



## DIAKONIA Prayer - August

It has been a privilege to attend two Regional Assemblies - DRAE in June (Edinburgh, Scotland), and DAP in July (Nadi, Fiji). I am looking forward to joining the DOTAC gathering in mid-August, in Vancouver, Canada. These gatherings are so full of joy, laughter & connectivity. We learn together, explore and discuss, encourage each other and affirm our diaconal calling.

It is always such a pleasure to be in each other's company - familiar friends and new friends. It reminds us that we are never far from each other. We are all inter-connected. And each monthly DIAKONIA prayer letter prompts us again to remember and pray for each other. What a beautiful gift to offer each other. "If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind". (*Philippians 2:1-2*)

We get a glimpse of what it means to be part of the family of God and find our unity in Christ in a way that transcends physical distance, and affirms diversity of culture. We sense together that in our midst 'God's steadfast love and faithfulness will meet, and righteousness and peace will kiss each other' (*Psalms 85*). The words of this song (words in English, to the tune of Hyfrydol, 87.87.D) capture the precious connections we share through DIAKONIA.

One in love, we meet together,  
one in time, and never apart.  
We in flesh as brother, sister,  
makes us one in mind and heart.  
All incarnate, we would offer,  
all we most sincerely prize,  
Learning though traditions differ  
how they join to make us wise.

One in outlook, always searching,  
not to bind in common creed,  
As a people, be more ready  
to respond to other's need.  
Here we are so finely fashioned,  
understanding, here to serve,  
Never narrow in compassion,  
empathy without reserve.

And yet this is a time of fracturing in our global village - in and between nations, between peoples, in and between churches. This was reflected in the DRAE theme which explored 'For such a time as this', and the DAP theme which explored 'Tides of Change'. We live in a global village with disruption and distraction, where 'fake news' can determine political outcomes, when what we see with our own eyes can be the object of manipulation. We wonder, what is truth and who can be believed?

It is a time when more than ever a spirit of diakonia, of service, of speaking truth to power, of living by faith and not by fear, can be transformational. When hopeful imagination is not naive but pregnant with possibility. When welcome arms and hospitality builds community that dismantles competition and conflict. I look forward to the DOTAC gathering as it explores the prophetic theme of 'Respecting Covenant - risking the journey of reconciliation'.



Please join with me in praying for:

- \* The DIAKONIA Regions, and the DIAKONIA Associations, and offering thanks for the work of the planning committees of the three Regional Assemblies.
- \* Those living with the impact of climate change - rising seas encroaching the land in the Pacific, chronic water shortages in India, droughts, floods, famines, and wildfires.
- \* Those serving the needs of the most vulnerable including refugees, immigrants and children in detention, the poor and disadvantaged, and those living with mental illness.
- \* For Deacons, Deaconesses and diaconal ministers as they serve faithfully, despite challenges such as limited finance, uncertainty, and political instability.

Rev. Sandy Boyce, President DIAKONIA World