

FOUNDATION DIAKONIA/STIFTUNG DIAKONIA

WORLD FEDERATION OF DIACONAL ASSOCIATIONS AND DIACONAL COMMUNITIES

WELTBUND VON VERBÄNDEN UND GEMEINSCHAFTEN DER DIAKONIE

FÉDÉRATION MONDIALE D'ASSOCIATIONS ET DES COMMUNAUTÉS DIACONALES



FOUNDATION DIAKONIA/ STIFTUNG DIAKONIA

e-mail: [president@diakonia-world.org](mailto:president@diakonia-world.org)

President/Präsidentin: Rev Sandy Boyce, PO Box 506, Marlestone SA 5033, Australia.

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September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016



Dear partners and friends in DIAKONIA,

It is with great pleasure that I invite you to the 22nd Assembly of DIAKONIA World Federation of Diaconal Associations and Diaconal Communities to be held from June 28th to July 5th, 2017, on the campus of Loyola University, Chicago, on the shores of Lake Michigan.

We look forward to offering a warm welcome and hospitality, and a lively program. We will also have an opportunity to celebrate the 70th anniversary of DIAKONIA World Federation.

The 22nd Assembly will gather us around the theme:

**Shaken by the Wind....  
Vom Wind erfasst....**

Chicago, the 'windy city', will focus our attention on the activity of God's Spirit, weaving in and through our lives. The daily themes will explore dynamic aspects of God's Spirit in gathering us together, cherishing what is life-giving, challenging us as co-workers with God, encouraging us to cradle hope in the midst of uncertainty, and to have a new perspective as we move forward with God in service to our communities.

A rich cultural program as well as diverse learning opportunities is being prepared for delegates, with the support of the DIAKONIA Executive Committee. Through input of keynote speakers, Bible Studies, workshops, small groups, music and worship, and contextual learning, the Assembly theme will be deepened and explored.

The setting of the Loyola University campus, which will provide both accommodation and the venues for the Assembly sessions, will enable a strong community to be built amongst delegates and across cultures and traditions. We hope that relationships will be renewed and new relationships formed. Information about the campus is here, <http://www.diakonia-world.org/2017/Chicago2017.shtml>

We encourage diaconal associations to consider ways they can support younger ministry agents to attend the Assembly. A special program is being arranged for younger delegates to be able to connect, share their ministry joys and challenges, and enjoy fun and fellowship together.

The "World Focus" sessions will provide an overview of the work of DIAKONIA over these past four years since the 21st Assembly in Berlin. We will also hear about the most recent round of DIAKAID grants, which have a focus on education. There will be an opportunity to welcome and hear from new member associations.

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Your ideas, proposals, insight and perspective are vital to the future of DIAKONIA – there will be space for that, too, during the world focus times.

A small task group has been established to manage the election of the World President and voting delegates will be informed about the process.

A visa may be required for entry into the United States of America. Some delegates will be able to apply online through the Electronic System for Travel Authorization (ESTA) which is part of the Visa Waiver Program. Please check with your travel agent to determine what visa is required for your travel, and allow adequate time for the processing and issuing of a visa. Please inform us at the earliest opportunity if you require assistance. A personal invitation will be required for everyone who needs a visa, and will be sent to you by Sr. Traude Leitenberger (Secretary, DIAKONIA World Federation) on request.

Email: [secretary@diakonia-world.org](mailto:secretary@diakonia-world.org)

If assistance is need in the form of financial support for your voting delegate/s to attend the Assembly you may apply for it through the DIAKONIA travel fund. Information as well as the application form is attached.

As always, we do depend on your support. Only together are we able to work on and reach the goals and objectives of DIAKONIA, which is '*called to the service of reconciliation in the world by means of the word of faith and the action of love*' (Constitution article 2). We are able to realize this through prayer, interaction, mutual exchange, community, and financial support.

In your giving, please remember:

- DIAKONIA World Federation
- Travel funds
- DIAKAID/ Emergency funds

Please distribute this invitation and attachments amongst your members /member organizations.

We are thrilled to announce that registration is now open online. You are encouraged to use the internet to register for the Assembly. If you require a paper registration form, please request one from the DIAKONIA Secretary or your regional president.

Together with the DIAKONIA Executive Committee, the planning team and those who will host us in Chicago, we look forward to this great chance of community and sharing across all borders! Please pray for the many people involved in planning for the Assembly, and the many logistics involved. A great event like the Assembly requires a great team of motivated people who can work together on a myriad of tasks. We are thankful for their commitment.

May God bless you in your service as together we follow the example of Jesus who called us to serve others, empowered and energised by the Holy Spirit.

I do hope to meet with many of you in Chicago.

*Sandy Boyce*