

DOTAC President's Report
DIAKONIA World Federation Executive Committee Meeting
November 2020



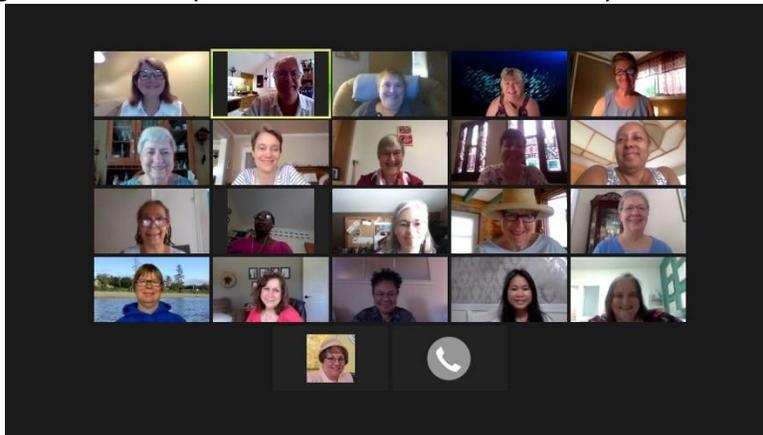
Since the last meeting of the DWF Executive Committee Meeting in July, DOTAC has continued with several important initiatives.

Zoom Board Meetings

The Board has continued to meet more frequently via Zoom. We met in August and September and have a week of meetings scheduled for November 16-20. Regular meetings have been slated for 2020. We feel we are growing together as a team as our relations deepen through regular contact.

Monthly Prayer

Our Monthly Prayer group gathers on Zoom on, or near, the first of the month. We advertise on our Facebook page and send a link and litany to anyone who indicates interest. Roughly 20 people, from across the region, are participating each time. Our last meeting was on Monday, and we focused on All Saints' Day.



Racial Justice Dialogue

DOTAC embarked on a Racial Justice initiative Thursday, October 29. From Brazil, the Caribbean, the USA, and Canada, over 40 members of the ecumenical diaconate gathered to learn and discuss racial justice. Graciously and thoughtfully led by Marlene Britton and David Rojas Martínez, this international group gathered in prayer, set guidelines for respectful conversation, shared perspectives on white privilege and offered our stories of difference. Of the participants, 21 were from the US, 3 from Brazil, 2 from the Caribbean and 15 from Canada. Two more meetings are slated for November 19 and December 17.



Finance Committee

In February, we approved a charter for a standing Finance Committee. Although our monetary situation is positive, the committee helps DOTAC set budgets, regularize and monitor the state of its finances and give the Treasurer further

support and accountability. This summer, a team including former DOTAC and DWF president, Louise Williams, completed the first financial review in ages. After several years operating without a budget, draft budget for 2021 will be presented to the Board in November.

Social Justice Committee

The Board has established a standing Social Justice Committee. Members for the committee have been recruited and their names will be approved at our November Board meeting. The named purpose of the committee states:

In keeping with,

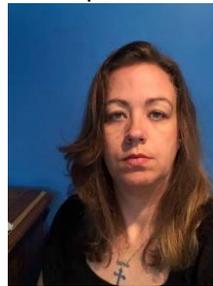
- the prophet's injunction to "do justice"
- the gospel imperative to "preach good news to the poor, recovery of sight to the blind, release to the captives, freedom to the oppressed, and to proclaim the year of God's favor" and
- the diaconal call to bridge the work of the church and the world,

this Committee will create, coordinate, and maintain a social justice presence for DOTAC.

Thursdays in Black

We continue to support the "Thursdays in Black: Toward a World without Rape and Violence" initiative by posting encouragement on Facebook. On October 15, Judy Whaley posted this photo and comment:

I wear black on Thursdays to stand in solidarity with siblings in Christ around the world who are speaking up on behalf of others. I wear black as a sign of hope that together we can create a world without gender-based violence. [#thursdaysinblack](#) Deacon Michelle Collins is the Assistant to the Bishop in the MNO Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada. This is Sister Michelle Collins from the Deaconess Community of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.



Ad Hoc Visioning Task Group

As the DOTAC Board, we feel called to create a forum to reflect on the way forward, so the Board has mandated an *ad hoc* task group to make recommendations that will energize and revision our organization. These people have been recruited and will attempt to carry out their work by July 2021.

World Council of Churches

Several of our communities were approached to contribute to the WCC Document regarding Diaconal responses to COVID. We were approached by a World Council of Churches staff member to participate in their "Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace" in 2021. Details are not yet clear, but it promises to be an exciting partnership for DOTAC.

Research Diakonia

We organized a DOTAC institutional registration for for the September 17 International Digital Conference "Diaconia as Gamechanger? Leadership of Service in Times of Crisis, Complexity and Transformation." Some twenty people participated via our DOTAC Registration. We also hosted a de-briefing session on the following day for DOTAC people.

DOVE (DIAKONIA Overcoming Violence Exchange)



In April, we decided to postpone DOVE until September 2021. This September, the planning team from Jamaica suggested that we go ahead with 2021 even if we have to switch to an on-line version, because of pandemic restrictions on travel and congregating. Plans were underway and delegates had been selected.

Respectfully submitted,
Ted Dodd, DOTAC President