

Diakonia of the United Church of Canada (DUCC)  
Spiral Reflection Notes  
Active Experimentation (AE)

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RECOGNIZED MINISTRY

Individual AE

- Diakonia everywhere! Encourage/lobby for those who are bi-vocational to be commissioned or designated as being diaconal eg medicine, bible study, shop keeper, youth engagement, etc. Deaconess Home Missionaries.

DUCC AE

- DUCC to start recognizing non-congregational ministry.

UCC AE

- Support for DUCCs working outside of traditional congregational ministry.
- General Council discussion on what is Ministry to encourage discussion on bi-vocational ministry.
- Encourage Regions and Congregations to acknowledge and celebrate all forms of ministry.

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EDUCATION

Individual AE

- Reflect on our call to education – how are we educating the wider church?

DUCC AE

- n/a

UCC AE

- More education re: Diakonia.
- Gather DUCC GC45 Commissioners for a zoom conversation with DUCC (Coordinating Committee and more) and strategize ways/places to bring up Diakonia.
- DUCC booths are Regional Council meeting; provide tools for local DUCCS to engage/ converse with others in their region.
- Video/pamphlet/process for Candidacy Committees calling out prejudice or ignorance re: education, neurodiversity.
- Church structures and staff who have limited vision or need more knowledge of Diakonia.
- DUCC needs to be willing to be changed and challenged especially on racial justice and radical inclusion.
- Racial justice needs to become a priority for DUCC; if we are talking about justice, and we talk about it a lot, then we need to focus more on racial justice.

Blocks

COVID, Land Acknowledgement, Politics/being political

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SHARING ABOUT DIAKONIA/DUCC

Individual AE

- Invite 3-5 people to our home for a meal quarterly with the purpose of building community and sharing how we are each practising Diakonia. This will provide support, recognition, collaboration, and spiritual connection. These people could be anyone!
- Tell and uplift story of Diakonia.
- Speak in a natural way about my faith/UCC/Diakonia
- PIE (Public, Intentional, Explicit) about how great our Community of Faith is.

DUCC AE

- Use DUCC Statement and Song of Faith for Discipleship.
- Strengthen our relationship with Affirm United and General Council.
- Sharing resources on our website and keep the website updated.
- Lean into education, more so than justice and pastoral care, to empower and enable the Diakonia of all believers.
- Lifting up images, symbols, and stories of Diakonia for the whole church to claim and live into a Diaconally-focussed discipleship.
- Create videos for congregations about Diaconal Ministry, how to develop and encourage lay ministry (big meaning), lift up the Ministry of All People in their everyday lives.
- As they say (like from “When Horton Hears a Who”), we are here, we are here, we are here!!

UCC AE

- Create a video we could use as a report – maybe use those short interviews?
- Designate a Diaconal Sunday.
- Write liturgies from a clear Diaconal perspective and offer them to the wider church.
- Display DUCC banner at Regional Gatherings.

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COMMUNITY BUILDING – within DUCC and Wider UCC

Individual AE

- Making space for one another's stories.
- Make intentional connection with DUCC.

DUCC AE

- Connect with Designated Lay Ministers (DLMs); set them up with Diaconal partners; build relationships.
- Make sure we continue to gather and support each other.
- More gatherings (virtual) to create community.
- How to invite the wider church into the conversation about who we are and what does the conversation look like, while acknowledging that we are a colonized church that benefits a 'certain collar'?
- We need to have more 'future' conversations – how do we invite church into our story? Reflect on hymn – “and when you call for me, I have already answered”
- Hear us, See us. Watch us. Shape us. Remember within DUCC and beyond.

UCC AE

- There should always be a DUCC on the Candidacy Board.
- What do we do with “lost ducks” who don't embrace the ethos, yet still represent on Candidacy Board, Regional Councils, etc.?
- Skill building for polarization.
- Ganz story telling method for groups polarized on issues (contact Kelley Warner).

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LISTEN, ENCOURAGE INVOLVEMENT, LEARN

Individual AE

- What does it mean to be respectful communities? Creating communities of respect through listening to one another's' stories similar to the communities that Jesus Christ created – where no one was unclean.
- Use wisdom derived from peacemakers.
- Listen to our call to social justice; never stop engaging.
- Permission to transform; sometimes small steps at a time.

DUCC AE

- Use technology to broaden our capacity to listen.
- Who are our fonts of wisdom in being a diverse community that is inclusive? Miriam Spies, Marlene Britton; learning from the edges.
- Diaconal assimilation (where DMs have tended to fit in where needed in order to not rock the boat/to fill a social justice or pastoral care need). Problem is that DMs are unseen or not connected to faith. Now we need to lean into our educational Diaconal work to connect faith and work and baptismal call to Diakonia, broaden it, engage and root discipleship, equip, and foster Diakonia in the church and the world.
- Continue to promote/encourage Diaconal people in Regional leadership.
- We need to practice what we proclaim and say when we talk about justice.

UCC AE

- Dialogue for Peaceful Change Program (Tatamagouche)