

Coordinating Committee Report to the 2024 DUCC National Gathering

I've been Chair of the Coordinating since 2017 when we gathered in Chicago following the DIAKONIA World Federation Assembly. Having attended the Assembly before the DUCC meeting, attendees found themselves energized to broaden the work of DUCC and engage more people in the various opportunities that DUCC has to offer as well as bolster the work of the diakonia in our church and communities.

As such, the Coordinating Committee recognized that its key mandates for the next years were as follows:

- to support and intentionally invite people as much as possible to attend diaconal local gatherings, national and international gatherings
 - one example of how the CC has done this work is through seeking leadership in each Region of the church to connect and engage with DUCC members in that area
 - financial resources have been set aside to assist with the costs of Regional groups meeting together
- to support and encourage underrepresented groups of people to engage with DUCC and other diaconal events
 - this has happened through examining our membership and inviting those who have not participated previously or may have experienced barriers to participating in the past
 - financial resources have been used to support and assist marginalized or under-represented groups to attend diaconal events
- to recommend and nominate diaconal folks to committees, working groups and staff positions with the wider church

The Coordinating Committee is responsible for supporting the work of the Advocacy Committee and the Archives Committee. The Communications Committee supports the work of all working groups and committees by promoting and sharing information across many different platforms.

The DUCC By-Laws have been updated and revised. Those who gathered for DUCC 2022 had opportunity to give input and the By-Laws will be reviewed and, hopefully, ratified by the gathering of DUCC 2024.

The 2022-2024 Coordinating Committee was made up of the following roles/people:

- Chair, Vicki McPhee
- Secretary, Denise Davis Taylor
- Communications Chair, Deborah Laforet
- Nominations Chair, Barbara Lieurance
- DOTAC Rep, Ted Dodd
- Member-at-Large, Marlene Britton
- Member-at-Large, Jen Dresser
- Staff, Eric Tusz-King
- Treasurer, Helen Reed

I believe the work of DUCC, through the leadership of the Coordinating Committee, over the next few years will emerge from engaging the theme of DUCC 2024 – Exploring the questions: What is the future of the church? What is the role of the diakonia in the church’s future?

I have indicated that it’s time for me to step aside, at the close of DUCC 2024, from the Chair role in the Coordinating Committee. Succession planning for the Coordinating Committee is still a work in progress and, as of this writing, there is not yet a nominee to take on the role following DUCC 2024. As such, I have agreed to remain as Chair until a new Chair can be found over the next few months.

My time as Chair of the Coordinating Committee has been deeply enriching for me. I have very much appreciated the opportunities that I have had to meet and work with diaconal people all across Canada. I look forward to serving DUCC in other capacities.

Yours in diakonia,

Vicki McPhee