



DIACON NEWS

A semi-annual publication for Diaconal Ministers of the ELCA

Volume I Number 2

May, 2005

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“Woven Together in Love”

Thursday through Sunday,

October 13-16, 2005

Simpsonwood Conference & Retreat Center

Atlanta, Georgia

The Diaconal Gathering Planning Team is being chaired by Pat Gerber, supported by Judy Bergeson, Libbie Reinking, Esther Schmidt, Barb Schmitthenner, and Judy Schroeder.



The event will take place at Simpsonwood Retreat Center in Norcross, Georgia, from Thursday, October 13th, through Sunday, October 16th, 2005. As with the Kansas City Gathering, the first 24 hours will be more informal, with the formal conference beginning in worship late Friday afternoon. The gathering schedule will be very similar to that of April 2004. All meals will be provided in buffet style by the conference center.

Bishop Craig Johnson of the Minneapolis Area Synod will serve as Bishop-in-Residence, and Rev. Dr. John Largen will be our Bible study leader, reflecting on the theme, “*Woven Together in Love.*” This theme will be carried out both in the creation of a quilt in advance of the gathering, crafted from prayer shawl muslin squares submitted by community members, as well as by the service project on Friday morning.

(continued page 2)

If you received this newsletter via snail mail it is because a) I do not have a current email address for you or b) your email is not permitting mail from my address to be delivered to your inbox. In order to maximize the DM treasury, we would prefer to send correspondence via email. Please contact Kris at krisp@visi.com with your current and preferred email address as well as your ideas, concerns, joys, and corrections. Thank you!

A special invitation has been extended to the leaders of DOTAC, and fliers with registration forms have been sent (thanks to the work of Pat and Kris Perry) to all consecrated Diaconal Ministers, as well as to those approved and awaiting call. Particular attention is being paid to the inclusion of this latter group, and how to respect its particular needs, while recognizing that the majority of participants will be rostered.

We hope you have received your muslin square in the mail and that you are drawing, painting, embroidering or cross stitching a picture of something that denotes your diaconal call. Please return your square to Pat Gerber, 1270 Central Park Drive, Carol Stream, IL 60188 no later than July 1.

Please indicate on your registration if you plan to arrive in time to participate in the service project Friday morning where we will knit, crochet, or help with fabric to make prayer shawls. The prayer shawls will be donated to a women's shelter in the local Atlanta area.

Cost Breakdown

	<u>Two Days</u>	<u>Three Days</u>
Single Room	\$315	\$435
Double Room	245	330
Triple Room	215	285
Quad Room	205	270

If you want roommate(s), please check with individuals prior to sending in your registration. Each room has its own private bath.

All flight arrangements should be made via the Atlanta, GA airport. We will notify you later about transportation arrangements from the airport to the retreat center.

Please mail your completed registration form, deposit of \$100, your yearly dues of \$25 and any donations made payable to DCM of the ELCA (Diaconal Ministry Community of the ELCA) and send in c/o Kris Perry, 10894 Leaping Deer Lane, Eden Prairie, MN 55344 by July 1, 2005.

Prayers are invited for the worship preparation for this conference, as well as for the effective coordination of details. Many of those who volunteered to

join the committee a year ago have found themselves unable to continue, but we are grateful to those who have come on board to share their gifts and talents to plan another wonderful gathering. Special thanks go to Pat Gerber for persisting in the midst of discouragement!

Mindy Holland
Leadership Team Liaison

**Conference
Scholarship Fund**

Many thanks to all who have generously donated thus far to the conference scholarship fund. Your gifts will make it possible for several to attend who might not otherwise be able.

For those needing financial assistance, please send a note to Kris Perry at krisp@visi.com requesting your need. All requests will be kept strictly confidential. Our hope is to assist as many as possible by splitting the pot evenly among those in need.

**Did you Know
As of May 15, 2005...**

- 101 individuals have been consecrated as diaconal ministers of the ELCA
 - 7 each in 1996 and 1997
 - 4 in 1998
 - 12 each in 1999 and 2000
 - 13 each in 2001, 2002, 2003
 - 14 in 2004
 - 6 thus far in 2005
- 7 individuals have withdrawn from the DM roster
- 94 individuals are currently rostered DMs
 - 7 are On Leave from Call
 - 1 is retired
 - 1 is serving outside the USA in Wittenberg, Germany
- 17 candidates are currently approved awaiting call
- Approximately 175 candidates are in process, discerning the call to diaconal ministry

Leadership Team Meetings

April 13th-16th, 2005
Chicago, Illinois

The four members of the Diaconal Ministry Leadership Team—Kris Perry, Mindy Holland, Beth Barkhau, Ed Kruse—met in mid-April in Chicago to address community concerns and to meet with representatives from the churchwide offices. It was the first time that this new team has met in person since our Kansas City gathering; in the interim, we have discussed community business and kept informed about committee efforts by means of regular conference calls.

Our time in Chicago was very fruitful; we learned better how to work together, built relationships, discussed community issues, and made plans for the future. We were



fortunate to be able to meet for over an hour with Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson, as well as to share a vibrant conversation over lunch with Sister Anne Keffer, Directing Deaconess. Other contacts

included conversations with Stan Olson, Director of the Division for Ministry; Cherlyne Beck, who specializes in candidacy; and Dick Bruesehoff, who is the designated liaison to the Leadership Team from the Division for Ministry. We were also able to meet with Pat Gerber, chair of the Planning Team for the upcoming Atlanta gathering, to discuss further details of that event.

We reviewed the financial status of the community and agreed to the need for a regular audit. We also brainstormed possibilities for future stewardship and made initial commitments to support a new fund for the community, about which you will be hearing more soon! We acknowledged the need for a constitution, and we will be bringing a recommendation—to establish a task force to draft such a document—to be considered for community consensus at our gathering in October.

We hope to see the community's website up and running by mid-July. David Scott from churchwide took time with the team to offer suggestions and committed to helping us with some of the design and layout details. We also decided to reinstitute "DM Talk" as an on-line "meeting" option via Ecunet for diaconal candidates; those who are consecrated may participate in this opportunity also. However, "CDM Talk" will continue to be the primary means of communication for those approved and those consecrated.

We revisited the Biloxi Statement, drafted in 2000 and supported by consensus at the Indianapolis Gathering in 2001. We agreed that this statement should be included in newsletters, so that it is better known to community members (see page 4). We brought specific concerns of the community to the attention of Stan Olson; topics included pension eligibility, housing allowances (word here is that nothing can be changed at this time; those who decide otherwise are proceeding at their own risk, per the advice of individual accountants and not that of the legal counsel of the ELCA); and clarification of "on-leave-from-call" limits and reinstatement requirements. We are also seeking clarity of the team's role in relation to churchwide. We have been told that currently the Leadership Team is not an advisory group to the Division for Ministry; our task is to communicate information and concerns and to serve all of you as faithfully and prayerfully as we can.

If you have questions about particular topics, please feel free to contact any of us via email (see cover for addresses). We enjoy hearing from you!

Thank you for entrusting us with the privilege of serving as representatives of this diverse and inspiring community. We feel honored and humbled to speak for the community at churchwide, as well as to invest our time and energy in helping the Diaconal Ministry Community of the ELCA to grow and flourish as we serve together in Jesus' name for the sake of the world.

Respectfully submitted,
Mindy Holland
Leadership Team Secretary

Wanted Call Stories

All consecrated diaconal ministers are invited to write a short (300-800) word call story for our diaconal ministry website. Specifically, please write about how you were called to diaconal ministry and how what you do in your call setting is diaconal. A bonus would be for you to submit yet another photo of yourself *in your ministry setting*. We will begin by selecting six call stories that show the variety of settings in which diaconal ministers work. Each quarter we will change out those call stories for six new ones.

Watch for the new website to be up and running by mid-July! We'll notify you with the address.

Prayer Mentor Recruitment

It's that time of year again: time to consider serving as a Prayer Mentor for one of this summer's Diaconal Ministry Formation Event candidates! Many members of our community have already served in this way during the past three summers, and their encouragement and support have been welcome blessings in the lives of candidates. An additional goal of this effort is to foster stronger connections across our ever-growing diaconal community. As of this newsletter, one hundred people have been consecrated as Diaconal Ministers of the ELCA! If you are approved and awaiting call or already consecrated, you are eligible to serve as a Prayer Mentor.

As a Prayer Mentor, you would commit to the following responsibilities:

- 1) To send a personal, handwritten letter of introduction to the candidate(s) during DMFE 2005 (to be sent in care of Gettysburg Seminary; letters must arrive by Wednesday, July 6th);
- 2) To pray for the candidate(s) regularly;
- 3) To contact the candidate(s) by email or phone at least once per semester, for sharing, encouragement, and exchange of prayer requests;
- 4) Ideally, to continue such support in an official capacity through the time of the candidate's consecration; after that, prayer support and remembrances could be continued at the desire and interest of the Prayer Mentor.

If you would be interested in serving in this capacity, please contact me at mindy@isp.com or at (803) 790-2869 by **Friday, May 27th, 2005**. Please indicate whether you would prefer only one match or if you would be willing to accept two candidates. I will then begin the matching process, with attentiveness to similarities in regional location or in areas of specialization between candidates and mentors, when possible. If you are already in what you would consider to be a mentoring relationship with a candidate who will be at the DMFE in Gettysburg this summer, please contact me with that information also. I will notify interested participants with names and pertinent candidate information during the week of June 13th.

God's blessings and peace to you this spring! Thank you for considering this chance to reach out to those discerning a call to the diaconate. Even if you are not able to serve as a Prayer Mentor this summer, please keep the DMFE in your prayers, both those who are planning the event and those who will participate.

In Christ,
Mindy Holland

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

Attention DM Candidates

The Diaconal Ministry Community is pleased to invite you to subscribe to the re-instated DM TALK list serve. This is an on-line discussion group where you are able to make announcements to DM candidates in process, share joys and sorrows, request prayers, and enter into discussion on important topics. The Leadership Team has committed to subscribing to this list-serve as our way of helping to answer your important questions and offering continued support while you are in the candidacy process. Several additional consecrated DMs may also subscribe to this list serve to offer support as well.

If you have not already received an invitation to subscribe to this FREE list serve, it is because we do not have an email address for you. Simply email Kris Perry at krisp@visi.com and she will send you an invitation.

Report to the Community DOTAC Central Committee Sao Leopoldo, Brazil February 21 -27, 2005

On February 22, 2005, the ELCA Community of Diaconal Minister was formally welcomed to DOTAC and DIAKONIA in a liturgy of welcome at the Casa Matriz de Diaconisas motherhouse of the Evangelical Church of the Lutherans Confession in Brazil (IECLB). Words of welcome and litany were announced, prayers for our partnership were stated, the mission of DOTAC was expressed, and our community received a beautiful ceramic cross which was to represent the embrace of DOTAC and the embrace of Christ. All of you are now a part of DOTAC and World DIAKONIA! Blessings, welcome, and congratulations!

But...wait a minute...for some of you, you may be wondering once again or maybe you have just heard the acronym "DOTAC" for the first time. It's okay to be asking yourself, "What is DOTAC?"

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.

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 word and deed.

As members of DOTAC, you, the members of the DMC of the ELCA are now in partnership with 64 international church bodies and 31 countries or regions.

DOTAC Central Committee, which is made up of delegates from all ecumenical partnering churches, meets once a year to address immediate needs such as grants and membership issues. In addition to the administrative duties, the Central Committee promotes peace and advocacy action, implements peace projects, promotes nonviolence projects, takes time for journeying together, storytelling, on site consultation and visitation, long range event planning, and much more. Representatives to the Central Committee are asked to serve

four year terms. While in Sao Leopoldo, I was asked to give an annual report, status of our community. Copies of this report are available upon request and they will be made available for all at our DOTAC display at Simpsonwood this fall.

Highlights from our time together were affirming the diversity of diaconal callings, rich ecumenical worship, the exchange of ideas, history, visiting with our sisters and brothers in the Sao Leopoldo and surrounding communities by visiting ministry sites such as day schools and nurseries for street children, women's empowerment centers, bakeries and community handiwork centers. While language and theological issues may separate us at times, we are united in our work of servanthood, bonded together by the power of the Holy Spirit.

How can you be connected to DOTAC and DIAKONIA right now?

◆ Remember, each month on the 26th, pray for our sisters and brothers called to DIAKONIA. Commit to learning more about DOTAC and DIAKONIA by visiting the websites at:

diakonia.org
diakonia-world.org
diakonia-world.org/dotac

◆ Consider attending the DOTAC western hemisphere conference in Trinidad, Tobago in July 2006

◆ Follow the developments of World DIAKONIA international gathering via the web site in Durham England this summer.

◆ Stop by the DOTAC – DIAKONIA display at our community gathering at Simpsonwood in October 2005

◆ As the ELCA Community of DM's start to participate in DOTAC and DIAKONIA events, individuals will have the opportunity to not only meet sisters and brothers from around the globe, but see once again that we are truly part of Christ's body as we share a common mission as servants in and with the people of faith.

◆ Make a gift to our gathering scholarship fund on behalf of your sisters and brothers

(continued)

It was a joy to meet fellow participants:

- √ Rev. Linda Ervin
- √ Sister Monica Denk of the Deaconess Community of the ELCA and representative of the ELCC
- √ Lisa Polito, Deaconess, and Director of Development and Public Relations for the Lutheran Deaconess Association
- √ Methodist Coordinator for the Deaconate, Becky
- √ The Wesley Diaconal Community representative, June, of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and The Americas
- √ Joquim Garcia Methodist Church USA
- √ Sister Gertrude and Sister Lovoni of the Evangelical Church of the Lutherans Confession in Brazil (IECLB)
- √ Ted Hallenbeck, Episcopal Church, NAAD North American Association for the Deaconate

We gathered around worship and the light of Christ's presence each day through diverse worship experiences born out of the traditions of the main stream faith groups' represented.

The Call is to be the edge of the Word incarnational in our society in and through fellow brothers and sisters in Christ is rich and full of depth. It is also cross bearing ministry as is all faithful ministry in one form or another. I pray that the diaconal minister in all countries will not fall pray to others prejudices or expediency inside or outside the Church. It is a recurring challenge for us all.

Beth Barkhau, DOTAC Representative

People and Places

All consecrated diaconal ministers and those candidates who are approved, awaiting call are encouraged and invited to post your mobility papers using the ELCA resource, People and Places by going to: <http://www.elca.org/sr/peopleandplaces/>.

As you may know, People and Places is a new feature of the ELCA website which allows candidates in all of the rosters to submit their Mobility Papers on line. Once you submit your papers, your individual synod reviews them and then they are available ELCA-wide. It does take a few hours to complete, but it is well worth it for the exposure your mobility papers will receive.

Update on Call Process Review Task Force

Many thanks to the diaconal ministers who allowed me to take excerpts about their call processes to share with the sixteen member Call Process Review Task Force at the April 13 – 15 meeting. I distributed summaries of our stories and added a Fall 2004 roster with names, locations, and call sites to help the group appreciate how complex the call process is for diaconal ministers and others who do not fit into the parish ministry model. My report was received along with many others and called for no action.

After hearing reports about call practices in nearly half of our synods, a working title for a new publication emerged: *"There Must Be 65 Ways to Call a Leader."* While a few constitutional principles are uniform, the research shows what most rostered leaders already know; namely, each synod has its own call process and some are more effective than others. The call process for consecrated and commissioned leaders in particular needs significant attention. This places even more responsibility on each diaconal minister to patiently and persistently educate people we meet. A Division for Ministry staff person pointed to the significant drop in funds that has resulted in cutting the candidacy staff from two full-time positions in 1990 to one half-time position today. Other staff members are carrying heavier portfolios than ever, so change is slow.

Dick Brueshoff was thanked for the work he and others have done to create the People and Places database for lay rostered leaders. The system only works if lay leaders all complete Application for Call forms on line and synods are reminded to use the site. (See <http://www.elca.org/ScriptLib/SR/Peopleandplaces/pnpIntroduction.asp>) The task force learned about the Episcopal Church National Deployment System's database program from Pam Ramsden. Any future ELCA rostered leader data bases will be developed in conversation with our ecumenical partners.

By the final meeting November 9- 11, 2005, the task force hopes to summarize research on best call process practices in the synods and to design a workbook and/or website to guide congregations, synods, and rostered leaders. Guidelines for future databases and revisions of standard forms will be offered. We will identify key problem areas that are emerging in the research and report them back to the Division for Ministry Board and Church Council for action.

I will continue to report results of our conversations on CDMTALK , so keep those messages going. Please contact me directly at suesetzer@bellsouth.net.

HEAR OUR PRAYER

The sixth mark of diaconal ministry, to be grounded in community, is yet another opportunity for us to foster community by supporting one another in prayer, in all joys and sorrows. Prayer is appropriate anytime, though Thursdays at 1:00 Mountain Time has been designated as a time for our community to "pray together."

Health Concerns / Sympathies to

Phil Deming, upon the death of his wife, Mary, January 4, 2005;
Jennifer McBride, upon the death of her mother, Margaret Sutter, February 1, 2005;
Ed Kruse, upon the death of his mother, Louise Kruse, March 13, 2005;
Alex Herrera, husband of Sue Vogel-Herrera, in remission from cancer, for continued healing and health;
Craig Senft, husband of Ardie, continued healing during cardiovascular rehab;
Glenda Spiotta, wife of Doug, for continued healing, thanksgiving for the healing that has taken place, for continued wisdom for the medical teams, for the continued strengthening of their faith and marriage, and for peace;
Charly Smith, kidney dysfunction and prayers that dialysis won't be needed, and hope for the future;
Terri Endres, recovering from emergency appendectomy surgery April 30.

Congratulations to

Jennifer Vasquez, on the birth of her first child, Rebekah Esperanza Vasquez, born January 24, 2005;
Ellen Swam, upon her marriage April 16, 2005; to J. Andrew Doughty;
Anne Becka, on her upcoming marriage to Rev. David R. Goode, June 4, 2005.

Transitions / New Positions

Diana Sickles, who accepted a call to Word and Sacrament ministry and ordained February 13, 2005;
Sue Setzer, who came out of retirement and is now serving as Associate Director of Field Education and Visiting Professor of Christian Education at Union Theological Seminary-Presbyterian School of Christian Education;
Leslie Whited Vance, upon entering the Doctor of Ministry program at Salt Lake Theological Seminary in Leadership.

Recent Consecrations

Jessica Nipp - January 30, 2005
Katie Kluckman-Ault, February 20, 2005
Judy Bergeson, February 26, 2005
Donald Burgess, May 1, 2005
Janell Weum, May 14, 2005
Kim Winchell, May 15, 2005

Prayers for Discernment to those Approved Awaiting Call

Beth Bennett-Hill	Janet Johnson
Glenda Blegen	Jennifer Larson
Cynthia Bowden	Diane Luscombe
Joan Braunhardt	Kathy Massa
Barry Buck	Kim Nelson
Bill Dahl	Tammy Rade
Lisa Hill	Nancy Selinger
Margaret Howell	Charly Smith
	Rebecca Wiese

Happy Birthday

May	July
2 Karla Neumann	23 Martha Baker
3 Sue Herrera	Tim Freund
4 Barry Buck	24 Melissa James
5 Madelyn Busse	25 Kris Perry
6 Esther Schmidt	30 Beth Anderson
Janell Weum	31 Jennifer Vasquez
9 Leslie Whited Vance	August
11 Doug Spiotta	2 Beth Barkhau
16 Jessica Nipp	10 Gloria Strickert
18 Cynthia Bowden	16 Carole Urbanski
22 Sandra Braasch	29 Marjorie Myers
29 Terry Moore	September
31 Janet Lepp	3 Lake Lambert
June	6 Elaine Brant
5 Ardie Senft	Sue Setzer
13 Judy Rooney	Jennifer Larson
14 Erin Morris	13 Suzie Everingham
18 Linda Daus-Deegan	14 Katie Kluckman-Ault
22 Rowena Henry	23 David Glover
24 Margy Schmitt Ajer	27 Gayla Crosmer
27 Judy Schroeder	October
29 Glenda Blegen	9 Linda Sprick Kruse
30 Karen White	17 Nancy Gable
July	Marilyn Hugh
12 Becky Wiese	20 Eva Croydt Schulte
19 Nicholas Wilkens	25 Sarah Wilson
Kim Winchell	30 Patricia Gerber
22 Tammy Devine	

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2134 Knapp St
St. Paul MN 55108
651-646-2970
lucy@brusic.net

Diaconal towels are available in the colors of the church year (blue, green, red, purple and white) and measure approximately 22x30", woven of washable cotton in unique designs. Cost is \$30 plus \$5 shipping/handling. A \$15 deposit is requested with each order.

Jewelry

Pendants/Necklace/Bracelet/Ring/Lapel Pin
Mary Drazan
3546 Ivy Place
Orono MN 55391
952-949-1104
FrelsDesigns@aol.com

The cross is designed in one uninterrupted line, representing the integral connection and dynamic flow between ministry in and of the church in relationship with God's world. It is available in either gold or silver (gold prices vary). Allow one month for delivery.

Ring

Karen Colter
Reynoldsburg, OH
740-927-7450

Designed by Karen White, this ring is gold with infinite cross set on textured surface, with small ruby at intersection of infinite sign and body of vertical cross.

Diaconal Ministry Community of the ELCA
c/o Kris Perry
10894 Leaping Deer Lane
Eden Prairie MN 55344-4929

Address Correction Requested