



EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN
CHURCH IN AMERICA

Report to the Community FY 2007

Mission Statement

As a covenanted community, centered in the Word, grounded in the biblical call to diakonia and brought forth by the ELCA, we seek to encourage and support one another, and partner with others to address the emerging mission and ministry needs of the church and our world.

As called and consecrated diaconal ministers, we covenant to:

- Be prayerfully centered and rooted in the Word
- Speak the truth in love
- Identify, mentor and assist with discernment and formation of prospective diaconal candidates
- Engage in ongoing spiritual formation, continuing education and formation designed to strengthen the mission and ministry of the diaconate
- Partner proactively with the structures of the ELCA, for the purposes of interpreting diaconal ministry and guiding its development
- Be in relationship with other diaconal communities both in the ELCA and ecumenically

**Diaconal Ministry Community of the ELCA
Report to the Community
March 2007**

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Minutes of the Atlanta Gathering
October 13-16, 2005
Norcross, Georgia

The **pre-conference** for the gathering began on Thursday, October 13th, with an opening prayer and words of welcome by Pat Gerber, chairperson of the planning team. After a buffet dinner, those in attendance shared small group time, Holden Evening Prayer, and fellowship.

Following a brief service of prayer, the morning of Friday, October 14th, was spent in tying fleece prayer shawls as a **service project**.

In the early afternoon, we enjoyed a **panel with our special guests**: Sister Anne Keffer, Directing Deaconess of the Deaconess Community of the ELCA, Dick Bruesehoff and Stan Olson from the Vocation and Education Unit of the ELCA churchwide offices, Bishop Craig Johnson of the Minneapolis Area Synod, and Rev. Dr. John Largen, Pastor to the Seminary Community of Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary. The panelists addressed questions relating to diaconal ministry in the ELCA.

At 4:30 PM, we gathered for **worship**, including a new Rite of Welcome to celebrate our shared diaconal call and to recognize both those approved, awaiting call, and those who have been recently consecrated as Diaconal Ministers. Sister Anne Keffer served as preacher.

After dinner, we gathered for a **business meeting**. Pat Gerber and Esther Schmidt were thanked for their hard work in preparing for this conference. The quilt that Pat assembled from community members' squares was put on display to reflect the gathering's theme, "Woven Together in Love."

A **proposal** was presented regarding the **symbol** of the Diaconal Ministry Community of the ELCA. Discussion ensued as to whether the community could choose an official symbol and whether we want to move in the direction of being an organization, rather than a loosely organized group of people who serve on the same roster of the ELCA. Stan Olson clarified for us that since the Diaconal Ministry Community does not exist in the Constitution of the ELCA, selection of a symbol for the community (as opposed to the roster) is not governed by churchwide decisions. It was agreed that the Leadership Team would redraft the proposal overnight, incorporating the concerns raised during the meeting.

Rev. Dr. John Largen led us in a **Bible study** reflecting on public ministry in light of John 21. Then we enjoyed some lighthearted fellowship in our **small group activity**. The day closed with **Taize worship**, led by Nancy Gable.

We gathered again on Saturday, October 15th, to hear the second half of John Largen's **Bible study**, focusing on passages from Mark 1 and Mark 6, with a special emphasis on the importance of taking time apart with God in the midst of the work of ministry.

Terri McMaster reminded those gathered that **Kim Gonia's consecration** would be taking place the following day, October 16th, in Colorado. Many community members wrote congratulatory notes to Kim.

We heard words of welcome and encouragement from **Bishop Craig Johnson** of the Minneapolis Area Synod and **Bishop Ron Warren** of the Southeastern Synod. Bishop Warren greeted us on behalf of his synod and shared information about the ELCA in the southeast part of the country. He also recognized Diaconal Ministers Judy Knapp and Morgan Gordy for their faithful work in the synod; Judy works in prison ministry and Morgan is under a special synodical call as Assistant to the Bishop for Hurricane Katrina Relief. Bishop Johnson emphasized the growing role of mission in the ELCA and how Diaconal Ministers are wonderfully poised to help in that great work. Bishop Johnson also led the community in a small group activity to discuss what gives us the greatest passion and energy in our work, as well as how to discern that we are doing God's will.

After lunch we reconvened for a second **business meeting**. After further discussion and some judicious additions we arrived at consensus on the following proposal: "The fifth community gathering of consecrated Diaconal Ministers and those approved and awaiting call affirm that, in addition to the universal diaconal symbol of the basin and towel, the [continuous line cross] is a **common symbol** for the Diaconal Ministry Community of the ELCA."

The proposal to move the **gathering timeline** to every two years, rather than every eighteen months, was tabled. As part of the discussion, Diaconal Ministers were encouraged to consider the possibility of organizing regional gatherings and to open such gatherings to any interested Diaconal Ministers, making the dates known via the CDMTalk list serve.

We reached consensus on the following proposal: "In the event of a **vacancy** on the Leadership Team when the Alternate cannot assume the position, the Leadership Team be empowered to appoint a member of the Diaconal Ministry Community in an interim role to complete the term of office."

After some discussion and a change to the original proposal, we gained community consensus on the following statement: "Once a member has finished **two consecutive terms** on the Leadership Team, the member is not eligible to be placed on the ballot again for one complete term of office."

Consensus was also expressed regarding the following proposal: "If the Alternate member of, or an appointee to, the Leadership Team is called upon to fulfill the term of office for a Leadership Team member who has resigned, the Alternate's/ appointee's time on the Leadership Team will not be counted against **term limits**."

The floor was opened for **additional concerns** of the community. A common theme was how we will organize ourselves as a community in the coming years.

At the close of the business meeting, we met for an hour in three **working teams**: the Planning Team for the next community gathering, the Communication Team, and the Candidate Support Team. Some members are continuing on the same teams on which they have served for the past term; some are switching teams; and many newcomers joined the working teams as well. Each team brainstormed and discussed plans for the next eighteen-month period.

After free time and dinner together, we gathered for our final **business meeting**. The Leadership Team presented a new proposal that reflected the discussion at the close of the afternoon's business session.

We gained consensus on the following statement: “Based on discussion, reflection, and prayer the Leadership Team invites members of the Diaconal Ministry Community of the ELCA who have the energy and interest to serve on an eighteen-month **task team** to research and develop a proposal which includes **guiding principles** for our life in community.”

Consensus was also shown on the following proposal: “The Diaconal Ministry Community of the ELCA seeks to affirm and receive the **2005 Report to the Community** and commend the report to the archival team for processing.”

Ed Kruse led the **balloting** portion of the business meeting. While we waited for the first round of ballots to be counted, Doug Spiotta distributed tokens of appreciation and celebration (including dove-shaped confetti, star-studded crowns, and “pearls of wisdom”) to those community members celebrating **birthdays in October** and those who turned 50 this year.

On the first ecclesiastical ballot, **Kris Perry** received a majority with 15 votes; she was elected to serve on the Leadership Team for the ensuing term.

While awaiting the results of the second ballot, **books were recommended** to the community by various members: *Loving Jesus, Living Reminder, The Kite Runner, Exquisite Risk: Living the Authentic Life, The Evangelizing Church, Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World, Public Church, Don't Think of an Elephant, The Active Life, A World According to God, Listening for God, Creative Ministry, and the Heart of Christianity.*

No one received a majority on the second ballot, so we voted again.

On the third ballot, majority votes (16 each) were received by **Tim Freund and Doug Spiotta**. Tim was not present at the time, but he had been asked ahead of time if he would be willing to serve on the Leadership Team and had said yes. On hearing that, Doug volunteered to serve as the Alternate and for Tim to serve as the Leadership Team member for the coming term.

The **new Leadership Team** for the coming eighteen months will be comprised of Beth Barkhau, Tim Freund, Mindy Holland, and Kris Perry, with Doug Spiotta serving as Alternate. Those who have served on the current team were thanked for their service.

Closing comments were shared by Rev. Stan Olson and by Sister Anne Keffer. We gathered for **evening worship**. Esther Schmidt preached and did a beautiful portrayal of the woman in Luke 13.

On the morning of Sunday, October 16th, we gathered for final **worship with Holy Communion**, with Bishop Johnson preaching. After check-out, we shared a final gathering time with closing comments by community members and a Litany of Sending. We agreed to give the community quilt to Morgan Gordy to pass on to someone from the Gulf affected by Hurricane Katrina. All present were wished safety and Godspeed on their journeys home.

Respectfully submitted,

Mindy Holland
Leadership Team Secretary

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Diaconal Ministry Leadership Team Biographies

The Leadership Team listed below was selected during the Atlanta gathering of the community in October 2006. They are making a strong commitment to keep the community abreast of the work that they do on your behalf, in partnership with the Vocation and Education Unit of the ELCA.

Beth Barkhau: Beth lives in Aiken, South Carolina, where she serves a congregational call as Diaconal Minister with the people of St. Paul Lutheran Church. Beth's primary areas of ministry include evangelism, outreach development, family life programming, and worship support. She was a participant in the 1996 DMFE and was consecrated in 1997. She is currently engaged synodically with the Global Mission Committee of the South Carolina Synod, serves as a member of the SC Synod Ministry Team for Rostered Leadership, and is an ELCA-trained Women's Global Advocate. In her community of Aiken, Beth has served as the ecumenical president of GAMA, Greater Aiken Ministerial Association and on various social agency boards. Beth continues to support the diaconal ministry community as the liaison to the Gathering Planning Team and by representing the DM Community to our ecumenical partners via DOTAC. *"My hope for the diaconal community is that we aide God's people to live out their calls with and for all, continually reaching out in Word and service, advocating for peace and justice, while simultaneously engaging the church at large in its call to diakonia."* bbarkhau@bellsouth.net

Tim Freund: Tim lives in Petersburg, Michigan with his wife Joyce (also a DM) where he has been called to a rural congregation in the position of pastor. Tim sees the term "pastor" not as a person, but as a rostered position in our church that can be served by people with gifts for congregational ministry. Tim attended the DMFE 2001 and was consecrated in 2003. He attended Mary Grove College, in downtown Detroit and greatly values his ecumenical education. His DM project was focused on jail ministry. As he looks back, he still is not able to make sense of his current call to a congregation. He thought he was doing very good work in organizing lay people to reduce recidivism in the current justice system. However, the one common thread in all the ministries he has been involved with is the tremendous need for healing in ourselves, our communities, and in our country. *"As DM's, we can offer the good news for those on the outside in the presence of Jesus Christ. The diaconate vision has never been more important in our churches and communities than it is today."* jtfreund@cass.net

Mindy Holland: Mindy was elected to the Leadership Team in April of 2004. She has been on leave from call since late July of 2004, when she left her campus ministry position in Whitewater, Wisconsin to marry her husband and relocate. Stuart and Mindy reside in Beaverton, Oregon, where she works part-time as the Office Assistant at St. Andrew Lutheran Church. Mindy is a member of Light of Life Lutheran Church in Aloha, Oregon, where Stuart serves as the pastor. Mindy is also pursuing a certificate in spiritual direction at George Fox Seminary. Mindy is currently searching for a position in active, relational ministry and is hopeful that a call will come by mid-summer this year. She welcomes your prayers for her openness to God's call--and for the call to come soon! :) She serves on the Leadership Support and Candidacy Committees of the Oregon Synod and has provided clerical support

for the Bishop's Election Task Force this spring. Mindy has served as the coordinator for the Prayer Mentor Program since the spring of 2002, and she is finally laying down that responsibility as she departs from the Leadership Team at this upcoming gathering. During the past year and a half, Mindy has served as Liaison to the Candidate Support Team; for nearly a year, she also served as the Acting Chairperson of that team. Mindy was a participant in the 1999 DMFE, and she had the privilege to serve on the staff of the Formation Event in 2002, 2003, 2005, and 2006. Mindy's consecration took place on July 1, 2001, at her home congregation in Renton, Washington. *"My hope for the diaconal community is that in all undertakings we would keep our minds, hearts, and spirits open to the wisdom, will, guiding, and grace of Jesus Christ our Lord. I also pray that we will continue to grow in trust and surrender to the will of God, wherever it may take us. Thank you all for the trust that you extended to me in electing me to serve on the Leadership Team these past three years."* mindy@isp.com

Kris Perry: Kris lives in Eden Prairie, Minnesota, where she is currently under call to the Minneapolis Area Synod as the Companion Synod Coordinator, partnering MAS congregations with those in Nigeria, Africa as well as Leipzig, Germany. A participant in the 1998 DMFE, Kris was consecrated in 2000 and served in a congregational setting of the Minneapolis Area Synod focusing on short term international mission trips. She also serves as a Bridgebuilder and Healthy Congregations Consultant for congregations in turmoil and transition in the Minneapolis Area Synod as well as special projects for the synod. Kris serves as the Leadership Team Chair. *"My hope for the diaconal community is that we will continue to lead the way in strengthening the ministry of diakonia in our call and throughout the ecumenical church world."* krisp@visi.com

Please keep the Leadership Team in your prayers and feel free to contact any of them with your thoughts and concerns about the work that they are called to do. They are eager to hear your hopes for the community. May we all become voices of hope and grace in our local communities and in the wider world.

Leadership Team Terms of Service

<u>Diaconal Minister</u>	<u>Elected</u>	<u>Term Ends</u>
Margy Schmitt Ajer	Aug 2001	Apr 2004
Beth Barkhau	Apr 2004	Apr 2007
Madelyn Herman Busse	Aug 2001	Nov 2002
Heather Feltman	Aug 2001	Apr 2004
Mindy Holland	Apr 2004	Apr 2007
Ed Kruse	Aug 2001	Oct 2005
Lake Lambert	Aug 2001	Jan 2002 (resigned)
Terri McMaster	Nov 2002	Oct 2005 (resigned)
Sue Setzer	Aug 2001	Nov 2002
Kristina Perry	Oct 2005	Oct 2008
Tim Freund	Oct 2005	Oct 2008

Alternates Elected (*called upon to fulfill an elected member's term)

*Kristina Perry	Nov 2002	Oct 2005
Libbie Reinking (resigned Sep 2005)	Apr 2004	Apr 2007
Douglas Spiotta (resigned Jan 2007)	Oct 2005	Oct 2008

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Report of the Leadership Team
Kris Perry, Chairperson

“For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.” (Luke 22:27)

As I recently read in Portals of Prayer: *“In this world, it certainly seems as if the more people you have tending to your needs and doing what you want, the greater you are. But in God’s kingdom, the greater one isn’t who receives service, but rather the one who gives service. God is pure, self-giving Love. God did not create humanity so we would serve God (as if God needed anything), but so that God could serve humanity. God breathed life into God’s people, blessed them with God’s creation, and laid down God’s life for them. God is glorified in giving Godself to us, not in us giving ourselves to God. We gather in worship as receivers, giving God nothing except thanksgiving for the gifts God freely bestows. It truly is divine service. The Lord is among us as the One who serves — at God’s table, from God’s pulpit. The highest form of worship is faith ... faith to receive God’s gifts and to revere God as the One from whom all blessings flow.”*

I want to begin this report by thanking the members of the Leadership Team for their faithful service to this Community. Beth Barkhau, Tim Freund and Mindy Holland have embodied the word service over these past 18 months in a way that most do not fully realize. In the midst of exceedingly busy schedules, they have given of their time and talents in abundant ways, all in the hope of strengthening this Community and moving forward in positive ways. It is only through their generous and committed giving of time and expertise that we have been able to accomplish so much. Heartfelt thanks and appreciation is extended to you all for your leadership, enthusiasm and commitment. You have blessed me richly, and this Community is stronger because of your presence and work.

Thanks and appreciation is also extended to Doug Spiotta, who recently resigned but served as an alternate on the Leadership Team and liaison to the Communications Team; to Jennifer Larson for her dedication to editing DiacoNews; and to Joy Heine and Terri Endres for their work as liaisons to the Gathering Planning Team. Grateful appreciation is also given to our Vocation and Education Unit partners in ministry - Stan Olson, Craig Settlage, and Dick Bruesehoff for their wisdom and support of all of us. It has been a joy and privilege to serve with you all!

Following the election of the current Leadership Team at the October, 2005 Atlanta Gathering, the following items have begun, been expanded, or accomplished over the past 18 months:

The Leadership Team chose to order themselves as follows: Kris Perry to serve as chairperson, Beth Barkhau to serve as liaison to the Gathering Planning Team and the Community’s representative to DOTAC, World Federation DIAKONIA, and our representative to LECC (Lutheran Episcopal Coordinating Committee); Mindy Holland to serve as Secretary and liaison to the Candidate Support Team; Tim Freund to serve as liaison to the Guiding Principles Team; and Doug Spiotta, as alternate, to serve a Communications Team liaison and note taker on conference calls.

Data Base: John McMaster, husband of Terri McMaster, graciously volunteered to design a data base for our Community using Microsoft Access. This was an enormous project that took many hours and we are very grateful for John's hard work. Terri Endres then stepped in and input each person's information, another arduous task. Kudos of thanks to you both for this wonderful work!

Community Updates: Photographs and updated information continue to be collected and inserted in the Community's pictorial directory, which is sent out in PDF form 1-2 times each year.

Finances: The Community operates on a fiscal year (July 1-June 30 each year) and our official bookkeeping records are now set up on Quicken Premier for Home and Office, and the Leadership Team is hoping to appoint a member of the Community to serve as our treasurer.

Community and Consecration Handbook: Thanks to the efforts of the Candidate Support Team, a wonderful document has been created for all those approved DM candidates awaiting call. Special thanks and appreciation to Mindy Holland for taking the lead on this project. This document outlines our mission statement, describes our history and community structure, as well as offers suggestions on how to plan a consecration service. You can access this document by going to: www.elca.org/diaconalministry/.

Ecumenical Partnerships: The Leadership Team is pleased to report that our relationships with our various ecumenical partners continues to evolve and strengthen. Please take a few minutes to read through individual reports that appear further in this report.

- ***DOTAC and World Federation Diakonia:*** Beth Barkhau continues to serve as our LT representative to these two organizations. She traveled to Port of Spain Trinidad Tobago in July 2006 along with Sandra Braasch and Elaine Brant.
- ***NAAD:*** Margy Schmitt Ajer continues to serve as our representative to the North American Association of the Diaconate.
- ***LECC:*** Beth Barkhau cheerfully accepted the added responsibility to serve as our representative to the Lutheran Episcopal Coordinating Committee along with Rev. Craig Settlage.
- ***ELCA National Youth Gathering:*** Beth Barkhau and several other diaconal ministers attended the July 2006 youth gathering in San Antonio, TX where they washed feet and lived out diakonia.
- ***ELCA Deaconess Community:*** Kris Perry attended the Tenth Biennial Assembly of the ELCA Deaconess Community in May, 2006 under the theme, "Celebrating our Ministry Through Open Doors." I was warmly welcomed by our sisters in diakonia and had an opportunity to experience wonderful worship, fellowship, and excellent plenary sessions. Some of the things that stood out for me were the assembly offerings that were taken, raising nearly \$2000 to be gifted to purchase six bicycles for Lutheran deaconesses in Kenya as well as a gift to Augustus Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem whose doors are threatened to close due to governments within the international community halting payments. Other highlights included AiM, Carol Schickel, facilitating their plenary discussions under the theme "The Stewardship of our Resources," hearing the ministry stories of so many faithful deaconesses, celebrating milestone anniversaries of the sisters, the investiture of deaconess candidates, and a visit to the Immanuel Medical Center, where I took a picture of Sister Ingeborg in front of the wall of history at Immanuel, showing the work of deaconesses since its inception – powerful! I stand in awe of the work of the deaconess community, and I pray that our two organizations might find new and creative ways to work together. I was also humbled by meeting one of their Board members, George Keck, who took a great interest in our community and was shocked that we

do not receive funding other than the donations of our community members. He subsequently gifted our community with a check for \$5,000 in September, 2006. Thank you, George, for your kindness and generosity!

- **Lutheran Deaconess Association (LDA):** Mindy Holland represented the Leadership Team by attending the LDA Conference in Valparaiso, IN July, 2006.
- **Prophetic Voice Gathering:** An ecumenical diaconal gathering took place in October, 2006 at the Dunrovin Retreat Center in Marine, MN where participants, using a format of presentations, small group discussions, and reflection time, explored together the diaconal role of prophetic voice. Presenters included Maylanne Maybee (Episcopalian), Paul van Buren (United Methodist) and Norma Cook Everest (Lutheran). Members from the DM community who participated include: Elaine Brant, Madelyn Busse, Terri Endres, Kris Perry and Doug Spiotta.

Annual LT business meetings in Chicago, March 2006: The Leadership Team meets annually in Chicago for conversation with representatives of the Vocation and Education Unit and other churchwide representatives.

We were pleased to be able to meet with the following individuals: Ruth Reko, Department for Social Ministry Organizations, who works with ELCA Domestic Disaster Response; Kathy Magnus, the Regional Coordinator for North America for the Lutheran World Federation where we learned more about the ministries of these branches of the church and how diaconal ministers are and can continue to support and be a part of their service in Christ's name. Additionally, Sister Anne Keffer, Directing Deaconess of the ELCA Deaconess Community; Ed Kruse, diaconal minister and former member of the Leadership Team; and Revs. Stan Olson, Craig Settlage, Dick Bruesehoff of the Vocation and Education Unit – we clarified that the Leadership Team does not advise the V & E Unit; rather, we meet to share information with them about our community and its concerns. We also discussed how the Leadership Team might assist those candidates who are approved, awaiting call and ways to work with our synods and seminaries to promote understanding of the diaconal roster.

Stan Olson reported that a Task Force would be appointed to plan a **Consultation on Vocation and Service** which would explore the future of rostered ministries of Word and Service in the ELCA. Kris Perry and Tammy Devine were chosen to represent the DM community on this task force planning team. Two members from each of the three lay rosters serve on the planning team as well as members of the Vocation and Education Unit. Sixteen members from each of the three lay rosters were invited to participate in the Consultation, which was held February 5-8, 2007 at the Duncan Retreat Center in Delray Beach, Florida. Members from the DM Community who were asked to participate included: Beth Barkhau, Madelyn Busse, Phil Deming, Tammy Devine, Terri Endres, Joyce Freund, Nancy Gable, David Glover, Melissa James, Terry Moore, Joanne Otte, Kris Perry, Suzanne Rigg, Sue Setzer, Karla Neumann Smiley, and Kim Winchell. Margy Schmitt Ajer also attended as a representative of the V & E Unit. The purpose of the Consultation was to bring together representatives of the three lay rosters to articulate how the theology and experience of vocation and service should define their role as publicly called leaders in the ELCA in the 21st Century. A full report will be given at the DM Gathering in Carefree, AZ in April, 2007.

Goals for the Next Two Years

- Develop Guiding Principles for our Community
- Develop funding sources to generate income to continue the work of diakonia by our Community
- Develop new video as a resource for all synods

- Expand our use of synodical publications
- Work with seminaries, synods and regional coordinators to find creative ways to connect our Community members

As we look to the future, it is important to note the milestone of those diaconal ministers who have been serving faithfully for the past ten years and who have recently celebrated their milestone anniversaries: Margy Schmitt Ajer, Phil Deming, Nancy Gable, Audrey Forbes, Sharon Gall and Gloria Strickert. Those celebrating their 10th anniversary in 2007 include: Kati Miller, Madelyn Busse, Judy Schroeder, Ardie Senft, Karla Neumann Smiley and Beth Barkhau. Congratulations to you all, and thank you for your faithful service!

Lord, grant us humility to receive Your gifts and to serve others. Amen.

Kristina Perry
Chair, Leadership Team

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Report of the Leadership Team
Mindy Holland, Secretary

It has been a great privilege to serve as a member of the Leadership Team of the Diaconal Ministry Community over these past three years. I have learned and grown so much as a result of the trust and responsibility that this community voted to place in my hands when we gathered in Kansas City three years ago. At the same time, serving in this way has also been very emotionally complex for me, as I have been “on leave from call” for the majority of my term of service. Nonetheless, our loving God has used this season of longing for good, teaching me more and more deeply of trust and surrender, of waiting on His time, of recognizing my own brokenness and need, and of a rich compassion for others’ seasons of waiting and not knowing.

Working with Candidates in Discernment

The highlight of my service to our community, both prior to election and while on this team, has been the time that I have spent with candidates in discernment. Since 2002, I have coordinated the Prayer Mentor Program, and each year I am heartened by the strong response of our community and the willingness of so many of you to write letters and to hold the Diaconal Ministry Formation Event participants in prayer. I believe that nearly half of our community members have served as mentors at some point during the past five years. I have also had the great joy of serving on the staff of the DMFE in Summers 2002, 2003, 2005, and 2006. What a gift to walk beside candidates and to offer them encouragement, prayer support, and a listening ear during these formative days! This past summer I had the honor of co-leading a small group with Sister Anne Keffer, Directing Deaconess of the ELCA Deaconess Community. Sister Anne has a deep faith, a vibrant spirit, and a wonderful sense of humor; I pray that you all have a chance to meet this joyous diaconal sister of ours!

To various degrees, I have kept in touch with a number of candidates over the past five years, some via email and some via phone. This fall I also served as a spiritual friend and mentor for Emily Myallis, a diaconal intern in California. In the spring of 2006, I sent out email messages to the majority of our candidates in process, and it was a delight to hear back from a number of them and learn about their current joys and challenges on their journeys of seminary, candidacy, and discernment. I have also sent out congratulations cards or email messages to most of those who have been consecrated during the past two years.

From October 2005 until September 2006, I served as the Acting Chairperson for the Candidate Support Team (CST), planning and leading conference calls and spearheading some of our efforts. The team is comprised of committed and faithful members, and I was very grateful when Sandra Braasch stepped forward to assume the role of chair early last fall. While serving on the CST, I helped to send out birthday cards to Diaconal Ministers in the months of January, March, June, and September 2006. I also coordinated a project last spring to contact all of the synods to update our candidacy records; we heard back from approximately one-third of those contacted. Then over the summer, I served as editor for the “Community and Consecration” handbook. I am deeply grateful to all those who contributed to this team effort by providing ideas, content, review, or revision to this document. I hope that you will continue to update and revise this resource as our community grows and changes, as well as to distribute it liberally to all those in the ELCA who are interested!

Colleagues in Diakonia

Working with Beth Barkhau and Kris Perry throughout the past three years has been a blessed gift. In Kris, I see such tremendous skills in organization, leadership, attention to detail, and commitment. In Beth, I have a wonderful model and friend, one who has shown me much about how to balance professional and personal commitments, how to deal with conflict and emotional pressures in a professional way, and who has supported me through some rough spots on the journey. Ed Kruse was a wonderful colleague for the first year and a half and continues to be a valued friend. Tim Freund and Doug Spiotta have also touched my life with their prayers, their dedicated hearts, and their commitment to serve our diaconal community and the wider church.

Our annual Leadership Team Meetings in Chicago, though draining, have taught me much about the dynamics of church leadership, the challenges and blessings of collaborative work and decision-making, and the many gifted and capable leaders in the ELCA. I hope that future teams will also have the opportunity for yearly meetings apart from Chicago, for more personal time of prayer, community conversation, and mutual support. I have been fortunate to work with Dick Bruesehoff both as a representative of the Vocation and Education Unit of churchwide, as well as my spiritual director over this past year. His depth of insight, his calm presence, and his rich kindness are blessings to all who work with him.

A special opportunity that came my way this past summer was to represent our community at the annual gathering of the Lutheran Deaconess Association in Valparaiso, Indiana in late July. I received a very warm and energetic welcome from these diaconal sisters and was impressed at their inclusion of candidates at all levels of preparation in their gathering. I was also struck by their incorporation of the importance of silence and time for discernment in the midst of their decision-making processes. It was fun to get to know better some of the women who are both Deaconesses of this organization and Diaconal Ministers; Barb Finley and Brenda Fleagle are two of the newest members of our roster to have been consecrated twice!

Searching for a Place in the Oregon Synod

As for employment, I persisted in temporary clerical work from the time of my marriage to Stuart in August of 2004 until this past September, when I accepted a part-time job as Office Assistant at St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Beaverton, Oregon. St. Andrew has a vibrant and committed membership and strong leadership. Though I welcome the return to a church environment, it has been a classic case of “so close and yet so far,” longing for the work of active, relational ministry while I construct yet another 24-page bulletin for the week! *sigh* In an effort to become better connected to folks in the Oregon Synod and with a desire to serve locally, I have been appointed to both the Leadership Support and Candidacy Committees. In the spring of 2007, I have also been assisting with the paperwork and associated projects for the Bishop’s Election Task Force. Bishop Paul Swanson is one of the final four “original” bishops of the ELCA, so our synod is gearing up for a big change in the coming months!

In September 2006, I began taking courses at George Fox Evangelical Seminary in Tigard, Oregon (a suburb of Portland) to work toward certification in spiritual direction. I especially enjoyed my fall class on prayer and am currently enrolled in “Christian Ministry for Reconciliation.” I have also begun serving as spiritual director for a young woman in a time of great discernment; what a great joy and privilege to meet with her and to hear her stories of faith!

Both for class work and for my own love of reading, I have appreciated the following books on spiritual topics over the past 18 months or so: *If You Want to Walk on Water...* (John Ortberg), *The*

Power of a Praying Wife (Stormie Omartian), *The Wounded Healer* (Henri Nouwen), *Miracle in Darien* (Bob Slosser), *Boundaries* (Henry Cloud & John Townsend), *The Gift of Inner Healing* (Ruth Carter Stapleton), *A Grace Disguised* (Gerald Sittser), *Ruthless Trust* (Brennan Manning), *Healing for Damaged Emotions* (David Seamands), *Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home* (Richard Foster), *Overcoming the Dark Side of Leadership* (Gary McIntosh & Samuel Rima), *...And God Changed His Mind* (Brother Andrew), and *Adventures in Prayer* (Catherine Marshall). Lest you think that I only read nonfiction, I must confess to having read a number of mysteries and novels over the past years as well! :)

I continue to be amazed at how many places the church has taken me during my five and a half years on the roster; I believe the current count is 17 states, Canada, and Washington DC! Just since October 2005, my church commitments have led me to Georgia, Illinois, Pennsylvania, Indiana, and Arizona. And now I find myself just three and a half hours from the home in which I grew up! My husband and I are looking forward to purchasing our own home in the western suburbs of Portland this coming summer. Whether I find a call or not, Stuart has found his niche as pastor of Light of Life Lutheran Church in Aloha, Oregon. Though I miss sitting beside him in the pew, I am proud of the way that he is growing and learning in his service of ministry. I have also enjoyed getting to know the members of this congregation through my participation in worship, Bible study, and social events.

Thank you again, each one of you, for giving me the opportunity to serve on this leadership team and for the support, kindness, and prayers that you have extended on my behalf. Our diaconal community has such a beautiful combination of personalities, spiritual gifts, and open hearts! Please continue to pray for our loving God to prepare me for the next call to ministry, for Christ to hold and strengthen me in the waiting time, and for the Holy Spirit to enliven me with boldness to pray, to “seek out those places,” and to serve, even without a call.

We are vessels for the outpouring of God's love and grace in a needy world. We are vital instruments for healing and for hope. Let us go forward with courage, towel in hand, to bend our knees, wash others' feet, and fix our eyes on Jesus, the One in whom our identity and our call abide forever.

With love in Christ,

Mindy Holland

Diaconal Ministry Community of the ELCA
Report to the Community
March 2007

Report of the Leadership Team
Beth Barkhau, Ecumenical Liaison

The Diaconal Ministry roster is one part of the body of the Christ called together by the Holy Spirit. As a member of the DM Leadership team, I witnessed first hand this past year the depth and breadth of the Holy Spirit blowing through our growing roster. We as a roster – as a community - are living the six marks, we are advocating on behalf of the world, and we are growing. So too, your DM LT is truly advocating on your behalf.

During 2007 I've enjoyed aiding the DM community's growth and development by

- Serving as the liaison to the Gathering Planning Team chaired first by Joy Heine and now by Terri Endres, both exceptional leaders, who are surrounded by a great team of DMs working diligently to make our next gathering in Carefree, Arizona a wonderful event for all who seek to participate, ongoing throughout the year
- As your DOTAC representative, I traveled the last week of June and the first week of July to Port O Spain, Trinidad – Tobago to participate once again in the yearly Central Committee meetings. CC rotates on a three cycle between South America, the Caribbean, and North America. So too, CC members helped facilitate the larger western hemisphere conference on Prophetic Voice in Diakonia conference also held in Trinidad-Tobago. Significant opportunities continue to unfold for our ELCA roster through intentional, ecumenical interface via DOTAC.
 - Two key items ELCA DM's need to be aware of are The DOVE project, and the 2009 Diakonia World Federation international gathering to be held in Atlanta, Georgia
- Linked with other DMs of the ELCA, Deaconesses of the ELCA, and Deaconesses of the Lutheran Deaconess Association at the July National Youth Gathering in San Antonio
- Participated in the 2006 DMFE as a presenter on Ecumenism with Sr. Anne Keffer at the 2006 DMFE in Gettysburg this past July
- Participated in the ongoing work – as a member of a task team – for the Lutheran Episcopal Coordinating Committee (LECC) formulating a report as to how to encourage exchange of diakonia between our two denominations– meetings in Chicago, September 2006
- Serving as a substitute to the Consultation on Lay Rosters in Del Ray Beach, FL in February 2007
- Along with all the members of the DMLTeam I've worked hard to make and stay in contact with DMs serving and those approved and awaiting call, but also those who are in candidacy, not only in my regional area but throughout the U.S. by direct phone calls, cards and letters of support, electronic communications, our DiacoNews, and through personal visits

As a member of the DMLT, I've appreciated the gifts and commitments of the other team members - Tim Freund, Mindy Holland, and Kris Perry. Together we have spent time in *prayer* with and for the community, - *prayer* in conference calls, *prayer* worship services with other rostered leaders, and prayer with spiritual directors. We have *worked diligently* in committee, *worked* behind the scenes, *worked* in the community of faith, and have put collectively hundreds of hours of *faith-filled work* leading, guiding, and doing detailed reviews, thinking and visioning on behalf of the community. I've learned much from Tim, Mindy and Kris and see our team as a blessing!

So, too, I must acknowledge the support and generosity of the congregation, St. Paul Lutheran in Aiken, SC where I am called. Not only do they "get" diaconal ministry – the roster, they "get" *diakonia* . The congregation "sends me" to do the work of the DM Leadership Team. They see it as part of their commitment to the wider church. Without this primary support from context I am called, I could not help and lead in the current capacity.

Thank you, diaconal ministers of the ELCA for your commitments to aiding and supporting our community, this growing DM roster. Thank you for sharing, living, breathing diakonia! Persevere. Press On.

God's Peace,

Beth Barkhau

Diaconal Ministry Community of the ELCA
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Report of the Leadership Team
Tim Freund, Guiding Principles

I will be the first to admit when I told Kris Perry I would be a candidate for the leadership team at Simpsonwood, I truly had no idea what I was agreeing to do. I don't think it was a "Here I am Lord" moment but a heartfelt love for our DM community and its joys and struggles. Now eighteen months later, my love for the Diaconal Community has grown even more while working with Beth, Kris, and Mindy. I have come to greatly appreciate the immense amount of work given to the community and to the ELCA by these folks. I am both humbled and honored to be a part of this leadership team.

Central to who we are as DM's is our thirst for Jesus Christ and to be his hands, his feet, his eyes and ears on earth especially connecting the church to those on the boundaries. Saint Paul writes in first Corinthians chapter twelve verses 25 and 26, *"The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part, the parts we mention and the parts we don't, the parts we see and the parts we don't. If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance."* (The Message)

So it is with the DM community, we are exuberant with the increasing interest and commitment by folks to the DM community. Just talk to the folks who were at the last formation event and you will hear about the many gifts of those who are listening to clarify their call. We are exuberant about our growing numbers of people. We are exuberant when we share our ministry stories of how God is using us to make a difference in this fallen world.

We are also hurt when the system of the ELCA delays or prevents approved candidates from being consecrated in their assigned synod. We are also hurt when we sit in meetings and our voices are not heard because we are not ordained. At different times, we all have known what is like to be an outsider, to be the one on the boundaries of this roster. Saint Paul writes in 2 Corinthians chapter 12, *"I could have become proud of myself because of the amazing and wonderful things God has shown me. So I was given a problem that caused pain in my body. It is a messenger from Satan to make me suffer. Three times I begged the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, 'My grace is all you need. My power is strongest when you are weak.'" (NIRV)*

So, could it be our "being outsiders and on the boundaries" is a gift made perfect by God through his grace? The Lord knows how much prayer has been devoted to DM's asking to be included. I believe as a community, our weakness can be made perfect if we hear the voice of those left out and suffer with them and actively participate in prayer so healing can take place and the body can be whole again. Isn't it so hard to feel the thorn of exclusion in our side as a gift?

The idea of guiding principles (GP) came from our last gathering at Simpsonwood, as Margy Schmitt Ajer aggregated ideas from others at the gathering about our DM community and presented them. The list of questions Margy raised ranged from what does it mean to be community, to specifics of how our community should operate. Our community has grown from a few who nurtured the idea, worked so very hard to make it a reality, took their bumps and bruises along the way, and made it a reality for the

rest of us. Our growth raises the question, can we continue to operate as we have in the past? Are the boundaries clearly enough marked for the decision makers to lead the community in the direction desired by God and the heart of the community?

With enthusiasm and trust in not knowing the outcome, DM's Joanne Otte, Kim Winchell, Leslie Whited Vance, Melissa James, Margy Schmitt Ajer, Sue Setzer, Terri Endres, and myself began to explore what it might mean to have guiding principles for our community.

Our work began with a conference call. We agreed to identify and articulate the principles (truths, assumptions, codes of conduct) that currently guide our life together as a community of DM's and to make recommendations about continuing or changing these principles for the future of the diaconal ministry community at the gathering in April 19-22, 2007.

To accomplish this, we decided to divide into three groups. One - our identity as a roster within the churchwide structure and our relationship to international diaconal community. Two - life and community, how are we accountable to one another, how are decisions currently being made, how do we treat each other, and what is the role of leadership in our community. Three - theological/Biblical principles, asking what in our theological history as lifted from the Bible gives us either principles or direction about this issue.

We concluded the conference call feeling there were guiding principles already in place in our community documents so we needed to identify and organize them. Unfortunately, we have not been able to accomplish this task to date.

One learning for me from our work together is how difficult it is to be community via email and telephone calls. As we all know, the distant communication process often allows for too much guesswork, false assumptions, and reading between the lines. Without body language our ability to understand each other is greatly diminished. So, please prayerfully consider guiding principles. Are they necessary and important? What do we fear about them? What gives us energy about them? Can the new handbook "Community and Consecration" be an important source for guiding principles? We need open and honest dialogue for the benefit of the community.

We are a dynamic, growing community and that is great news! How we respond is up to all of us. Pray for indifference which is a word used by Saint Ignatius meaning to pray that our own will, our own agenda, our own understanding is set aside so that we can hear God's desire for us and for our community. It has been an honor to serve on this Leadership Team over the past 18 months.

God bless!

Tim Freund

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Working Team Reports

Candidate Support Team

Those team members that stepped forward to volunteer to serve on this ministry team at the gathering in Norcross, Georgia were: Kati Kluckman-Ault, Sandra Braasch, Elaine Brant, Audrey Forbes, Terri Endres, Rachelle Gilbertson, David Glover, Harry Hiltner, Rowena Henry, Mindy Holland, Terry Moore, Charles Smith, Fran Victor, Kim Winchell, and Laurie Beckman Yetzer.

Mindy Holland was asked to serve as interim chairperson and liaison to the Leadership Team at the gathering. Since that time, Mindy Holland stepped down as interim chair. Sandra Braasch assumed the role of chairperson in September 2006. Unfortunately, due to time constraints and personal obligations, Elaine Brant, Audrey Forbes, Terri Endres, Rachelle Gilbertson, Terry Moore, and Charles Smith were unable to continue as a member of this ministry team. We are grateful for these individuals who served faithfully on this team for the last year and a half. Thanks to all team members for using their gifts for the diaconal ministry community and on behalf of the whole church. We thank Mindy for her leadership of this team as interim and her continued support as liaison to the Leadership Team.

The CST serves as an advisor to the Leadership Team. Its recommendations are subject to review and approval by the DM Leadership Team and Community. Work was done with reminders and within parameters of the “Six Marks” of Diaconal Ministry.

Goals

- Seek to model diaconal ministry to candidates and the Church
- Encourage candidates to gain an understanding, appreciation and commitment to diaconal community
- Facilitate candidate access to accurate and useful information and resources related to diaconal ministry in the ELCA
- Cooperate with and support related efforts of ELCA ecumenical partners, international diaconal organizations, the ELCA Vocation and Education Unit, Deaconess Community, seminaries and synods
- Use the spiritual gifts of those in the DM Community
- Develop Community and Consecration handbook
- Develop mini- handbook that outlines the CST’s responsibilities and the processes/procedures followed to implement them.

Stages of Candidate Support

- I. Pre-Diaconal Ministry Formation Event
- II. Post-Diaconal Ministry Formation Event
- III. Transition from Candidacy to Ministry
- IV. Continuing Education, Support, and Community

CST Focus

Stages I and II are addressed by some synods and seminaries. Stage III will continue to be a focus of the Candidate Support Team. Stage IV is still evolving. CST has taken further steps in this stage to identify possible ways to assist candidates in continuing education and support. The key for the CST will be to progress from planning to implementation within Stage IV.

Implementation of Goals

Birthday and Consecration Cards: Members of this team have volunteered each month to send out birthday cards to all consecrated diaconal ministers. Once the volunteers have been identified, usually three months in advance, Kris Perry is contacted. She provides a list of birthdates of the consecrated diaconal ministers for each month and the current quarterly diaconal ministry directory. Currently, the Leadership Team Chair is sending out cards to newly consecrated candidates.

Community and Consecration: A Handbook for Diaconal Candidates Approved, Awaiting Call:

This handbook was birthed in early September 2006. It was compiled by the CST and Leadership Team and produced by the communications services unit of the ELCA. It contains an overview of the history and workings of the diaconal ministry community and our relationship with the wider diaconal community, sister communities, and additional ecumenical involvement. We thank those in the community who provided input into this handbook.

Synod and Candidate Contacts: Contacts have been made to some candidacy committee chairs of the synods and candidates. Concentrated effort has been made by the team to identify candidacy committee chairs for each synod and contact chairs for each of the ELCA seminaries. Another effort identified by the team is to streamline both processes/procedures to facilitate coordination between the CST, Leadership Team, candidacy committee chairs for each synod, and contact chairs for the seminaries. Mindy has provided a “candidacy committee chairperson” sample letter and Sandra has provided a “contact chair” sample letter to the team.

DM Community’s list serves on Ecunet: Team members were encouraged to sign-up for both of the DM Community’s list serves (“DM Talk” and “CDM Talk”). This action would provide more ears to listen to candidates and more voices for candidates to hear from.

Prayer Mentor coordinator for Formation Events: Mindy has assumed the role of Prayer Mentor Program Coordinator since 2002. We are in the process of identifying a person to fill the role of coordinator for formation events. Mindy has provided a “Prayer Mentor Project Components and Timeline” to the team to assist in the coordination of this ministry.

CST mini-handbook: The team identified the need to develop a mini-handbook that outlines the CST’s responsibilities and the processes/procedures followed to implement them. This action will provide some continuity to candidacy committees’ leadership changes as well as suggested letters/forms to use to implement activities. A working draft will be provided to the Leadership Team in the near future.

Thank you to all who have answered the call to serve on this team. We have much to celebrate.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra L. Braasch
Candidate Support Team Chairperson

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Working Team Reports

Communications Team

The past 18 months has seen transition within the Communications Team. Jennifer Larson assumed the chair position as well as editor of our quarterly newsletter, DiacoNews. Subsequently, however, Jennifer relinquished her chairperson role to concentrate on publishing DiacoNews. The Leadership Team asked the Alternate, Doug Spiotta, to serve as the liaison to the Communications Team and to help identify a new chairperson. This was accomplished late in 2006 when Lisa Hill Watson, an approved diaconal ministry candidate, volunteered and agreed to chair the Communications Team. Welcome, Lisa! Doug resigned as Alternate in early February. The Team will have their first conference call following the Carefree Gathering, so that new members who we hope will step forward to be a part of the team will be able to participate.

We have learned much over the past year and a half about communications within the diaconal community, which I share with you in hopes of furthering progress in the new year:

Our CDMTALK and DMTALK confidential list serves continue to be key communications tools. The purpose of the list serves is three fold – 1) a tool for sharing our joys and sorrows through prayer requests; 2) a means by which we can announce upcoming events or relay important news; and 3) a vehicle for discussing important topics that affect our community. As with any list serve, it is easy to hit the “reply” button quickly when one feels the need to respond; however, this often results in each of our email inboxes being inundated with messages that do not apply to us personally. There are also times when inadvertent conversations occur that are more appropriate using other vehicles. When using our list serves in the future, please begin each message you post with “*Personal replies may be sent to: (list your email address).*” This will hopefully minimize the traffic on the list serve and will encourage those who have cancelled their free subscriptions to sign on again in the future, so that we all might stay connected.

The DiacoNews quarterly publication continues to be a wonderful source of sharing news within the Community. Since Jennifer assumed editing responsibility, eight newsletters have been published to date. Unfortunately, it is often difficult to obtain articles from members of the Community. It is our hope that each of you will take some time in this next year or two to share with us the work you are doing so that we might pray for your ministry and learn from your experiences. Please send newsletter articles to Jennifer Larson at: jenniferllarson@hotmail.com.

Our Diaconal Ministry website continues to need updating and fine-tuning. We have been abundantly blessed by David Scott from the Communications Department at churchwide, who graciously updates our website upon request. It is hoped that all call stories of our diaconal ministers might be posted on our website eventually. Please send your call story to Lisa Watson-Hill at: britkazmom@yahoo.com.

Goals for the future include:

- Recruitment of new members
- Quarterly conference calls
- Updating web site
- Monthly discussion group on specific topics via list serve
- Highlighting DMs in DiacoNews
- Writing promotional pieces about diaconal ministry, both in print and in other media forms
- Identify a person to write stories about DM for various Lutheran publications

Heartfelt thanks and appreciation is extended to Jennifer Larson for faithfully editing the DiacoNews; to Doug Spiotta for serving as Communications Team Liaison; to Lisa Hill Watson for volunteering to chair this working team in the future; and to Sue Setzer and Karen White for their wonderful work keeping our archives up-to-date (see their report below).

Submitted by,

Kris Perry
Leadership Team Chairperson

Archivist Report

Over 29 pounds of files recording the birth and formation of the Diaconal Ministry Community from 1988 to 2005 now rest in the ELCA Archives in Chicago. Records of the Diaconal Ministry Formation Events are stored in the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg Library. The DMC archives in Chicago are organized into five categories: Minutes, General Subject Files, Publications, Events Files, and Audiovisuals. Anyone may receive copies of items by contacting Elisabeth Wittman, Director of Archives and Chief Archivist at Elisabeth.Wittman@elca.org or 773-380-2818. Additional archival material will be added after the 2007 Diaconal Ministry Community Gathering in April.

Submitted by,

Sue Setzer and
Karen White, Co-Archivists

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Working Team Reports

Gathering Planning Team

The Diaconal Gathering Planning Team is being chaired by Terri Endres, supported by Ardie Senft, Joy Heine, Joanne Otte, Patricia Gerber, Margaret Howell, Linda Kruse, and Sue Setzer. The Leadership Team's liaison is Beth Barkhau.

Voices in the Wilderness: A Prophetic Call will take place at Spirit in the Desert retreat center, Carefree, Arizona, from Thursday, April 19, through Sunday, April 25, 2007 and will be attended by 50 diaconal ministers and candidates approved-awaiting-call. The gathering opens Thursday evening with dinner and worship. Friday includes an immersion experience to learn firsthand the issues surrounding immigrants, mostly from Latin America.. The business of the community will take place in two sessions on Saturday. Sunday will include a Service of Holy Communion and a final large group gathering before participants are shuttled back to the airport. As part of the community's attempts to emphasize wellness, there will be plenty of time for fellowship, meditation, prayer, and relaxation. There will be a table available for diaconal ministers to put information about their ministries or upcoming events they wish to advertise to the community.

Our Bible study leader will be Professor Bill Wylie-Kellerman from the Seminary Consortium for Urban Pastoral Education (SCUPE), Chicago. The Bible study will include theological education, reflection/action, and discussion of applications/practices of ministry. Although we were unable to secure a bishop-in-residence for this gathering due to scheduling conflicts, we have two first-term bishops who are interested in attending our next gathering.

Special guests who have accepted our invitation to join the Diaconal Ministry community at our gathering are: Deaconess Anne Keffer, Directing Deaconess of the Deaconess Community of the ELCA; Deaconess Carolyn Hellerich, Chair of the Board, Deaconess Community of the ELCA; and Deaconess Lisa Scherzer Polito, Director of Development and Public Relations for the Lutheran Deaconess Association (LDA) and Vice President of Diakonia of the Americas and Caribbean (DOTAC).

The main issue facing our community for the future is how our gatherings will be shaped. Because of the rapid growth of the community, we will need to look for larger venues to hold our gathering. One option for our next gathering, which has received an initial positive response from some community members polled, is to have our next gathering in Atlanta in the summer of 2009 in conjunction with the DOTAC conference. Waiting two years would allow for persons to plan ahead and save money for the event. This will be discussed during this April's gathering.

Thanks to the Leadership Team for their support in the planning process and to the members of the 2007 DM Gathering Planning Team for all their hard work in planning this event. Thanks be to God for giving each of us this diaconal call to serve the church.

Respectfully submitted,
Terri Endres, Chairperson of 2007 Gathering Planning Team

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Other Reports

Lutheran Episcopal Coordinating Committee

Report to the ELCA DM Community on Lutheran Episcopal Coordinating Committee

On September 25 -26, 2006 representatives from The Episcopal Church (TEC) and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) gathered in Chicago to address elements of the Lutheran - Episcopal Coordinating Committee Resolution on Diaconate, which was passed in February 2006. (See additional document following this report)

The working group, (which continues the work in 2007) consists of churchwide staff from both TEC and the ELCA, as well as representatives of the diaconate in both church bodies - deacons, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers. Representatives from TEC include The Rev. Lynne Grifo Associate Coordinator, Office for Ministry Development and two TEC Deacons, Rev. Carol Borne Stewart, Executive Director of Lutheran Episcopal Service in Mississippi, and Rev. Warren Frelund, Coordinator of Deacons for the Episcopal Dioceses of Iowa, Des Moines, Iowa. Rev Craig Settlage Director for Rostered and Authorized Ministry, Sr. Janice Painter, retired deaconess of Calvary Lutheran, West Chester, PA, and Beth Barkhau, diaconal minister of St. Paul Lutheran, Aiken, SC represented the ELCA.

In addition to having an on-site consultation near the churchwide offices in September, the working group has had an additional conference call, as well as follow up email communications.

Our task as representatives from TEC and the ELCA continues to be:

- a. Review the concept of orderly exchange allowing service of deacons, diaconal ministers, and deaconesses in our respective churches
- b. Review new patterns of stipendiary and non-stipendiary ministry, shared theological education, formation and continuing education as they relate to deacons, diaconal ministers, and deaconesses.

Discussion continues to center on affirming the role of deacons, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers in TEC and the ELCA as well as the call of the church to diakonia. The document *Called to Common Mission*, adopted by the 1999 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, served as the guiding resource, as well as the *LECC Resolution of February 7, 2006, Toward a Theology of Ministry*, prepared by the Standing Commission on Ministry Development, TEC, May 2000. *TEC and ELCA Concepts for the exchange of Deacons and Diaconal Ministers Under Called to Common Mission (draft version)* April 2003, *The Diaconate and Called to Common Mission: Continuing Exploration*, February 2005.

In our meeting, calls, and emails we acknowledge again and again not only the desire and excitement for shared ministry, but we continue to recognize those identified places where our formation, liturgical roles, and stipendiary practices present challenges.

The outcome of our efforts will be a formal response in the form of a paper, presented back to LECC by April 2007.

Thank you, Community, for sharing examples of your fruitful encounters and collaborations. Your stories have been passed on to the working team. There is still time to submit further examples of current ecumenical (TEC and ELCA) servant ministry settings and stories. Please forward them to me at barkhaurbpe@aol.com. It is the hope of the working group that many vibrant examples of deacons, deaconesses, and diaconal ministers in TEC and the ELCA will promote greater understanding and equip the baptized in both TEC and the ELCA to diakonia.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Barkhau

Lutheran-Episcopal Discussion on *Diakonia*

At the February 2006 meeting of the Lutheran Episcopal Coordinating Committee (LECC) a resolution was passed outlining a series of tasks to be accomplished and reported on by April 1, 2007. The Vocation and Education unit of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (V&E) and the Office for Ministry Development (OMD) of the Episcopal Church are pleased to respond to this request of LECC, as the “appropriate units of our respective church bodies,” to begin a process that will respond to specific tasks outlined in the resolution.

In coordination with worship staff of the ELCA and the Liturgical officer of TEC, our two units will:

1. review the concept of orderly exchange allowing service of deacons, diaconal ministers and deaconesses in our respective churches;
2. review new patterns of stipendiary and non-stipendiary ministry, shared theological education, formation and continuing education as they relate to deacons, diaconal ministers and deaconesses.

A working group consisting of churchwide staff, representatives of the ELCA diaconal leadership team and the ELCA Deaconess community (one each) and two TEC deacons will meet face to face for at least one meeting prior to the end of 2006 and do other work as needed via conference calls, with the goal of producing a document outlining guidelines for a fruitful and mission-focused sharing of diaconal ministries between our two churches, possibly as early as the November 2006 LECC meeting.

We will build on substantial work already done by these offices and others around the church. Key materials which we will reference are:

- LECC Resolution of February 7, 2006
- *The Orderly Exchange of Pastors and Priests Under Called to Common Mission*, January 1, 2001
- *Toward a Theology of Ministry* prepared by the Standing Commission on Ministry Development, TEC, May 2000
- *TEC and ELCA Concepts for the Exchange of Deacons and Diaconal Ministers Under Called to Common Mission (draft version)*, prepared by The Rev. Lynne A. Grifo, OMD and The Rev. Richard Bruesehoff, V&E, dated April 29, 2003
- *The Diaconate and Called to Common Mission: Continuing Exploration*, prepared by The Rev. Susanne Watson Epting, TEC Deacon, NAAD and Madelyn Busse, ELCA Diaconal Minister, February 2005.

The document *Called to Common Mission* will be our guiding resource in this effort to continue a process of consultation already underway in many places around our two churches, specifically its statement that our two churches would explore how “some functions of ordained deacons in the EC, and consecrated diaconal ministers and deaconesses in the ELCA, can be shared insofar as they are called to be agents of the church in meeting the needs, hopes and concerns within church and society.” (CCM, par. 8)

We anticipate that our report will include inspiring and vibrant examples of deacons and diaconal ministers working side by side to equip the baptized for ministry in order to serve the weak, the poor, the sick and the lonely. We intend to outline a churchwide process that will promote greater understanding of how each church expresses *diakonia* and how more fruitful encounters and collaborations can be sparked and sustained. We will also explore opportunities for shared education and formation programs and events.

Lutheran-Episcopal Coordinating Committee Resolution on Diaconate
February 7, 2006

Whereas the Lutheran-Episcopal Coordinating Committee (LECC) has a strong commitment to address diakonia faithfully, imaginatively, strategically, holistically and contextually so as to equip the whole people of God for servant ministry, therefore BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That LECC establish a process whereby it regularly asks how our full communion partnership is contributing to prophetic and practical diakonia and to equip our various members to take up their call to serve, in order to expand common mission, link common resources, and build synergy for shared mission. This would include intentionally identifying areas of mutual concern (social services, disaster services, etc.) and how we might strengthen our common efforts through diaconal leadership and might include advocacy for financial support for joint ministry, providing resources for how to establish local partnerships, training sponsored on a national level in public church issues; and that
2. Provision for Episcopal Church deacons and ELCA diaconal ministers and deaconesses to serve in one another's liturgies be reviewed by the appropriate units of the respective church bodies; and that
3. The "Suggested Customary" or guidelines for liturgical exchange be reviewed by the appropriate units of the respective church bodies; and that
4. The concept of the orderly exchange of deacons, diaconal ministers and deaconesses, allowing service in the other church be reviewed by the appropriate units of the respective church bodies; and that
5. New patterns of stipendiary and non-stipendiary ministry, shared theological education, formation, and continuing education as they relate to deacons, diaconal ministers and deaconesses be reviewed by the appropriate units of the respective church bodies; and that
6. LECC encourage the respective presiding bishops to include diaconal representation (which may include Episcopal deacons, ELCA deaconesses, diaconal ministers or associates in ministry) in the members of LECC; and that
7. LECC look at what we have to offer to future ecumenical dialogues regarding the diaconate, particularly with the United Methodist Church which has a strong cadre of deacons bearing strong resemblance to both the ECUSA and ELCA diaconates, because the continuing exploration of our shared understanding of the diaconate can contribute to our separate by common bilateral discussions with the United Methodists and perhaps others as well; and finally that
8. LECC receive a report from the appropriate units of the two church bodies by April 1, 2007.

Diaconal Ministry Community of the ELCA
Report to the Community
March 2007

DOTAC (Diakonia of the Americas and Caribbean) Report 2006
DOTAC is one of the regional groups of World Diakonia

The DOTAC Central Committee met at Cascadia Hotel in Port of Spain, Trinidad – Tobago, West Indies from June 26 – July 1, 2006, prior to the DOTAC Regional gathering held every four years. Those present were President, Linda Ervin (The United Church of Canada); Vice President Deaconess, Lisa Polito (Lutheran Deaconess Association, Director of Development and Public Relations), also alternate to World Federation for President; Treasurer, Deacon Rev. Ted Hollenbeck (North American Association for the Diaconate-NAAD, Episcopal Church) also alternate to World Federation Diakonia for DOTAC rep; Secretary, Deaconess Becky Dodson Lawson (National Association of Deaconesses and Missionaries, United Methodist Church), and Committee members: Sister Monica Denk (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and the Deaconess Community of the ELCA), Rev. June James (The Wesley Diaconal Community of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas), Rev. Lynda Reid (The Order of Diaconal Ministers of the Presbyterian Church in Canada), Larry Nicolay, (Association of Anglican Deacons in Canada), Karen Young, Diaconal Minister (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada), Rev. Sharon Rubey, ordained deacon, Director of Candidacy and Conference Relations Division of Ordained Ministry, Rev. Marg Robertson, new representative to DOTAC (The Order of Diaconal Ministries, The Presbyterian Church in Canada), as well as many special guests.

DOTAC is one of the three regional groups of DIAKONIA, the World Federation of Diaconal Associations and Diaconal Communities. The three regions of DIAKONIA include Diakonia Region Africa Europe, Diakonia of Asia – Pacific, and Diakonia of the Americas and the Caribbean. The Mission Statement captures the ministry well: *DOTAC links and gathers those engaged in diakonia, is a prophetic voice for ecumenical relations and social justice, and encourages, supports and empowers development of groups doing diakonia* in western hemisphere Americas and Caribbean. Members of DOTAC confess the Lord Jesus Christ as God and Savior according to the scriptures and therefore seek to fulfill together their common calling to the glory of the one Triune God through the service of reconciliation in the world with faith and love in world and deed.

In 2005 the ELCA Community of Diaconal Ministers was received into the membership of DOTAC and World Federation Diakonia. While in Trinidad our group was formally recognized again as a new member during the regional conference/continuing education event held in the days immediately following the Central Committee meetings. As members you are in partnership with sixty four international church bodies and thirty one countries or regions. A small portion of your annual dues to the community is sent off to DOTAC and World Diakonia for the ongoing ecumenical work of these two organizations.

DOTAC's Central Committee, which is comprised of delegates from all ecumenical partnering churches, meets once a year to address the regional work of **World Diakonia**, develop training programs which enhance the prophetic voice of diakonia, review grants, worship, participate in diaconal ministry site visits and cross cultural experiences, present member reports, and address membership issues. Two highlights from this annual meeting are the member reports, for they reveal the depth of diakonia both historically and in the current contexts of our world and the site visits

designed to expose and immerse participants briefly in the day-to-day struggles of the marginalized. Central Committee meetings rotate between North, Central and South American countries. In 2007 the central committee gathers in New York City. DOTAC will be the guests of the United Methodist Church and stay at the Alma Matthews House, a facility of the Women's Division of the UMC missions board located in Manhattan.

One of the goals of DOTAC is to continually move beyond the administrative duties of the Central Committee in order to promote peace, advocacy, and seek avenues for educational empowerment. This year in 2007, the DOVE project, an educational event based on the objectives of the World Council of Churches initiative -The Decade to Overcome Violence: Churches Seeking Reconciliation and Peace 2001-2010(*DOV*), will be offered.

While in Port o Spain, I was asked to give an annual report/status of our community, and briefly highlight new developments from the past year. Many of our DOTAC partners were thrilled to see our website, read the call stories posted, and many commented on the growth of the diaconal roster. Copies of this report are available upon request and they will be made available for all at a DOTAC display at the ELCA DM gathering at Carefree in April 2007.

To learn more about DOTAC and World Diakonia, do visit their respective websites. You can also speak directly to ELCA diaconal ministers in our community who have attended the DOTAC regional and world gatherings - Sandra Braasch and Elaine Brant. Please read DOTAC President, Linda Ervin's, report from World Federation Diakonia also published in this Annual Report.

It's a joy to help our community link with and serve beside fellow members of the diaconate!

Blessings,

Beth Barkhau

Diaconal Ministry Community of the ELCA
Report to the Community
March 2007

World Federation Report: June 2006
Presented to the DOTAC Central Committee

World Federation Executive held its annual meeting in Brazil so that those who would be attending World Council of Churches might be able to do so. We were hosted by the Motherhouse of Sao Leopoldo, Brazil, Sr. Hidegard's Motherhouse.

Guests: We had as guest to the Executive Dc Guro Hellgren of Norway who is Kari Jordheim's alternate to the World Executive. Her husband also attended with her and they took part in many of the meetings and gatherings. Sylvia Kumwenda could not get a visa in time to be able to attend and we missed her presence. We tried to include her in our meetings by writing her a daily email of the meetings and gatherings. Slal Naucabalavu of Fiji and the Regional President of DAP was not able to arrive until three days after the meeting started. She had a very, very long trip.

Regional Reports were made by DOTAC, DAP and DRAE. DAP is planning a regional meeting before the next world assembly. Because Asia Pacific is so large it is very difficult for the DAP member groups to gather together; however, Sala is very hopeful that this can be accomplished before 2009. DOTAC reported on DOVE and explained the role of the Vice President in working with potential new member groups. This model received considerable interest from DRAE who are attempting to develop and nurture potential new member groups. June James was officially welcomed as the new DOTAC representative to the World Executive. DRAE president Doris Horn reported on the many groups within DRAE. The next DRAE conference will be held in Basel, Switzerland June 21-26, 2007 and the Theme is: Friendship-a Charism?

Communications: DIAKONIA News is on the web site and has been sent to each of the member groups. Please let me know if you have received the **DIAKONIA News**. The DIAKONIA editors would like to receive all of our newsletters. Please send them to the Secretary of World Executive. Website is being followed up.

Financial Reports: There was no annual report and to date, there has been no financial report regarding the Durham conference. I am also waiting to hear how much funds the Planning Committee receives to start up the Planning for World Federation conference in 2009. Our treasurer has had to move in recent months.

DIAKAID Projects: Completed and on-going

- The bridge-building project through a day-care-centre in Hibberdene, South Africa, brings together rural poor people with those having resources. A report is given and the third part of the money will be provided. (see minutes from Valparaiso 2004)
- The dairy farm in Rwanda built up by the Sisterhood "Abaja Ba Kristo" in Kigali/Rwanda is going well. A report is given and the second part of the money will be provided. (see minutes from Valparaiso 2004)
- Again the honorarium for teachers in bible school in the Caribbean will be funded with €1,000 this year (see minutes Dresden 2003). This project is completed then.
- The after Tsunami-programme of Deacon Scott Lichfield in Thailand provided no report. Therefore the second payment is held back until the report is given.

New projects

- **The Namalira motherhouse in Bukoba/Tansania** is asking to fund their deaconess education in a three year programme. They ask for 15.000 €over three years. **This was agreed.**
- **In Bélem/Brazil** a project "kids at risks" is starting. Children living in a favela shall be given a

- prospective for their lives. They ask for 2.500 € per year for a three year programme. **This was agreed.**
- The Wesleyan Community in the Caribbean asks for funding for their medical care centre in Grenada where they teach basic survival skills. They ask for 20.000 US \$ over three years. More information is requested.
- A project on diaconal training in the Caribbean – more information is requested.
- Two projects in India – proper application and more information has to be given.

Emergency Fund

Sr. Mary Mwauru from the Kenyan motherhouse asked for money from the Emergency Fund to respond to a famine in an area where some of the deaconesses are working. **€5.000 was sent out from the Emergency Fund.**

DIAKONIA Assembly 2005: Final Report Durham 2005

- As there are still some things to sort out, Jackie Fowler presented just a report from the planning group. The final report will come out during this year and will be presented to the Executive Committee at its next meeting.
- The English communities felt it a privilege to host the DIAKONIA Assembly. They tried to let it be an English experience to the participants from the world. As the evaluation sheet shows, the overall reaction was very positive. Unfortunately until now just the English speaking voices were taken in and the German comments (a quarter of all evaluation sheets!) were left out.
- Until now the financial situation is still uncertain. The bill from St. Chads was paid but Jackie Fowler was not able to name the final deficit. She assumed that it would take most of the deposit that DIAKONIA World had lent to the planning group. She offered that the English groups pay the debts back to DIAKONIA by yearly contributions over the next years.
- Unfortunately until now the CDs promised at Durham are not distributed.
- The echo to working in small groups was divided. Most people like this kind of working together and want to have more of it, others never showed up. So maybe there should be an alternative offer to those who do not like small group work.
- The following discussion within the Executive Committee showed that – compared to former assemblies – the situation has changed. Most of the people coming are individuals from the grass root level, not so many leading persons any more. For a lot of the participants this conference was their first experience with DIAKONIA. Therefore the information given during the World focus times was essential. This should be taken into account for future assemblies. And maybe it is necessary to provide some special space for leading people, for example a pre-conference.
- The Executive Committee agreed that having such assemblies is essential for DIAKONIA. So, despite the costs they should be planned in future. **The Executive Committee thanked the Planning Group for the good assembly with a letter which was given to Jackie Fowler.**

New Assembly 2009

- Regional President Linda Ervin renewed the DOTAC invitation for the next assembly given at the assembly in Durham. DOTAC has installed a committee to look out for a venue. At the moment there are three venues of choice, one in Brazil and two in the USA. The DOTAC Executive Committee will decide on them at their next meeting in connection with the conference in Trinidad this summer. The theme of the conference will then occur from the place and its surrounding.
- The Executive Committee spent some time in evaluating the choice of Brazil. Sr. Hildegart Hertel had done some research for places in São Paulo/Brazil. Unfortunately the prices in hotels are not very much different from US hotels. She will investigate hotels in Porto Alegre. If the conference would be held in Brazil, it should be in October – due to the weather conditions.
- DOTAC will set up a Web Page within the World Federation site with information on dates and location and possible theme with and indicator to watch the site grow.

World Assembly Purpose (Linda Ervin, Doris Horn, June James, Ulrike Kellner): The committee finds it important to provide face-to-face meetings where sharing and connecting across cultures is possible. Meeting each other is challenging and strengthening the international network among people in diaconal work. So DIAKONIA Assemblies could be one round in the spiral of life: Share, Connect, Challenge, Build, Strengthen

Review of Current World Website: A small committee of the Assembly spent time brainstorming what features the current website could include and develop over the year. Also time was spent in assisting DRAE and DAP in exploring what could be on their own individual web sites.

Membership Fees: The Executive Committee decided to create a line corresponding to the Gross National Product (GNP) of each country. Members in countries above this line have to pay 3,00 € per member, members beneath this line can choose from the sliding scale as described above. The Treasurer seeks insight from the WCC where this line should be drawn.

Member Communication: We were asked to regularly read our email and respond when we have received email so that the sender knows the email has been received.

Budget for 2007: Set up and passed, I have no information at this time.

Education: We spent time with local diaconal ministers, we had a site visit that several of us from DOTAC went to last year. We also spent time doing work on justice and theology.

WCC: Several DIAKONIA executive members were attending the WCC following the World meeting. World DIAKONIA had a workshop so we spent time preparing for the workshop. Our new WCC representative is: Terttu Pohjolainen of Finland. We thanked Louise for her excellent representation for all these many years. She was able to have the WCC acknowledge our existence.

Report Submitted by

Linda M. Ervin
DOTAC President

**DIACONAL MINISTERS
SYNODS OF SERVICE**

April, 2007

(Approved, Awaiting Call)

Region 1 - (6)

- A Alaska Synod (1)**
Frances Victor
- B Northwest Washington Synod (1)**
Jennifer Vasquez
- C Southwestern Washington Synod (0)**
- D Eastern Washington/Idaho Synod (1)**
(Anna Hollingbery)
Karla Neumann Smiley
- E Oregon Synod (2)**
Mindy Holland
Letha Isbell
- F Montana Synod (1)**
Karen Green

Region 2 - (20)

- A Sierra Pacific Synod (1)**
Rowena Henry
- B Southwest California Synod (0)**
- C Pacifica Synod (6)**
Margaret Schmitt Ajer
Phillip Deming
Sheryl Faulk
Linda Fox
Barbara Martyn
Schacht, Jeff
- D Grand Canyon Synod (5)**
Glenda Blegen
Don Burgess
Sue Herrera
(Janet Johnson)
Ardith Senft
Carole Urbanski
- E Rocky Mountain Synod (8)**
Joan Braunhardt

Madelyn Busse
Brenda Fleagle
Kim Gonia
Jennifer McBride
Terri McMaster
Erin Morris
(Georgia Van Hoesen)
Leslie Whited Vance

Region 3 - (18)

- A Western North Dakota Synod (1)**
Tara Ulrich
- B Eastern North Dakota Synod (0)**
- C South Dakota Synod (1)**
Kristi Gullickson
(Terra Rowe)
- D Northwestern Minnesota Synod (1)**
Beth Anderson
- E Northeastern Minnesota Synod (0)**
- F Southwestern Minnesota Synod (0)**
- G Minneapolis Area Synod (10)**
Dawn Alitz
Laurie Beckman Yetzer
Tammy Devine
Terri Endres
Amy Hartman
Gracia Hegener
(Maria Hurni)
Patty Lee
(Elaine Olson)
Kristina Perry
Doug Spiotta
(Christopher Wagener)
Janell Weum
- H St. Paul Area Synod (5)**

Martha Baker
Elaine Brant
Rachelle Gilbertson
Jennifer Larson
Ann Myhre

I Southeastern Minnesota Synod (0)

Region 4 - (7)

A Nebraska Synod (0)

B Central States Synod (5)

Suzie Everingham
Ed Kruse
Terry Moore
Elizabeth Reinking
Eva Schulte

C Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod (0)

D Northern Texas - Northern Louisiana (0)

E Southwestern Texas Synod (1)

Nicholas Wilkens

F Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod (1)

Dianna Wentz

Region 5 - (31)

A Metropolitan Chicago Synod (7)

Marlene Daubert
Pat Gerber
David Glover
Joy Heine
Joanne Otte
Lois Richardson
Lauren Skrundz

B Northern Illinois Synod (4)

Mary Lasits
Janet Lepp
Judy Rooney
(Shirley Talbot)
Sarah Wilson

C Central/Southern Illinois Synod (2)

Lyn A'Hearn
(Karen Gerth)
Patrick Monroe

D Southeastern Iowa Synod (3)

Gayla Crosmer
Pat Kane
(Jeremy McElvain)
(Sarah Parker)
Rebecca Wiese

E Western Iowa Synod (0)

F Northeastern Iowa Synod (4)

Melissa James
Lake Lambert
(Kathy Massa)
Jessica Nipp
Gloria Strickert

G Northern Great Lakes Synod (2)

(Kathy Bonn)
Lee Liverance
Lori Liverance

H Northwest Synod of WI (1)

Heather Oberdeck

I East-Central Synod of Wisconsin (3)

Judy Bergeson
Sharon Gall
Esther Schmidt

J Greater Milwaukee (3)

Marilyn Olson
Eric Price
Judy Schroeder

K South-Central Synod of Wisconsin (1)

(Joel Bradtke)
Bob Pfennig

L La Crosse Area Synod (1)

Linda Daus-Deegan

Region 6 - (10)

A Southeast Michigan Synod (3)

(George Bennett)
Joyce Freund
Tim Freund
(Troy Jacobson)
(Meghan Sobocienski)
Kirstin Tannas
(Peggy Vuylsteke)
(Karen Zeile)

B North/West Lower Michigan Synod (1)

Kim Winchell
C Indiana/Kentucky Synod (2)
Barbara Finley
Marilyn Hugh
(Julie Stegelmann)

D Northwestern Ohio (1)
Carole Bohn
(Rachel March)

E Northeastern Ohio Synod (0)

F Southern Ohio Synod (3)
Sharon Biles
Linda Sprick-Kruse
(Rebecca Mastalerz)
Karen White

Region 7 - (5)

A New Jersey Synod (2)
Harry Hiltner
Trink Schwartz

B New England Synod (1)
Suzanne Beauregard

C Metropolitan New York Synod (1)
Christine Connell

D Upstate NY Synod (0)

E Northeastern Pennsylvania (0)
(Kelly Howard)
(Linda Zawaski)

F Southeastern Pennsylvania (1)
(Robert Fisher)
Suzanne Rigg
(Nancy Selinger)

G Slovak Zion Synod (0)

Region 8 - (9)

A Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod (0)
(Blair Smith)
(Heather Smith)

B Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod (0)

C Allegheny Synod (1)
Nancy Gable
(Diana Luscombe)

D Lower Susquehanna Synod (2)

(Ellen Doughty)
(Augustus Mauro)
Tammy Rade
Barbara Schmitthenner
(James Wise)

E Upper Susquehanna Synod (0)
(Tonya Gunton)

F Delaware-Maryland Synod (5)
(Cynthia Baxter)
Charles Drenning
Audrey Forbes
Kati Kluckman-Ault
Marjorie Myers
Kathleen Storey
(Lisa Hill Watson)

G Metropolitan Washington DC Synod (1)
Katherine Miller Holland

H West Virginia-Western Maryland (0)

Region 9 - (11)

A Virginia Synod (1)
(Janice Phoebus)
(Charlie Smith)
Christy Van O'Linda

B North Carolina Synod (4)
Bill Dahl
Heather Feltman
Margaret Howell
Sue Setzer

C South Carolina Synod (2)
Beth Barkhau
(Nicole Houck)
Harry Prim

D Southeastern Synod (3)
Sandra Braasch
P. Morgan Gordy
Judy Knapp

E Florida-Bahamas Synod (1)
Shari O'Brien

F Caribbean Synod (0)

**Diaconal Ministry
Consecrations by Year
April, 2007**

Year	Men	Women	Total
1996	1	6	7
1997	1	6	7
1998	1	3	4
1999	4	8	12
2000	3	9	12
2001	0	13	13
2002	2	11	13
2003	3	10	13
2004	0	14	14
2005	2	9	11
2006	4	11	15
2007 YTD	3	3	6
TOTAL	24	103	127

No Longer on ELCA Roster: 10

<i>Ordained</i>	2
Diana Sickles	
Barbara Koch	
<i>Withdrew</i>	7
Ordice Gallups	
Anne Goode	
Lisa Harris	
Randy Johnson	
Carol Kaufman	
Jay Rossman	
Richard Ryback	
<i>Removed</i>	1
Sheldon Christenson	

Total Consecrations	127
No Longer on Roster	10
Rostered DMs	117
Male	19
Female	98

Retired, but actively serving
On Leave from Call

1
13

Dawn Alitz
Judy Bergeson
Mindy Holland
Letha Isbell
Melissa James
Janet Lepp
Patrick Monroe
Ann Myhre
Lois Richardson
Linda Sprick-Kruse
Jennifer Vasquez
Dianna Wentz
Karen White

Approved Awaiting Call

39

Cynthia Baxter	Jeremy McElvain
George Bennett	Elaine Olson
Kathleen Bonn	Sarah Parker
Joel Bradtke	Janice Phoebus
Marvin Combs	Terra Rowe
Ellen Doughty	Nancy Selinger
Robert Fisher	Blaire Smith
Karen Gerth	Charles Smith
Tonya Gunton	Heather Smith
Anna Hollingbery	Meghan Sobocienski
Nicole Houck	Julie Stegelmann
Kelly Howard	Shirley Talbot
Maria Hurni	Georgia Van Hoesen
Troy Jacobson	Peggy Vuylsteke
Janet Johnson	Christopher Wagener
Diana Luscombe	Lisa Watson-Hill
Rachel March	James Wise
Kathleen Massa	Linda Zawaski
Rebecca Mastalerz	Karen Zeile
Augustus Mauro	

**Atlanta Gathering at Simpsonwood
Balance Sheet
November, 2005**

36 Paid registrations

 20 for the 2-day event

 16 for the 3-day event

4 Cancelled (Judy Bergstrom, Gayla Crosmer, Terry Moore, Carole Urbanski)

1 Cancelled and received full deposit refund (Sue Herrera)

2 Guests

 Bishop Craig Johnson

 Room Fee = \$315.00

 Stipend = \$500

 Travel Expenses = \$254.40

 Rev. John Largen

 Room Fee = \$315.00

 Stipend = \$500.00

 Travel Expenses = \$447.00

2 Scholarships awarded = \$300.00

Income

Conference Fees \$11,160.00

Churchwide Fees Reimbursed 1,240.00

Conference Donations 510.00

Total Income \$12,910.00

Expenses

Conference Fees	\$10,411.00
Conference Tax	627.36
Refunds	
Sue Herrera	100.00
Audrey Forbes	85.00
Gayla Crosmer	215.00
Gifts	100.00
Pat Gerber Expenses	154.61
Printing - leaflet	212.47
Supplies	25.63
Postage – Fabric Squares & Postcard	222.00
Postage – Final Reminders	15.00
2 Stipends @ \$500	1,000.00
Travel Expenses of 2 Guests	701.40
Total Expenses	\$13,869.47
<i>Income over Expenses</i>	<i>\$ (959.47)</i>

In-Kind Donations

Beth Barkhau	
140 miles traveled @ \$.37/mile	\$ 51.80
Gift Bags for Pat and guests	90.00
Pat Gerber	100.00
Kris Perry	147.47
Minneapolis Area Synod-copies	100.00
Total In-Kind Donations	\$ 489.27

Net Shortage to factor in for next gathering: \$1,448.74

Diaconal Ministry Community of the ELCA

Income and Expense Statement for FY2006

July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006

Cash on Hand from June 30, 2005 **\$ 994.97**

INCOME

Member donations (64 @ \$25) (60 Consecrated, 4 AAC)	\$ 1,600.00
DOTAC donations	725.00
Gathering scholarships	510.00
Miscellaneous donations	160.00
Gathering income	13,613.19
FEW donations	4,840.00
Bank fee reimbursement	87.25

TOTAL INCOME **\$21,535.44**

EXPENSES

DOTAC Dues 2005 (92 @ \$5)	\$ 460.00
DOTAC Dues 2006 (81 @ \$5)	405.00
Ecumenical conferences	982.82
Bank Fees	69.98
Gathering expenses (Atlanta)	14,845.47
Gifts	268.24
Office supplies	22.97
Postage	378.00
Subscriptions (Lutherlink)	39.95

TOTAL EXPENSES **\$17,472.43**

Cash on Hand at June 30, 2006 **\$ 5,057.98**

Diaconal Ministry Community of the ELCA

Income and Expense Statement for FY2007 YTD

July 1, 2006 through March 31, 2007

Cash on Hand at June 30, 2006

\$ 5,057.98

INCOME

Member donations (76 @ \$25) (67 Consecrated, 7 AAC, 2 Candidates)	\$ 1,900.00
Miscellaneous donations	25.00
Gathering Income	9,543.65
Gathering scholarships	445.00
FEW donations (against pledges of \$7,500)	6,890.00
Ecumenical donations	230.00

TOTAL INCOME

\$19,033.65

EXPENSES

DOTAC Dues 2007 (97 @ \$5)	\$ 485.00
Diakonia World Federation Dues (FY2005 = 92 @ \$1.50; FY2006 = 81 @ \$3; FY2007 = 97 @ \$3)	672.00
Ecumenical conferences	214.50
Bank Fees	24.00
Gathering expenses (Carefree)	227.00
Gifts/Memorials	174.25
Office supplies	25.99
Postage	78.00
Printing DiacoNews	66.68
Subscriptions (Lutherlink)	39.95

TOTAL EXPENSES

\$ 2,007.37

Cash on Hand at March 31, 2007

\$22,084.26