honest about the work we are capable of accomplishing
- Identify specific contact people in each Conference region doing on going DUCC work before we leave Tatamagouche
- CCS model of conf call system for meetings used by co-ord cluster works well; also thanks for the generosity of CCS calling card number? to help with costs
- Difficulty keeping up to date about what is happening
- We need to be deliberate about passing on the torch of knowledge
- Need a manual with clear process

Group 2: Communications Group-Deborah Laforet

What is the purpose of the newsletter, the Facebook page, the website and membership data base?

This Group brings some questions:

- What are the benefits of belonging?
- Advocacy group floundered
- How can we support this and communications group?
- Voluntary or mandatory membership:

Should it be automatic when commissioned ?

- How do we find other diaconals not commissioned?

Group 3: Regional Clusters: Laura Hunter

London Cluster

- Will have two groups, one focussing on communication and the other on encouragement
- did do deeper reflection on servanthood as support for Jung Hee Parks' dissertation
- celebrating-2 diaconals working in Conference Office
- seeing Dm's rising up in leadership

Hamilton Cluster-4 retreats a year-

- Christine Paradella becoming Executive. Secretary this year

Manitoba Cluster-presentation of the disjoining and the apology to Deaconesses who were disjoined; the discussion was led by Caryn Douglas

- rural cluster starting in Manitoba
- celebration that Ken DeLisle , Joan Jarvis, Debbie Cox, Richard Manley-Tannis in leadership there

Maritime Cluster-2 DM's in conference-David Hewitt & Laura Hunter

Montreal Ottawa- Cluster- has two CCS grads this year! DM's gather for lunch at Conference annually to celebrate as is their practice

Recommendations:

- reach out to DM folks who are now ordained and other ordained folks via clusters who are diaconal minded
- be intentional about including Sandy Saulteaux Centre in our gathering
- CCS folks also attended-program consultation around what new contexts for education might be possible
- See website; facing cuts again and fearful of the challenges
- CCS is nimble and adaptive but how to connect with other theological schools?

Group 4: Barb Elliott and Kaufman Renewal and Emergency Fund Discussion-Debbie Brill

Celebrations: BETF is being well used for its intended purpose; its exciting to support innovative ministries and diversity of programs applying and that the fund exists; and to celebrate those who serve in this ministry!

Some questions:

Is it to become a donor advised fund?

Curious to hear more about this?

Is it a CRA fund?

Concern raised that there are bureaucratic challenges-please verify or clarify?

What is the delay as regards the funds being dispersed?

CCS had hoped to be the owner or investor of the fund-are they running into stonewalling?

Group 5: DOTAC/WORLD DIAKONIA/WORLD FEDERATION-Lisa Polito

An update on upcoming events was provided

World Federation: Berlin, July 2013

DOTAC: Brazil, 2015

**World 2017-Phillipines-
DOTAC, Canada 2019**

MEPS PRESENTATION: Lynda Gow introduced Joe Ramsey and Alan Hall,
PC-MEPS representatives

Joe gave the report and an explanation of how the draft report came about

Report was based on proposal of 2009

Working group made up of members of the permanent committee

Their mandate was:

- To report on the historical and current practices of diaconal ministers in the UCC;
- To consult with DM's and DUCC to determine mechanism to support and encourage DM
- To make recommendations related to future directions of diaconal ministers in the UCC

Process included:

- Working Group Conversations
- DUCC consultation
- Review of history and relevant reports
- Survey included OM; DM: DLM; and lay members

The draft report went to PC-MEPS, further consultation with DUCC executive; final report to PC-MEPS

Observations from the report:

- DM's understand their gifts for ministry differently from how others see them
- There is a high level of job satisfaction
- DMs are especially prepared to provide leadership to the church at this point
- Discernment and Education committees lack education about DM

Other Learnings named in the report:

- DM's are educational, service, and pastoral care focussed clergy but also do "ordained" ministry
- The need is to understand the distinctions between diaconal ministry and ordained ministry identity as being more than function
- Both identity and perspective need to be emphasized

Recommendations:

- Policies and procedures re sacramental licensing need to be consistent and equitable (not a uniformity across the body of diakonia)
- Expand presbytery recognized ministry to include positions where the supporting agency is not in a covenantal relationship with a presbytery (recognizing and affirming and even settling folks in that role)
- Ministry Employment Unit (a section of MEPS)-needs to ensure that the Program Coordinator for Recruitment is knowledgeable about diaconal ministry (e.g. What encourages a person to go into ministry and how do we get the right person into ministry?)
- Ensure resources for recruitment and discernment are accessible ; include information about DM and create diaconal positions with presbytery-recognized institutions (e.g. Tracey Robertson)
- Track whether DM's are finding positions outside the church
- Review pastoral relations resources documents
- PC-MEPS explore the possibility of implementing a program that will provide a stipend or wage during their "internship" for CCS and Sandy Saulteaux candidates (How then would field placements be accountable to the UCC?)

Alan Hall spoke about the Statement of Ministry Committee, which has gone through several hearings.

Brainstorming Ideas:

What might a single order of ministry for those called into a lifetime of professional ministry look like?

- Local ordination
- Grant authorization of sacraments by rite of commissioning
- Designate to specific ministry but they are distinct by function
- Recommend a single order of ministry called into a lifetime of professional ministry which would be under the call of covenant and named as “ordained” .?
- Different streams of ministry could form a guild or association with its own standards
- One order and multiple educational pathways
- Exploring alternative training for DLM expanded requirements

Suggestion: DUCC can serve as a model of specialized ministries because of our experience

Alan cautioned that this concept is still in its very early stages

Asking four to six people to look at the second draft over the summer before go into a broad consultation across the church

Business 2, May 2nd 3:40pm

Reached consensus on moving *Affirm Conversation* to 4pm

Report Backs

1. Structure Group-Sharilynn Upsdell:

- Group wants similar structure to continue
- if you have a passion put your name on the flip chart paper

Some changes noted : e.g. registrar should be part of the national gathering cluster and budget prepared in advance

Note on language re various names-structural pieces named clusters:

- Regional groups be named as such-e.g. national planning cluster but the “province name” group; a rationale might be as follows:
- - a) The term “Groups” would be used when folks from any particular regional area gather for support, etc. (e.g. Hamilton Regional Group, Mantioba Group, etc.)
 - b) The term “Clusters” would be used when folks work together on particular pieces of business regardless of where they live (e.g. Coordinating Cluster, Communications Cluster, National Gathering Cluster)
 - c) Choose an initiator amongst each the groups
 - d) interest expressed from Toronto-Hamilton Regional Group to host next DUCC gathering
 - e) they will work on local arrangements.
 - f) *The organizing group needs to be mindful of creating the fuller agenda*
 - g) Reached consensus that the national gathering continue as we have done for the last two years.

2. MEPS-Lynda Gow-review of Joe’s report offering comments and feedback

- a) Kudos for recognition Joe offered for DM
- b) Relief that DM is understood for the first time in 15 years!
- c) Stipend concept for field placement/internship concept- caution expressed that the current UCC climate and impending funding cuts may impact; need more clarification about the language and concepts defined re field placement vs internship
- d) equitable funding for preparation for ministry through the 3 streams important
- e) Presbytery recognized ministry: -affirmed this recommendation and its direction

Following up on Alan Hall’s comments, MEPS committee would like to hear his report again; remembering that we need 6 participants to respond

Folks were encouraged to consider stepping up in this regard and to sign up on the posted flip chart list for voting tomorrow.

Folks also agreed that the-local ordination issue and sacraments' authorization issue have come together in Alan's report as well as the distinctiveness of DM being apparent

This includes the idea of guilds being incorporated under one order and what to do with the DLM scenario

This report was received by consensus.

3. DOTAC-Denise Davis Taylor

- a) Canada host DOTAC for 2019 (approximately 200 folks typically participate) if the invitation comes
- b) Location of the gathering would have to come later after consultation with other ecumenical groups

This recommendation was confirmed by consensus

- c) World Diakonia 2017-(500 folks typically participate)

If the invitation comes to host, this group recommends we say yes.

Questions arising:

What about responsibilities? There are at least 7 major tasks that need to be dealt with regardless of whether it be DOTAC or Diakonia

The seven tasks?

Are there any funds for coordinating local arrangements and chairing Diakonia?

No, typically, the entire regions usually step up to the plate with help from retired DM's

It was suggested that we go to GC for help and support

d) Could Piggy back our DUCC event with both of those events in 2017 and 2019

4. Affirm Conversation Report-Roland Legge and Heather Sandilands facilitating

The Affirm workshop process at Tatamagouche included working in small groups to answer the following questions:

1. Who is missing from DUCC?
2. How could we find them?
3. How would we be different if we were an Aff. Min?

Folks were then invited to make comments on several pieces of flip chart paper under particular headings. For clarity: LGBT2Q stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered, 2-Spirited, Intersex, and Queer persons.

The term “Transgendered” includes those who identify with or (full or part time) present in a gender other than their biological sex, with or without gender-reassignment surgery. Further, being transgendered is about gender identity issues, separate from one’s sexual orientation.

‘Queer’ is a term of self-identification, used by a person who self-identifies outside of the mainstream understandings of gender and/or sexual orientation.

(note-completed flip chart notes are also available on request)

The Affirming Ministries process is quite specific, requiring the group to do educational work on the difference between being “Affirming” and being “Welcoming”, and to identify those who are already part of the group and those who are clearly missing (i.e. particularly those who identify as LGBT21Q*).

Consensus reached that

- a) DUCC is interested in pursuing the Affirming Ministry process at this time only as it relates to LGBT21Q* persons.

And

- b) Broadening our intentional commitments to other groups identified as missing will take a longer process, as this has more implications to how we do our work as DUCC and financially.

Given DUCC's intentional commitment to stand with marginalized persons and groups, and given the work of understanding the issues that many of us have done in other contexts, it seems reasonable to expedite the education and consultation processes by using electronic means.

Consensus reached that:

DUCC members are interested in pursuing this Affirming Ministry process by engaging the conversations using electronic means.

The small task group will do the necessary revisions and send recommendations to the DUCC membership with timelines for response, with the anticipation of all education, conversation, and voting to be done before the next DUCC biennial gathering, and a celebration take place at that time. Jen Dresser, Catherine Gutjahr, Heather Sandilands, and Carey Wagner agreed to do this small task work.

This work will also include developing a vision statement, reviewing policies and documents, setting goals and criteria for measuring outcomes, defining what DUCC as an affirming minister is, and relating this to our biennial meeting, our clusters and groups between the gatherings and our work in the places we live.

- 5. **BETF Report: Christine Dudley** gave an update and background on need to move the fund from the Seeds of Hope Fund (SOF) to a "Donor Advised Fund" to expedite the speed of accessing and processing the fund with the following recommendations :

- a) A letter from DUCC will go to the United Church of Canada Foundation (UCF) requesting that the BETF be moved from the SOH to a Donor Advised UCF fund by June 30, 2013.
- b) DUCC expects to receive an annual investment report by January 15th of each year
- c) UCF is to assure or otherwise indicate to DUCC that the fund is not invested in gold.

- d) BETF committee on DUCC agrees to authorize the Coordinating Cluster to address any issues that might arise
- e) BETF will ask/direct the Administration Cluster to not approve new requests until 2014.

The rationale for this would be to give the BETF Cluster time to get more clarity on the actual amount of money in the fund as it shifts from SOH to a Donor Advised Fund.

Motion: M/S by Caryn Douglas and Joan Jarvis that the fund be moved from the SOH to the Donor Advised Fund in the United Church of Canada Fund (UCF) by June 30th

The motion was carried by a unanimous vote

Action: BETF Cluster or DUCC Coordinating Cluster will take care of any issues arising.

Also, a letter will be formulated stressing that the placement of the funds should be “ethically sound”, not be invested in gold, and offering that the BETF Cluster or DUCC Coordinating Cluster will be responsible in these regards

Christine Dudley explained the need to hold off for a year (2014) so as to catch up with what is available in terms of funds

Exceptions to our criteria: A one time grant for seed money for innovative ministries that are in the spirit of diakonia (Open Sky Request was denied)

Exception in place: \$2500.00 needs to be available for the staff position

Calling for the question

Consensus reached for holding off to 2015 for receiving grants

Request to consider exceptions to the criteria (i.e.) one time grant only

Business 3, Friday, May 3rd 9:30 am Sharilynn Upsdell and Roland Legge facilitating

Resuming business from the previous day

5. Report Back from BETF Report: Caryn Douglas

Other tasks

Eric Tusz King and Laura Hunter left the body during the d/c of making an exception to a one time only invitation to apply to the fund

Consensus reached re Open Sky Request denied

MOTION: M/S by Caryn Douglas and Joan Jarvis that Nancy Corrigan accept the invitation to fill the gap left by Nancy Post to BETF

Kaufman Fund leaders' names will remain. They are Joan Tchuslinsky and Linda Appleby

Motion Carried

6. Budget, Finance, and Treasurer:

? this whole piece of the minutes needs major tweaking....

MOTION: M/S by Linda Ervin and Laura Hunter that Debbie Springer be the new Treasurer as of July 1, 2013

Motion Carried

?Linda was this a motion and if so who seconded it and if not can you advise?

? also, Sharilynn thought the use of the term group was redundant as used here. Can you help with the wording?

M/S Linda Ervin proposed a new group to work with Finance working group

Alison Huntley, Denise Davis Taylor, Barbara Lieurance

Linda Clarke: Could this work not just happen within the Co-ordinating Cluster?

David Hewitt: Could the signing officers become the working group?

***Debbie Springer offered some further information vis a vis the ?

Signing Officers

MOTION: M/S by Linda Ervin and Eric Tucz King that those names be changed

Sharilynn's notes: Two sets of names were written down: please clarify:

Were the names: Joan Jarvis, Ann Naylor, and Ken Delisle

Or

Denise Davis Taylor, Alice Hanson, Barbara Lieurance

Motion carried

Budget Presentation: Debbie Springer

This budget would be the working document until May 2015

Debbie reviewed the numbers: there is a deficit of \$5520.00 and recommended that the funds could be put into a savings account

? Sharilynn's note was that she thought this was clarified and there is not a deficit?

There is a need for a huge membership drive-its the only place income comes from

Lori Stewart: Would it make sense to combines some of the data to simplify

Debbie Springer: there are no actual #'s

Co-ord. Cluster costs are all for communication and printing

Membership costs are ?

Kathy Toivenan: What about the fees from GC re membership?

Debbie Springer/Sharilynn Upsdell-an in and out

? Sharilynn further clarified: Historically, GCO provided DUCC with the amounts needed and DUCC made the payments. For 2010 and 2011, when GCO was not paying those fees to us, DUCC paid those fees out of their own membership funds. In 2012, Sharilynn Upsdell worked with GCO to have those DOTAC and World Federation fees (\$5700+) reimbursed to DUCC, and then new direct pay procedure instated.

DUCC fees to DOTAC and World Federation no longer come from DUCC membership funds. They are now paid directly by the GCO.

Consensus reached that we are receiving the budget for information only

7. Report Backs

DOTAC & DIAKONIA: Reaching Final Conclusions

Revisiting the consensus previously reached on awaiting invitation from DOTAC (see page 8)

Question: If Asia Pacific turns down the offer to host World Diakonia, are we willing to host?

Consensus was “yes”

A question was raised about piggybacking DUCC 30th anniversary onto hosting DOTAC

There are 3 other diaconal organizations in Canada that will also take part

Questions: If we are going to be in scenarios with other sibling diaconal organizations, can we get together with them? How would we communicate with sister organizations in this regard?

Consensus reached that Canadian diaconal communities will host DOTAC in 2015

8. Six Reps for the Alan Hall report:

Names for AH Report: Ann Naylor, Caryn Douglas; Lynda Gow, Heather Robbins, Vicki McPhee, Arlene Ruggles; and David Hewitt (ex officio)

David Hewitt may not be able to have an active role, given his work as Maritime Conference staff

Lynda Gow offered to pull this group together

9. Report Back from AFFIRM flipchart notes: Jen Dresser

Historically, DUCC has been looking at becoming an affirming body

Perspective has broadened to who is missing and issues such as racism raised

Question for Consensus: Are we prepared to continue with the process of becoming an Affirming Ministry?

Ensuing Questions:

How?

What boundaries and limits are there?

How can we do this effectively when we only meet every other year?

Should be focus more about *the how rather than the yes no* of becoming an affirming ministry?

Is there really a question here?

Further discussion led to the formation of a small group to do the needed work before the 2015 gathering.

Consensus reached

Catherine Gutjahr; Heather Sandilands; Carey Wagner; and Jen Dresser agreed to do this work on behalf of DUCC (an initiator will needed-and selected later and the Coordinating Cluster informed)

10. Report Back from Sacraments Group-Caryn Douglas

- Not in agreement as regards this issue
- Would like to see lay leadership offering sacraments increasing
- Want to encourage wider church to think beyond plan A and or B
- Push the church to say that sacramental lay leadership be acceptable
- Agree that education for church courts be increased so that when such requests are made folks are not caught unaware

Big “S” versus little” S” sacraments: On flip chart sheets

- Broaden lay sacramental leadership-Could this happen through DUCC?
- Ask regional groups to take on the work of asking the question:

What does sacramental leadership looks like?

Caryn Douglas: What about Alan Hall’s report as authorizing commissionands to do sacraments?

She went on to reiterated that the task group on sacraments for today had not reached consensus on where they were at a group

It was also noted that Alan Hall’s report was not really clear

BREAK

Revisiting the Sacraments conversation

Caryn Douglas: the perspectives on the topic of commissionands being given the right to perform sacraments ranged from Yes, strong desire for that to happen to its opposite.

Questions and comments emerging from the discussion within the body were:

What would be a long term goal to see lay leadership in this regard increased?

It seems likely that the same range of view exists in the wider body

Can we get a sense of what is going on out there in the world vis a vis this topic and the need to be pragmatic about doing sacraments; facing a time crunch as regards our response to GC in this regard?

And

Can we respond that it would be helpful for licensing for sacrament be legislated through the Manual or automatic at the time of commissioning?

A great diversity of opinion was evident in the ensuing discussion.

The gathered body agreed that there should be automatic licensing on appointment or call

Consensus reached

Question arising from the discussion:

Could we respond to GC with the diversity of opinions among DUCC's but also affirm that the need for lay sacramental leadership stay at the forefront?

Action: The body agreed that a covering letter accompany our decision

naming our hope for ongoing theological conversation from DUCC be sent to GC

Possible alternate delegates to DOTAC: Ted Dodd; Debbie Brill; and Mary Anne MacFarlane

These names will be referred to CoOrd Cluster

On behalf of DUCC, the Co-Ord. Cluster was empowered **with gratitude** to do the needed work between this gathering and the next !

Other Concern :

Cluster format and the Advocacy Cluster gap named and the question arose:

Could the staff person take on this work?

Kathy Toivenan offered to be an initiator to seek out a few people for that group to work with Sharilynn in this regard

Courtesies: Sharilynn Upsdell Thanks to:

1. Kay Dean, Registrar; CD-website initiator
2. Kathy Toivenan-DUCC History sharing
3. Joan Jarvis and Deborah Vitt for leading us
4. Stories of hope: Kathy Platt and Lynda Trono
5. Caryn Douglas for memorials
6. Small Group Facilitators
7. CoOrdinating Committee folks
8. Margaret Collard, in her role as Treasurer, who has had a hard year
9. Joe Ramsey and Alan Hall who came and brought info from GC
10. Drivers to and from airport and field trips; specifically Annika Sangster and her parents for the lobster dinner; those who prepared the lobster-Eric Tusz King
- 11.. Theme folks-Terrie Chedore and Barbara Lloyd
12. Barb Meyers; Terrie Chedore: Ann Naylor ; Catherine Gutjahr –thanks for workshops
13. Affirming Ministry Leaders: Jen Dresser, Roland Legge, and Heather Sandilands
14. Ceilidh setup folks; silent auction organizers and participants-thanks!
15. Worship leadership-thanks to Irene Rainey and Anne Duncan

Presentations

- 1) Ecumenical guests (Lisa Polito & Maylanne Maybee) were presented with rocks symbolizing rock solid groundedness
- 2) Musical leader, Barb Myers was pinned her with a DUCC pin

Business ended at 11:30am