

## **DUCC Coordinating Committee Report April 2007**

The Coordinating Committee has met several times since the Maritime Cluster assumed this responsibility in 2005. As usual with diaconal work, although the work has been demanding it has brought with it great opportunities for community and the development of stronger relationships. This report will contain a summary of our work and the issues, opportunities and challenges which we feel still lie before the Diaconal Ministry community.

### **Minutes of Coordinating Committee:**

The minutes of the Coordinating Committee are now posted on the DUCC website soon after each meeting of the Coordinating Committee. This may prove to be a very helpful communication tool with individual members, but thus far email has been the primary mode by which other clusters have kept abreast with our work. However, here in a nutshell is a picture of some of the issues and areas of work that has been before the committee.

Since the time of the last National Gathering, and at the time of writing this report, we have met 6 times: October 3-06, May 1-06, June 5-06, September 11-06, January 7-07, February 26-07 (via conference call), with another conference call planned for March 22-07. Our first meetings were devoted to getting up to speed on our responsibilities as a Coordinating committee and deciding how to structure ourselves. Lori Crocker agreed to be the contact person for the Coordinating Committee, Kay Dean took on the responsibilities of Treasurer and Membership, David Hewitt agreed to handle the data base and to be the second signing authority on the cheques, and Eric Tusz-King handles the minute taking. We follow the consensus model of decision making.

Our first areas of work came to us in the course of following up on the decisions made at the last National Gathering. The following letters have been written in response to issues of concern:

1. A letter to the Education for Church Leadership Coordinating Committee in response to a proposal made by Emmanuel College to this committee in November 2004. Essentially we outlined our reasons making it clear that we do not support the bid by Emmanuel College to regain Testamur for diaconal ministry.
  
2. A letter was written to the Committee on Ministry Vocations in response to a concern raised about the adequacy of orientation and formation for diaconal ministers seeking admission from other denominations to The United Church of Canada. The letter makes the point that it is extremely important that the Admissions process of our church include opportunity for diaconal ministers seeking admission from another denomination to be trained in the United Church ethos of diaconal ministry and to develop connections and community within the United Church diaconate.

3. A letter was written to the MEPS Permanent Committee about the restorative care plan as it pertains, or in fact does not pertain, to outreach ministry and overseas personnel of the United Church of Canada.

We wish that we could report some response to any of these letters but on the whole there has been none.

We also have had, on a couple of occasions, opportunity to advocate and give support to a diaconal minister and a student of diaconal ministry in facing situations where lack of understanding and support in their presbyteries and workplaces has been an issue. One of the cases involved a letter to a Presbytery Education and Students Committee and again, no response to date.

Some of the other things we are in the process of working on are: keeping in contact with and doing our best to support the work of the Clusters and groups; doing what we can to encourage contact with staff associates; supporting those who are doing the dedicated work of producing the Diaconal News; and getting a handle on information and data that should be included on our website. In these areas there is still much to be done. In many of these matters and in particular in relation to the web site, we appreciate the close working relationship we have with the Centre for Christian Studies and the staff there, as well as the contributions of Richard Manley Tannis as Webmaster and Peter Kidd and Cathie Clement “keepers of the data base” until things were shifted over to David Hewitt.

### **Membership:**

	<b>Membership Data</b>	
	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>
<b>Retired</b>	56	32
<b>Full-time</b>	38	17
<b>¾ Time</b>	4	1
<b>60%</b>	1	
<b>½ time</b>	9	3
<b>¼ time</b>	1	3
<b>Retained</b>	1	
<b>Student</b>	15	10
<b>Lay</b>	1	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>66</b>

## **Financial Notes:**

As treasurer of DUCC, I would like to highlight both celebrations and concerns.

We celebrate the work done by small cluster groups across our land.

The web site and communications development work is a big step forward in keeping us connected.

In the interim year, 2006, between National Gatherings we have supported two delegates to DOTAC. A delegation of three members attended a MEPS meeting to advocate for Diaconal Ministers within the United Church of Canada.

It is challenging to budget for an organization as wide-spread as we are, and yet that is our delight as well. Canada Customs and Revenue would like the bank balance to be closer to zero dollars each year to maintain our charity status. We, on the other hand, have been very careful with our funds and so we have a good positive balance. The risk is losing our charity status. The question to be asked is, "Should we maintain our charity status for the donations we receive?" Donations for 2006 were \$435.

In the year between National Gatherings, membership is lower. DUCC pays the fees to DOTAC and World Federation for 266 diaconal ministers in the United Church. From the membership data, a few are supporting over 200. Through our data base and electronic communications it is hoped that we might encourage consistent membership.

The annual grant (\$3200) from MEPS is still part of our budget and support from our church. We thank MEPS for that support, without which we would not be able to pay our international fees. The effort to obtain the grant increases each year, as budgets are tightened. With the demise of the Committee for Diaconal Ministry in UCC, DUCC is the only voice on behalf of all Diaconal Ministers. We will continue to seek support from our church.

I submit these financial statements for your consideration.

Kay Dean  
DUCC Treasurer

**DIAKONIA OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA**

	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>
	<b>2006</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2007</b>
<b>INCOME</b>				
Donations	500	435	1000	
MEPS grant	3200	3200	3200	
Membership	9000	5438	9635	
National Gathering				
Registration fees			12000	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12,700</b>	<b>9,073</b>	<b>25,835</b>	
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Co-ordinating cluster	1500	1220.94	1500	443.52
Admin	300	467.65	300	
DOTAC	1568.73	1568.73	1600	
DIAKONIA World fed	1300	1141.7	1300	
Regional gatherings	1000	600	1000	97.44
National Gathering		2600	18000	
Communications cluster	1235	1757.61	2235	
Financial review	300	300	300	
Student travel support			1000	
Advocacy		1044.88	1000	
Barb Elliott	500		1000	
Theological Schools	600	1000	600	
Travel support to DOTAC		1000		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,303.73</b>	<b>12,701.51</b>	<b>29,835</b>	

## **Outstanding Issues:**

### *General Council - Permanent Committee on Ministry and Employment Policies and Services*

On Thursday June 15 from 1:15- 2:45 Lori Crocker, Betty Marlin and Kellie McCoomb met in Toronto with PC-MEPS (Permanent Committee on Ministry and Employment Policies and Services). The intent of this meeting was for DUCC to re-establish connection with our National Structures by introducing DUCC, sharing some history and looking at where we are now in relation to diaconal ministry and how work related to us is now lodged in the national structures. The meeting was disappointing to say the least. PC-MEPS does not consider themselves to be an “advocate for any particular group within the Church”, and they indicated clearly that they are a policy making group only taking their direction from the General Council Executive. Much of what we had come to discuss did not fall under what they saw to be their work and they could not tell us where things did fall.

A full report of what was discussed at this meeting has been circulated and will be available at the National Gathering. Recently we have received a response from PC-MEPS to our request that they send a representative to our National Gathering and provide a report of the work being done in the area of diaconal ministry- this was what the Committee on Diaconal Ministry used to do this in the past. As expected they “did not consider it appropriate to provide a written accountability report to a body other than the General Council Executive.” They will not be represented at our Gathering. Part of our business agenda will include strategizing where we go from here.

### *Presbytery Recognition of Ministries*

There have been several strands to the efforts to have presbytery designate some Diaconal Ministers work as *Presbytery Recognized Ministries*. Joan Tuchlinsky, London Conference and Eric Tusz-King, Maritime Conference, have each applied to their respective presbyteries for this recognition and Betty Marlin has been supporting the application from a Diaconal Minister in Alberta North West Conference. There have been several letters written to MEPS staffer, Joe Ramsey, one of which was acknowledged, but no response has been received. Eric has received a negative response to his request and no explanation. We have not heard from Joan or Betty on the applications they have submitted or assisted. This will be point of discussion at this year’s gathering.

### *The Kaufman Renewal and Emergency Fund*

On July 15, 2006 we received the Annual Report of the Administration Committee of the Kaufman Cottage fund. Once again copies of this will be available at this National Gathering. One of the business items on our agenda will be to approve the appointment of Judith Astley to the Administration Committee. Congratulations, Judith and thank you to all the other dedicated members of the committee.

We hope that this gives everyone an accurate and helpful picture of what we have been about since the fateful day in April of 2005 when the responsibilities of the Coordinating Committee shifted to the Maritimes. We continue to learn a lot and benefit from having

important and compelling work that draws us together. Increasingly, we feel both the weight of keeping “things diaconal” on the radar of the church and the privilege it is to have before us a picture of how diaconal ministers continue to live out who they are and make a difference in how the Spirit is at work across the church and in the world. Feel free to talk with anyone of the coordinating committee about anything you read in this report.

Yours in Diaconal Ministry,

The Coordinating Committee of DUCC

Nancy Corrigan

Lori Crocker

Kay Dean

David Hewitt

Sue King-Darby

Eric Tusz-King

Hi all,

From sunny and bright Sackville, NB. Here are the minutes from today's CC conference call.

Looking forward to seeing many of you in Alberta in a few months.

Eric

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**DUCC Co-ordinating Committee  
February 26, 2006**

Check-in occurred as we gathered and waited for all to call in.

**Business arising:**

1. **Presbytery Recognized Diaconal Ministry:** This item should be added to the agenda the national gathering.
2. **Attachments on website:** Nancy is working on it.
3. **Cluster structure on website:** Nancy is working on it.
4. **DUCC database:** It continues to prove difficult to hand control of the DUCC database over to the Coordinating Committee. Lori will call Caryn Douglas to resolve.
5. **Kaufman Cottage Fund:** Lori is still to do this.
6. Theological Colleges, DOTAC and Regional and DUCC Clusters
7. **Dr. Jessie Salteaux Centre:** Lori to write to express our regrets of conflicting schedules.
8. **Financial Administration:** the account in Alberta has been set up.
9. **Nominating Committee:** We assume the Liaison Committee will include the list of Diaconal Ministers on General Council Committees.
10. **DUCC Coordinating Committee Report:** A draft report was shared and additional suggestions made. Members will write the paragraphs identified and Eric will send the next draft out.
11. **Room for Coordinating Committee:**

**Correspondence:**

1. **From the last meeting:**
  - a. **DAP representative:** It is unlikely that this will happen, because Sala, seems to be unknown by the Methodist partners in Fiji. Eric will write a letter to Omega Bulah, JGER CC to Margaret Sumadh, and General Secretary relaying the difficulty diaconal ministers in being known by some partners.
  - b. **DUCC Statement of Belief:** Joan Tuchlinsky and the theme committee feel it should go as a agenda item on the Business Meeting and not incorporated with the theme.
2. **To this meeting:**
  - a. **Budget for National Gathering:** Kay reviewed the report sent to us and we agreed that the budget is fine. The only question was around the travel pool, but nothing to be concerned about.
  - b. **London Conference Request for Agenda Time:** They would like 30 minutes to discuss diaconal identity. We think the plan for viewing the Maritime video is very good. To be dealt with when we discuss the agenda at our March meeting. Lori will tell her what we can tell her at this time.
  - c. **Ecumenical Representative:** We agreed that David would follow up with the Luther representative and invite her to our national gathering.
  - d. **Duties of Local Arrangements:** Linda Gow – Yes, they are responsible for courtesies and written ‘thank you’ notes, following the event. Lori will respond.
  - e. **CCS Annual Meeting:** We agreed that we would send DUCC statement of congratulations

and blessing. Nancy will deliver this in person.

**New Business:**

1. **Draft of Full Agenda:** Lori will request this to be received as soon as possible after they meet on March 12. After that we will meet again.
2. **Leadership at Business Meeting:** Rotating Chairs is the model we will use again. We will ask Local Arrangements to provide a lap-top computer with internet connections, printer, and digital arrangements. We will also ask them to identify someone to take minutes.
3. **Reports to Biannual Gathering:** Reports will be posted on the website, emailed to those registrations and printed placed on the registration desk in limited numbers. David will do this, after Nancy has contacted Richard Tannis-Manley.

**Next meeting is Thursday March 15<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM via conference call. Kay to set it up.**

**DUCC Coordinating Committee**  
**November 9, 2006**

**Present:** Lori Crocker, Nancy Corrigan, David Hewitt, Kay Dean, Eric Tusz-King.

**Regrets:** Sue King-Darby

**Check-in:**

Reading from Caryn Douglas about giving thanks for those who have been influential and supportive, followed by a prayer acknowledging God's blessing on our work:

- Diaconal community
- Volunteer in a palliative care programme – recognized in me my blessings
- Parents who recognize the blessings in my life
- Most people – particularly a group initiated by a new clergyperson who has gathered people for regular support
- Most people in the pastoral charge and the new clergy in the presbytery

**Business Arising:**

1. Presbytery Recognized Diaconal Ministry. Eric wrote a letter to Chignecto Presbytery explaining his situation and asked Presbytery to send any GC information they receive – [Eric is still to draft this and send it to Lori](#)
2. Attachments from the National Gathering on Website – [Nancy is still to do this](#)
3. Letter to Presbytery Chignecto Presbytery – Susan Estabrooks acknowledge
4. #10C in June 2006 – Clarify the cluster structure on the Website – [Nancy is still to do this.](#)
5. National data base – Cathy has not done this and it has been giving us problems as a result
  - a. [David will draft and Lori will sign](#)
6. Kaufman Cottage Fund – This is a follow-up to Kay's letter asking for a lump sum for the National Gathering for travel, including students. Suggested sum is \$3000. [Lori is to write them again.](#)

**Correspondence:**

1. August 20 - Constitution: We do not have a constitution by that name. We have written purpose, statement of belief and charter statement. Lori will email Linda Ervin who was looking for this.
2. August 23 - Addresses for World Diakonia – Kay responded
3. DAP representative to National Gathering – [Eric will follow-up this with JGER.](#) We will pay accommodation if JGER can pay the international and domestic travel
4. Childcare – Kay responded saying that we could provide if requested.
5. September 15 – Roland asked:
  - a. Travel pool - Kay responded with information we have at this time. [Kay will write Local Arrangements \(Carolyn Nicholson\) to let them know this.](#)

- b. Student Bursary – Kay responded saying that \$1000 is available
  - c. Travel policy – nothing at this time. It is difficult to do this until we get a response from Kaufman.
- 6. October 3 – Communications Cluster expressing their thanks about encouraging Diaconal Ministers on GC Committees.
- 7. October 4 – Liaison Group asked for specific committees and sent letter to all DMs and personal letters to select group. Not clear what has been the result of this work. The Liaison Group will meet again to gather this information and address the Coordinating Committee’s request to write to the GC Executive (Re: #6 Business Arising – September 11, 2006). Marg Scott is also a member of the Liaison Committee.
- 8. October 4 – Conversation with Roland – re: information on brochure.
- 9. October 12 – Manitoba and North Western Ontario Gathering- Ted Dodd. Inquiring whether Statement of Belief or Song of Faith of UCC. Need to clarify which statement he is referring to and what would be helpful. Lori will ask for this clarification.
- 10. October 24 - Julie Cameron-Gray & Joe Ramsey – MEPS – response to Kay’s letter:
  - a. Is willing to fund National Gathering – Received funds
  - b. Barb Elliot Trust Fund – Susan Jones is the contact person at GCO
  - c. Financial Support for 2007 – Asking for an application. Kay has done this.
  - d. No long-term commitment articulated, but it appears that they accept their responsibility
- 11. October 27 – Lori received a letter from Diane Bosman, Committee Members Services ([nominate@united-church.ca](mailto:nominate@united-church.ca)). We will request a list from her after November 30, 2006 of the DMS on GC Committees.
- 12. October 30 – Jim Blanchard – Acknowledging our request for a MEPS rep at our National Gathering.
- 13. October 30 – Richard Manley-Tanis (webmaster) asking for a link with DUCC and DOTAC and World Diakonia. They are now linked.
- 14. November 1 – DUCC Communications – Linda Appleby – asking about travel and Kaufman Fund. We need to affirm their Administrative Committee’s membership at the National Gathering’s Business Meeting.
- 15. Request received for \$300 from Maritime Conference Diaconal regional Gathering for January 7, 2007 at Sue King-Darby’s. We agreed to \$300.

### **Financial Report**

- 1. Kay reported that she submitted the Budget to MEPS for the year 2007. A copy is filed with this meeting’s Minutes in Official records kept by Nancy Corrigan.
- 2. We agreed to increase the amount for expenses for the National Gathering to \$18,000 and the Total Expenses to \$29,835.
- 3. Kay has received Revenue Canada’s review of our accounts as a charitable organization which will be shared at the National Gathering. The Educational funds need to be reported in 2007.

## **Preparation of National Gathering**

At the **next meeting of the Coordinating Committee on January 7<sup>th</sup> at 2 PM at Sue King-Darby's house** we will do more intentional planning for the Business Meeting. Further ideas are below.

## **Business Meeting at the National Gathering (April 17-20, 2007):**

1. Decision Making Process
2. Approval of Agenda:
3. Approval of Minutes of 2005
4. Business Arising from 2005 ([Nancy will review minutes for reporting on those items](#))
5. Report of the Coordinating Committee:
  - a. Financial Report
  - b. Educational Project
6. Regional groups
7. Clusters groups
  - a. Communication
  - b. Liaison with General Council
8. Issues arising from General Council
  - a. Hearing from DMs at GC – [Lori will ask those DMs to report](#)
    - i. How was it for DMs?
    - ii. What issues arose that affect DMs?
      1. Single Rite of Entry
      2. Leadership Outcomes
      3. Ministry Compensation
      4. Emerging Spirit
    - iii. What is DUCC's role addressing them in national discussions?
9. Learnings from Representatives to World Diakonia and DOTAC
  - a. Admission of DMs to DUCC
  - b. Relating to Students
  - c. Affirmation of ministries
  - d. Increase in dues to hold education events and advocacy programmes in partnership with Barb Elliot Trust Fund. Possibly to hire someone.
10. Election of DUCC Representatives to DOTAC (October 2005 Minutes of Coordinating Committee)
11. Song of Faith or Statement of Belief – MNWO
12. What is our attitude about our relationship of the UCC? How can we feel more self-confident and less reliant upon the UCC's affirmation?