

Staff Report to 2024 National Gathering – Drumheller – September 2024

As this year is our 40th anniversary, and next year will be my 10th year in this position, I would like this report to serve two functions. One to provide an accountability for the work I have done for the last two years and to reflect on how the DUCC staff role has evolved since I have been in the position.

My primary accountability is to the Coordinating Committee and to the chair, Vicki McPhee. I attend the meetings as a non-voting corresponding member and often connect with Vicki several times between meetings, via emails and/or calls. On occasions I prepare the agenda with Vicki and am welcomed to contribute to all topics on the Committee's agenda. I most often prepare an accountability for each meeting.

The only committee to which I have significant responsibility is the Advocacy Committee which has no chair, so I convene the meetings when necessary. There will be a report from the Advocacy Committee that will note the topics it has addressed. My role as liaison with General Council staff, whose responsibilities relate to diaconal ministry, is critical to the work of this committee. Currently, DUCC has high trusting relationships with most of the GC staff, which often enables collaboration on tasks rather than pitting DUCC against GC.

The two other committees that I relate to are the Communications and Archives Committees. My role with these committees is primarily being a conduit for information to and from the committees to other parts of the DUCC structure. I am not a full member of either committee and although my attendance is not obligatory, I am welcomed and often consulted on a variety of topics.

The national gatherings are a lot of work for volunteers who may not always have the full picture of the DUCC structures. For the year prior to a national gathering, my priority is to ensure good communication among the various players who may not be directly involved with the planning.

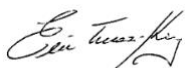
As a member of the founding committee of DUCC 40 years ago, I am delighted with the growth and strength of DUCC and diaconal ministry in the UCC. The purposes for which we created DUCC, I believe are being met. There have been and continue to be a wide number of people who deserve credit for our achievements. DUCC cannot exist without this heavy volunteer base. The role of staff is mostly to support the volunteers.

The actual work of the staff has changed slightly since we created the position over ten years ago. It still is responsible for monitoring GC, GCE and the work of the GCO offices, but with competent volunteers appointed to key committees this responsibility is shared. An example of this is my convening of DUCC members who are members of General Council. I bring them together, but they do the heavy lifting on developing responses or requests to and sharing them with General Council.

The position and my performance are reviewed every 2 or 3 years. 2025 would be a good time to do this again and reflect on if there are any changes needed in the work description or compensation.

I continue am very pleased to be DUCC's staff person and I find the work both personally and professionally rewarding. I work with great leadership.

Together in ministry,



Eric Tusz-King