

DIAKONIA Prayer Letter July 2018

The next gathering of DOTAC (Diakonia of the Americas and Caribbean) will be held in Vancouver, August 14-20, 2019. The gathering will lift up the theme: **"Respecting Covenant - Risking the Journey toward Reconciliation"** through the lenses of indigeneity, creation and global migration



The accompanying logo was created by indigenous artist, Darlene Gait and can be interpreted in various ways. The smudging bowl (purifying incense) is identified with indigenous ceremonies in many cultures, and the dove is a symbol of the Holy Spirit for Christians. Pictured together, they capture our hopes for reconciliation and right relation. And perhaps, the pen in the beak of the dove hints at a verse in Jeremiah:

*"But this is the covenant that I will make with my people after those days, says God:
I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts;
and I will be their God, and they shall be my people."*

Maybe the pen points to a day when covenants will be honoured and respected and written on our hearts.

God of the rainbow covenant

lead us into a respectful honouring of our differences.

God who accompanied Abraham and Sarah into the unknown

be with us on the journey toward reconciliation.

God of the commandments

teach us to live in community.

God of Jeremiah's vision

touch our hearts with commitment for justice and right relationship.

God of the new covenant

help us to see the abundance of our overflowing cups.

Ted Dodd,

DUCC (DIAKONIA of The United Church of Canada) representative to

DOTAC (DIAKONIA of the Americas and the Caribbean)