



# The Diakonia of The United Church of Canada

October 30, 2016

To Members of Pastoral Charges, Presbyteries and Synods,

Thank you for your interest in learning more about Diaconal Ministry as you prepare to vote on Remit #6 – One Order of Ministry. **Diakonia of The United Church of Canada (DUCC)** has prepared this short resource to bring the voice of Diaconal Ministers to the members and parts of our church that may not be familiar with diaconal ministry. DUCC is not taking a position on whether it would like this remit to pass or not.

Diaconal ministry has been resilient and creative since it began in the early church and as it has continued both inside and outside the church institution. We believe diaconal ministry is particularly beneficial to the church in these tumultuous times, and we want you to be familiar with this vital ministry to which we are called and which we offer on behalf of the whole church.



**Diakonia Minister Pin  
The United Church of Canada**

We have provided two short documents. The first is a brief history of diaconal ministry which provides information about diaconal ministry that is not widely known or which may be new to you. The second document is our answer to “What is our diaconal identity?” Over the summer of 2016, Diaconal Ministers in various Conferences gathered to consider what we, as Diaconal Ministers, wanted the church to know about diaconal ministry in this time of making decisions about ordered ministry within the church. We hope you hear the range of our voices in the sidebars that gather individuals’ thoughts and feelings about being a Diaconal Minister. Along with what we hold in common, you will also read perspectives and ideas that are outliers. These are all voices of diaconal ministry.

We hope you find it interesting and helpful as you learn more about Diaconal Ministers and have discussions concerning Remit #6 on the One Order of Ministry. DUCC has more resources and stories. If you are interested in learning more, please do not hesitate to ask any member of DUCC or contact the DUCC staff liaison, Eric Tusz-King at [erictuszking@gmail.com](mailto:erictuszking@gmail.com).

DUCC strongly believes diaconal ministry is not to be solely only carried out by Diaconal Ministers, but is the church’s response to an invitation to care. DUCC’s Statement of Vision says,

*The gospel of Jesus invites all to this ministry:  
to offer compassion and accompaniment.  
to work for liberation and justice,  
to act as advocates of creative transformation.*

Thank you again for engaging in this reflection on diaconal ministry.

Together in ministry,

**Members of Diakonia of The United Church of Canada**

**An association of practitioners of diaconal ministry in The United Church of Canada**