

January 2020

Dear Diaconal Colleagues,

As workers in Diakonia, we are called to reach out to those who are marginalized and to help bring God's light forth in this world. One way our community has chosen to fulfill this calling is through the offering of **Diakonia Overcoming Violence Exchange (DOVE)**. DOVE grew out of **The Decade to Overcome Violence: Churches Seeking Reconciliation and Peace 2001 – 2010 (DOV)**, an initiative of the World Council of Churches (WCC). **DOVE** strives to strengthen existing efforts and networks for overcoming violence, as well as inspire the creation of new ones.



The WCC Decade to Overcome Violence called us to:

- work together for peace, justice, and reconciliation at all levels
- embrace creative approaches to peace building
- interact and collaborate with others toward cultivating a culture of peace.
- walk with people who are systematically oppressed by violence
- repent for our complicity in violence

DOVE has occurred three previous times: in the USA (2008), Brazil (2012) and Canada (2016). In 2020, DOTAC will assemble a team of **16 persons** - four from Canada, four from the Caribbean, four from Brazil, and four from the United States - plus a few planning team members from the Caribbean. The team will gather in Kingston, Jamaica **September 21 – 25, 2020**. The theme chosen is "Wholeness through Justice and Compassion."

All DOVE participants will be expected to:

- ❖ Find ways to initiate action / reflection experiences in their own country.
- ❖ Provide reflections in writing to share with the group, their own community, and DOTAC.
- ❖ Seek ways to provide leadership and develop networks to assist others in addressing violence.

Based upon the objectives of **DOV**, the **DOTAC Diakonia Overcoming Violence Exchange (DOVE)** is designed to build an international team from our DOTAC community that will participate in a multicultural, hands-on, action-reflection experience, related to overcoming violence in the world.

The event will include community building, cultural exchange, and Biblical and theological reflection. Theoretical and practical elements will enable participants to gain a better understanding of the problems and consequences of violence and to explore some things they can do to overcome violence.

The registration for the event will be \$330 US. You will be asked to book your own:

- travel (fares will vary depending on distance and departure airports)
- room -- directly with the hotel (The Courtyard by Marriott in Kingston, Jamaica). The planning team will assign you a roommate (accommodation is expected to be double occupancy). Costs for 4 nights will be in the \$500 USD range.

Participants are encouraged to seek financial support from their denominations and diaconal communities. DOTAC will provide some scholarship assistance for participants from the Global South.

Applications are to be submitted to your member group representative for DOTAC (see page 2). The registration deadline is **March 1, 2020**. Please take time to discern and consider if you may be called to be involved in overcoming violence and would be supported in this calling through participation in DOVE.

The DOTAC representative will forward the completed application to the DOVE Planning Team who will notify applicants of their decisions by the end of March. If selected, you will:

- receive further travel/event schedule information (see Draft Schedule)
- be asked to complete a registration form and
- sign the Covenant of Responsibility

Peace and Blessings,
Ted Dodd, DOTAC President



**The Twelve Communities of DIAKONIA of the Americas and the Caribbean
and the Representatives to the DOTAC Board of Directors**

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- The Deaconess Community of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (Deaconess ELCA)
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- The Office of Deaconess, Home Missioners and Home Missionaries- United Methodist Church (ODHM - UMC)
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