



# **DIAKONIA**

## **News**

Newsletter  
of  
FOUNDATION DIAKONIA  
WORLD FEDERATION  
of  
DIACONAL  
ASSOCIATIONS  
and  
DIACONAL COMMUNITIES

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### **DIAKONIA EXECUTIVE REPORTS**

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## From the President

I have been pondering again the passage in Hebrews 11, when the writer lists many of the heroes of the faith, and then goes on to say that each of us has an interconnected part to play, such 'that their faith and our faith would come together to make one completed whole, their lives of faith not complete apart from ours'. I feel the same way about those who have paved the way for diaconal ministry - our ancestors in faith, as well as those in our contemporary context. In being elected to serve as DIAKONIA President in Berlin this year, I recognise that I stand on the shoulders of the many who have carried forward and embodied the vision of diaconal ministry in many shapes and forms. I pay tribute to previous DIAKONIA Presidents, including Sr. Doris Horn and Deaconess Louise Williams, who have offered such committed leadership. It is a privilege to follow in their footsteps.



*Rev. Sandy Boyce  
DIAKONIA President since July 2013*

In my introductory speech in Berlin, I outlined some of the key focus areas which would be a priority for me, including working closely with the DIAKONIA Executive. You can read more about the focus areas in this edition of DIAKONIA News. One area is networking, and sharing stories from diaconal associations. I have established a President's blog, with regular updates - prayers, reflections, stories and news, which helps to give regular updates about the work of DIAKONIA and diaconal ministry: ([www.diakoniapresident.blogspot.com](http://www.diakoniapresident.blogspot.com)). I look forward to hearing from member as-

sociations with news and stories, so that postings on the blogsite enable us all to offer prayerful support and encouragement ([sandyboyce@gmail.com](mailto:sandyboyce@gmail.com)). As well, I acknowledge the roles played by Dianne Kaufman (DIAKONIA website) and Lisa Polito (DIAKONIA, Facebook) in sharing stories and information, which help to connect members and invite prayerful support for others in the DIAKONIA community. The new focus for DIAKONIA News enables greater sharing of information from our Executive meetings, to provide details about our priorities and actions. Together, this cluster of approaches to communication enables a breadth and depth of sharing that is hoped will resource and encourage members of DIAKONIA.

Recently, I had the privilege of attending the World Council of Churches Assembly in Busan, South Korea. It was a wonderful way to learn more about the work of WCC, including an ecumenical conversation on diakonia. At that time, I also visited the community of Korean deaconesses in Mokpo. I was so impressed with their work, and their commitment to serve the poor, the marginalised and the vulnerable in their community. It is interesting to learn that the work of this community of women is not part of an institutional church program, and they simply seek to faithfully respond to what they discern God is calling them to do and to be. They are incredibly faithful women, who offered me a generous welcome and hospitality. I look forward to opportunities to connect with other member associations in our DIAKONIA community.

I have also met with Deac Emma Cantor (Philippines). We are all mindful of the devastating typhoon in central Philippines, and give thanks for the role of the church and diaconal ministry agents in offering practical, prayerful and pastoral support for the people affected by the typhoon. This may no longer be 'front page news' but the plight of the people will continue for months and even years to come.

As I write, the world has lost a visionary leader, Nelson Mandela. He played a significant role in the history of the 20th century. US President Barack Obama eulogized him as a 'man who took history in his

hands and bent the arc of the moral universe towards justice'. Obama went on to say, 'it falls to us as best we can to forward the example he set: to make decisions guided not by hate, but by love, to never discount the difference that one person can make'. Indeed. It is fascinating to learn that Nelson Mandela's name given at birth was Rolihlahla. In his Xhosa tribe, the name means 'pulling the branch of a tree', or 'troublemaker'. Diaconal ministry involves care and compassion, as well as justice seeking and peace making, and I like to think it also involves a 'shaking of the tree' at times, with a degree of 'troublemaking' whenever the root causes of injustice, human rights abuses, and conflict are addressed and challenged.

Diaconal ministry agents offer significant leadership as co-workers in serving God's vision for the world, a world in which 'God

rejoices because there shall no more be the sound of weeping, or the cry of distress, where people shall not die young, where people build houses and live in them and enjoy the fruits of their labour, where people will not die of calamities, and where the aggressors are transformed so that all shall live in peace (Isaiah 65:17-25). It is this vision which lifts our eyes from the challenges of our daily labour to the hope of what is yet to come.

May God who created the world in love, enable us to share love with others.

May Christ who shared his life, enable us to share our life with others.

And may the Spirit weaving through our lives enable us to be only and always for others. Amen. (adapted, WCC)

*Rev. Sandy Boyce  
DIAKONIA President*

## From Your Editors

Greetings from Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA. As winter descends upon the northern hemisphere, I remember those summer days in Berlin when we gathered in our Assembly. I hope that those of you that were at the Assembly have carried with you many blessings from that experience.

As the new English editor of DIAKONIA NEWS, I want to introduce you to its revised format. At our meeting preceding the Assembly, the Executive Committee, recognizing the fact that we now use the web and social media to provide timely information to you regarding DIAKONIA's activities, decided to change the format of the NEWS. We decided that DIAKONIA NEWS will be an annual publication whose main purpose would be to present reports from the Executive Committee. In doing so, we hope to provide our readers with a greater understanding of the work of the DIAKONIA's Executive Committee. Therefore, most of what you will read in this issue reflects the activities of DIAKONIA's Executive Committee at last summer's meeting.

However, because 2013 was an Assembly meeting year, we have also included summaries of the DIAKONIA World Focus sessions; the new DIAKONIA presi-

dent's introduction; and pictures from the Berlin event. We hope that this material serves not only as a remembrance of our experiences to those of us present and but also gives those of you not present a sense of both the work that we did and the joy that we experienced.



*New DIAKONIA News Editor Laura Lazar*

To keep up with DIAKONIA's activities, look at our webpage at

<http://www diakonia-world.org/>;

read President Sandy Boyce's blog at <http://diakoniapresident.blogspot.com/>;

and find us on Facebook.

We welcome your comments and suggestions regarding DIAKONIA NEWS, particularly our new format.

*Laura Lazar  
English Editor*

# DIAKONIA EXECUTIVE REPORTS 2013

## REPORTS OF THE OFFICERS

### President Report

Dear friends, dear executive members,  
this passed year has been very busy and challenging for all of us, not only as we prepare for the assembly, but also in our professional as well as personal life. I pray that our gathering will be fruitful, strengthening and encouraging.



*DIAKONIA World President (2009-2013)  
Sister Doris Horn during her report at Berlin*

Several times this text came to me during the past months: Matthew 25, 35 – 40: I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink, I was a stranger and you received me in your homes, or naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me. .... I tell you this: anything you did for one of my sisters and brothers here, however humble, you did for me. I believe this is a wonderful picture of what diaconia is all about.

These past four years have seen many changes in DIAKONIA as well as in our executive.

DIAKONIA lost some members, e.g. VDW in the Netherlands or the "Konferenz Schweizer Mutterhäuser", Switzerland. But new ones joined us, e.g. Ushirika Wa Diaconia Faraja, Tanzania.

Changes in our executive have been: Shirley – Joy Barrow, NZ left and Ristua Sirait, Indonesia, her alternate, took over. Sr. Margit Muther, CH, was represented by Sr. Elisabeth Meier. DIAKONIA News Edi-

tor: as Jane Martin, Scotland, resigned, Sandy Boyce, AU replaced her. Webmaster: Captain Neil Thomson, UK was replaced by Diane Kaufmann, USA

All who had to leave for various reasons I do thank for their time of service and input! I am very thankful for everyone on our executive, for their dedication, for their willingness to serve, for support and prayers.

We have been struggling with the improvement of our communication. Thanks to Diane Kaufmann, our website has been changed, news and relevant data is available on time.



*DIAKONIA World Webmaster Diane Kaufmann*

Within the executive there still is room to improve!

I am very grateful to Lisa Polito for her work on our Facebook appearance. It has become a very interactive, fast and informative way of communication.

It is Ulrike Kellner, who has done a great job for the executive (and for DIAKONIA but that comes at another place), in keeping us informed, sending the summary of the minutes and list of things to do, preparing a press release after the meetings, in organizing and reminding us. Thank you, Ulrike.

I had the chance to visit some of our members, e.g. LDA conference in St Louis, USA last year, German members, Tanzania members. Meeting with members, listening, sharing and communicating with them is an essential part of our work as executive members!

One of the most critical points is our financial situation; membership fees, donations, but also expenditures: executive meetings, assemblies, DIAKAID etc. The structure and representation of the regions on the executive has been worked on. I believe the decision to reduce DRAE members on the executive from seven to five as well as set guidelines as to when officers should be represented is the right step forward.

Thank you Laura Lazar, for your excellent work and Sandy Boyce, for your thoughts and input! We will have to work on this issue and come up with reasonable suggestions to pass to the next executive.

**Human trafficking:** Since we decided that this would be a banner issue for our term, I have seen and heard much about it. I still remember well the play by the students at Lahti institute, or the lecture from Emma Cantor. In our hospitals we do come across patients, mainly females who obviously are part of the human trafficking that happens everywhere.

I do believe, that DIAKONIA should continue to find ways to inform members, to oppose and to work on this issue and with people who are effected or could make a difference.

#### **Prayer letter:**

I am very pleased that the prayer letter now is published on the website as well as facebook. It is also a fast and good way to reach members and friends of DIAKONIA. Prayer does connect, strengthens and enriches everyone. Writing the prayer letter should be one of the tasks of the president



*DIAKONIA World President Sr. Doris Horn with WCC General Secretary Dr. Olav Fykse-Tveit at the Berlin Assembly*

#### **Ecumenical relations**

Terttu Pohjolainen has been very faithful in being our representative at the WCC. This has to be continued to make diaconal issues known and strengthened for the whole church body represented there!

Through Ulrike Kellner and her relating to the IDZ (IDC) this has also become a very fruitful and important link to the Roman Catholic Deacons.

I have enjoyed serving DIAKONIA for the past 17 years, the past four years as the President.

I could not have done this without all the support of the executive members, without encouragement from sisters and brothers in the communities and sisterhoods, without all the prayers, love and caring spirit amongst us.

Thank you!

May God bless us, may God continue to bless DIAKONIA as it serves the body of Christ.

*Diakonieschwester Doris Horn  
DIAKONIA President 2009-2013*

### **Important Internet and E-mail Addresses**

#### **WEBSITES**

DIAKONIA World Federation  
DAP  
DRAE  
DOTAC

#### **WORLD "OFFICERS"**

president@diakonia-world.org  
secretary@diakonia-world.org  
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<http://www.diakonia-world.org>  
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<http://www.drae.info>  
<http://www.dotac.info>

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drae.treasurer@diakonia-world.org



## Report Secretary

The past 4 years of my service for the DIAKONIA World Federation have been years with lots of changes. Two members of the Executive had to resign from their office, Margrit Muther from Switzerland and Shirley-Joy Barrow from New Zealand.



*DIAKONIA World Secretary Diak. Ulrike Kellner at her report at the Berlin Assembly*

And for three of the four officers we found new people: We welcomed Laura Lazar, USA, as our new Treasurer in 2009, Sandy Boyce, Australia, as new Editor of DIAKONIA News in 2010 and Diane Kaufmann, USA, as our new webmaster in 2012. All those changes had an impact on my own office, I was involved in the whole process from advertising until helping the new colleagues when they started their office. And now, at the end of my third term of office I myself am about to resign as DIAKONIA World Secretary.

With all those changes it was good to have some routine too. The Executive Committee met every year, the minutes went out shortly after the meeting, so that all members could be informed. On top of that, during the year I held a close contact to both, President and Treasurer of DIAKONIA. We did not lose any member during the past four years, but found new ones and other groups are interested to become member.

On several occasions I had the opportunity to represent DIAKONIA and talk to various groups about the World Federation and the special community that exists among us. Those lectures took place in Hannover, Düsseldorf and Neuen-dettelsau.

Together with DRAE Secretary Sr. Sabine Ritter I attended a conference for members of diaconal and spiritual communities within the Evangelical Church of Germany (EKD) in 2011, hosted by the three big German diaconal associations (KWV, VEDD and Zehlendorfer Verband). For the first time, members of related but different forms of Christian communities were able to be in dialogue with each other. They realised that today the diaconal and the spiritual path are no longer strictly separated. There is a lot of "grey space" in between - diaconal communities having a flowering spiritual life and spiritual communities are engaged in diaconal projects. And last, but not least, I recently introduced DIAKONIA World Federation at an international conference of roman-catholic deacons by holding two workshops.

As Sabine Ritter and myself have been the contact persons to the DIAKONIA 2013 planning group, a lot of my time and capacities went into the preparation of this assembly.

Beside these more technical aspects of my work during the past four years, I have tried to keep on the discussion I feel is essential for an organization like ours. How can we face the challenges of the future? How can we reach out to diaconal people, not to keep DIAKONIA World Federation going as an organization, but to show the value of DIAKONIA to all of us? May the Lord give us all the right ideas to face the challenges of the future.

*Diakonisse Ulrike Kellner  
DIAKONIA Secretary*

## Report Treasurer

Shown as follows are selected slides from the treasurer's report presented at the 2013 Berlin Assembly. DIAKONIA uses four funds to record its receipts and expenditures. These slides show the changes in each of the funds from the beginning of 2009 to the end of 2012. The General Fund records membership receipts and operating expenditures; the DIAKAID/Emergency Fund records grants member organizations for special projects and needs; the Assembly Delegate Travel Fund records the cost of travel grants to Assembly delegates; and the Endowment Fund records specified donations.

### General Fund Change in Fund Balance 2009 - 2012

January 1, 2009 balance (in Euros)	100,601
Revenues	138,325
Expenditures	(173,910)
<b>December 31, 2012 balance</b>	<b>65,016</b>
Available for Assembly Planning Committee	(50,000)
<b>Available for 2013 activities</b>	<b>15,016</b>

### Assembly Delegate Travel Fund Change in Fund Balance 2009 – 2012

January 1, 2009 balance (in Euros)	86,282
Donations	17,822
Travel grants, 2009 Assembly	(68,402)
Transfer from 2009 Assembly excess	51,332
<b>December 31, 2012 balance</b>	<b>87,034</b>
Travel grants, 2013 Assembly (estimate)	58,435
<b>Current balance (estimate)</b>	<b>28,599</b>

### DIAKAID / Emergency Fund Change in Fund Balance 2009 - 2012

January 1, 2009 balance (in Euros)	19,629
Donations	14,087
Transfer from 2009 Assembly excess	10,267
DIAKAID grants paid or to be paid	(21,250)
Emergency grant paid	(5,000)
<b>December 31, 2012 balance</b>	<b>17,733</b>

### Endowment Fund Change in Fund Balance 2009 - 2012

January 1, 2009 balance (in Euros)	11,077
Donations	226
Interest	366
<b>December 31, 2012 balance</b>	<b>11,669</b>

**Fees, donations and contributions you may send to the following accounts**

<b>Bank account No 4002199</b>	<b>Stiftung DIAKONIA</b>
<b>Ev. Kreditgenossenschaft, BLZ 520 604 10</b>	
<b>IBAN: DE23 5206 0410 0004 0021 99</b>	<b>BIC: GENODEF1EK1</b>
<b>Or</b>	
<b>Bank account 38 81 759</b>	<b>DIAKONIA World Federation</b>
<b>1081 KL Amsterdam, Netherlands/Niederlande</b>	
<b>IBAN: NL92 INGB 0003 8817 59</b>	<b>BIC: INGBNL2A</b>

## Report Editors

During the past four years we have managed to publish an issue of DIAKONIA News every year. We feel confident that the DIAKONIA News publications have presented a broad picture of the DIAKONIA World Federation as a whole.



*Auditorium at the DIAKONIA World Assembly in Berlin, July 2013*

There is a constant call for more issues per year: shorter, more up to date, and with closer contact to the member associations. We agree these are all very good points. But the reality is different, given that it is so difficult to gather information from the members themselves.



*Sr. Elisabeth Meier (Switzerland), Rev. Marianne Uri-Overland (Norway), Deác Ingrid Vogt (Brasil)*

We believe DIAKONIA News may not be the best means to respond to the call for more up to date information in the future. Our DIAKONIA website has become an important tool as is our Facebook site

with regular visitors. As well, many member associations have a presence on the web through social networks such as Facebook, as well as websites and blogsites. All these electronic media seem to be the way that information flows. News can be short, and up to date.



*Former DIAKONIA News Editor Jane Martin, receiving her recognition at the DIAKONIA World Assembly in Berlin*

So, our suggestion is to change the concept of DIAKONIA News altogether. We would like to see attention given to developing and maintaining Facebook, websites and blogsites for regular updates and flow of information. Basic information can be shared via the DIAKONIA website, with links to websites and blogsites maintained by member associations. DIAKONIA News can then be prepared as an annual publication, with priority given to the reports presented at the Executive Meetings. In that way, reports are available to our members, raising awareness of the work of the members of the Executive committee.

We are looking forward to a fruitful discussion.

*Sandy Boyce,  
Editor DIAKONIA News  
Ulrike Kellner,  
Editor DIAKONIA Nachrichten*



# DIAKONIA EXECUTIVE REPORTS 2013

## Summary Minutes

The Executive Committee of the Foundation DIAKONIA World Federation had its annual meeting June 25- June, 2013 at Heimathaus, Berlin/Germany.

**Detailed reports** were given on the work of the presidents, the regions, the officers and the situation with the ecumenical contacts. They are available in the minutes or in full with the members of the Executive.

**Finances:** The Executive Committee accepted the annual report 2012 unanimously.

### **DIAKAID and Emergency Fund**

- **Nigeria** – the education of two Nigerian deaconesses was sponsored and will be continued with a 2,500 EURO payment (for the third and last year). A full report was provided. (See minutes Moshi 2011)
- **South Africa:** The Nakekela Sewing Project, which enables women to earn their own money, was funded with 1,000 Euro. A full report was given.

### **Election of new President**

In a secret ballot during the DIAKONIA World Assembly, Rev. Sandy Boyce was elected as new DIAKONIA World President.

**Appointment of new Representatives of the Region:**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Representative</b>
<b>DAP</b>	Emma Cantor, Phillipines <i>President</i> Alison McRae, Australia <i>Vice President</i>
<b>DOTAC</b>	Lisa Polito, USA <i>President</i> Gillian Wilson, Jamaica
<b>DRAE</b>	Marianne Uri Øverland, Norway <i>President</i> Sabine Ritter, Germany Ulrike Kellner, Germany Ann Wren, England Elly Urio, Tanzania

### **New DIAKONIA Secretary**

The Executive Committee appointed Dr. Katharina Wiefel-Jenner as the new DIAKONIA Secretary, to begin her office on January 1, 2014.

### **Next DIAKONIA World Assembly**

After an intense and lengthy discussion the Executive decided with a lot of faith to **accept the invitation to the Philippines for the 22nd DIAKONIA World Assembly 2017.**



*North Europeans at DIAKONIA World Assembly in Berlin*



*Asians DIAKONIA World Assembly in Berlin*

# DIAKONIA EXECUTIVE REPORTS 2013

## REPORT REGIONALPRESIDENTS

### Report DIAKONIA-Asia-Pacific (DAP)

#### Introduction:

DAP and member associations continuous to be in spirit of love, care and nurture with people whom they serve. Efforts has been made to make connections and invitations to the DAP Conference in October 2012.



*Regionalpresident Emma Cantor (DAP)*

#### UPDATES:

1. Two membership applications to the DIAKONIA WORLD are waiting. Application forms will be to India c/o Sabitha and Philippines to Beth Corpuz, Philippines.
2. Calls were made to connect to Methodist Deaconess Order in Fiji, the principal of the Deaconess School, their situation is still unstable, but better than before.
3. Regular calls are made to Sabitha and Shaila in Methodist Deaconess Ministry in India. Sabitha and Shaila attended the DAP. Shaila attends the DIAKONIA ASSEMBLY but Sabitha cannot come due to late registration.
4. Deaconess Rieko of Fellowship Deacony, Mother House Bethel Japan sent her greetings to the DAP Conference, a way of connecting.

5. Emails were sent to Shirley Joy- Barrow Diakonia Aotearoa New Zealand Association but there was no response.

#### DAP CONFERENCE:

DAP 6 members (India, Duca, Ikadiwa, DIAKPhils) wish to thank DRAE, DOTAC, DUCA, Harris Memorial College, and Regional Missionary Office of the United Methodist Women for their support to the DAP Conference held at Harris Memorial College. The DAP Conference was attended by 45-50 women which includes student deaconesses and Staff of the Deaconess College. IKADIWA and the three Deaconess Associations (DIAKPHILS) contributed in paying their own transportation as their share and support to the DAP conference. We thank the meaningful participation and presence of Sr. Elizabeth from Switzerland and Geof from Australia. (See some pictures).



*Participants of the DAP Regional Conference*

#### Needs identified by the participants at the DAP Conference:

- Leadership and empowerment capacity building
- Exchange and internship program
- Designate a prayer and healing day for DAP.
- Fund campaign for DAP.

- Strengthen the relationships of DAP member associations.
- Financial obligations to the Diakonia World has to be attended
- Know deeply about the DAP and DIAKONIA WORLD structure, programs, Constitution and
- By laws
- Recruitment of Members and strengthening of member associations has to given attention.
- Have some models in the way we relate with one another as member organizations.



*DAP Representatives to DIAKONIA World:  
Sandy Boyce, Emma Cantor, Ristua Sirait*

### **General Engagements of some DAP Member Associations:**

Annual, Jurisdictional Levels and Local Churches: For faithful services and mission on women, men, youth and children as Christian Education Directors, Music Ministries Coordinators, Program Coordinators for youth and children, Counsellors, accompanier to the Elderly and servants to the needy; (9 of DAP Membership Associations relates to Local Churches; Annual Conference/Jurisdictional Levels, Central and General Conference Levels)

Church related schools, Colleges and Universities – as personnel, teachers, care givers, counsellors, principals, college Instructors, professors, deans, and presidents and Board Members (DIAKONIAPHils: Deaconess Association-IEMELIF, Deaconess Association- UCCP, COMMITTEE on Deaconess Service-UMC; IKADIWA; DUCA; Methodist Order-FIJI );

Hospitals and Care Giving Institutions: as care givers, aids, instructors, nurses and as doctors and professors (IKADIWA-INDONESIA).

People's Movements and Community Centers: as accompanier, Program directors, staff, fund raisers, Board members, founders, advocates to justice and peace initiatives, servants of the needy, poor and afflicted, building and bridging relationships among peoples, teachers to those who do not know how to read and write, Bible story tellers to those who have not discovered and heard the good news, healers and health workers to those who have never visited any clinic or hospitals nor talk to a counsellor, caring for the elderly and lost youth, victims of violence against women and children, guide and accompanier to women living in the streets, friends to children of the urban poor to get education; and feeding the orphans (Motherhouse Bethel JAPAN; Diakonia Sisterhood–South KOREA; DIAKONIAPHils: Deaconess Association-IEMELIF, Deaconess Association, UCCP, UMC-COM on Deaconess Service; IKADIWA- INDONESIA; DUCA- AUSTRALIA; Methodist Deaconess Order-FIJI; TELC Bethania Deaconess Home-INDIA; CSI Order of Women in South INDIA; Deaconess House Bethesda-JAPAN).



*Representatives of the Deaconesses of the United Methodist Church in South India  
Sheila John Wesley and Sabitha Swaraj*

Interfaith and ecumenical movements: engaged in people's interfaith dialogues, relief works in times of typhoons, tsunamis

and floods, facilitators to living skills, resource generation volunteers, para-legal/legal advisers to some militarized areas, non-formal teachers to refugees and grass root communities

(DIAKONIAPHils: Deaconess Association-IEMELIF, Deacones Association-UCCP, UMC-COM on Deaconess Service; Motherhouse JAPAN; Methodist Deaconess Order- INDIA; IKADIWA-INDONESIA; DUCA-AUSTRALIA).

Organizational Strengthening and Encouragement for Membership Development: national biennial assemblies, international and national leadership and empowerment capacity building, and continuing leadership development trainings (DIAKONIAPHils: Deaconess Association-IEMELIF, Deacones Association-UCCP, UMC-COM on Deaconess Service; DUCA-AUSTRALIA; IKADIWA-INDONESIA; METHODIST DEACONESS ORDER-FIJI; METHODIST DEACONESS ORDER- INDIA).

#### **Networking, Linking, and Partnership Initiatives:**

Some individual members of the Associations are members of programs, Church groups, NGOs, people's movements supports, inspires, help some members of DAP Member Associations:

- 1) Deaconess Institutions: Harris Memorial College and Balige Deaconess College Exchange Program. (DiakoniaPhils, IKADIWA, Regional Missionary Initiatives)
- 2) Diakonia Members make their presence felt and visits with DAP members whenever they are (DUCA, DIAKONIAPHils, IKADIWA).
- 3) Invitation to national programs as visitors and resource people and facilitators. (IKADIWA and DIAKONIAPHil, Methodist Deaconess Ministry India, UMW Regional Missionary Initiatives).
- 4) Personal and Member Associations' support to projects, conferences, leadership initiatives, community and some personal needs. (DUCA, DAP, UMW-Regional Missionary Initiatives, IKADIWA)

Professional Development: some individual members of the Associations are into continuing and intentional special, masteral, doctoral (philosophy, professional) studies as needed in their ministries and mission. (IKADIWA-INDONESIA; DUCA-AUSTRALIA; DIAKONIAPHils: Deaconess Association-IEMELIF, Deaconess Association-UCCP, UMC-COM on Deaconess Service)

#### **For new membership:**

##### **MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT:**

The "Ang Lupon ng mga DIAKONESIA" – (ALD) an association of 50 member deaconesses, of the Ang Iglesia Metodista ng Pilipinas (AIMP), an autonomous church in the Philippines, was approved during the DAP Conference pending upon the submission of the lists of deaconesses and its constitution and by-laws, now finally on the lists of DAP membership as DIAKONIA World Member Association. The deaconesses were original members of DIAKONIAPHils but due to split within the Philippine Central Conference, they are now officially autonomous, thus, now on a new membership status.

**DIAKAID** – The Asuncion Perez Center wish to give their report for the second year.

**DAP membership fees:** Some member associations are trying to systematize their payments for membership dues. Some members are still coping up.

May God be with us all in our journey of healing and wholeness. We thank God for the DIAKONIA WORLD.

*Emma Cantor  
Regionalpresident DAP*





## Report DIAKONIA of the Americas and Caribbean (DOTAC)

### Highlights

We met in Asheville, North Carolina, USA last fall.



*Lisa Polito, DOTAC Regional President*

- We have no new members but are investigating a number of opportunities.
- We spent a lot of time working in small groups on events for DIAKONIA World Federation
- We spent an afternoon in conversation of how we get DOTAC (and DIAKONIA) information to our member groups

I have attended several of our member groups gatherings – the Deaconess Community of the Evangelical Church in America; DUCC DIACONALS United Church of Canada. I have sent greetings to people who have been commissioned, consecrated and set apart from 3 different member groups.

### DOVE

DOVE – DOTAC Overcoming Violence Experience -- was held September 2012 in Recife, Brazil.

#### Highlights:

- Overcoming violence begins with each one of us. They used texts of violence / non-violence from Micah and Genesis
- Brazilian context:
- Effects of slave trade – women being abused
- Youth in slums
- Poor / few wealthy
- Rights of persons being taken away

- Lutheran church is seen as outspoken and powerful force, people are looking to what the church says about the issues
- Group went to Gravata which is a Diaconia project
- This helps the rural people who have moved to the urban area but have no money or resources. They say different programs that show the various types of violence and what to do about it.
- Group visited Olinda – the Centre for Art, Education and Culture
- This was started 26 years ago – when there wasn't any public education but now serves children and adults.

### Next DOVE – 2016 in Canada

Tentatively will be held in the Toronto area – Crieff or Five Oaks. Items needed: small bus, missions to visit, diaconal ministers in the area. Suggestions about First Nation Peoples and their struggle, justice issue, fair trade.

Our first event was in 2007 in New York City, NY, USA.

DOVE participants are expected to: find ways to initiate action / reflection experiences in their own country; 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 the Decade to Overcome Violence.



*DOTAC Central Committee 2012*

## Member Groups

DOTAC has 12 member groups. Several of our groups sent updates to share with you all.

**Brasil:** *Diaconia da Igreja Evangelica de Confissao Luterana no Brasil*

### Canada:

*Association of Anglican Deacons in Canada/Association Anglicane des Diacres au Canada (Anglican Church of Canada):*

- There is a need for specific competencies for the formation and training for Deacons in Canada
- Lay persons can bring the sacraments to shut-ins in some dioceses but not all – there is a need for a national program

*Diaconal Ministers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada:*

- 2 orders of ministry – diaconal ministers came out of the need
- Pastors and diaconal ministers are one roster
- Formation / Gathering will be in 2014 in Alberta

*DIAKONIA, The United Church of Canada (DUCC):*

- In 2011 – changed the DUCC (Diaconia, United, Church, Canada) structure from regional groups to non-regional passion clusters which meet in a variety of ways
- DUCC fees to DOTAC/World are again being paid by the General Council funds and this is important because it is recognition that Diaconal Ministers represent the United Church of Canada on an international level.

*Order of Diaconal Ministries, The Presbyterian Church in Canada*

- September 2011 Biannual Council – at this council they asked the members to do the Bible studies, etc. and not have outside leadership
- Lisa was a guest
- Challenges: the church doesn't have a full understanding of diakonia, current education requirements are at the same level as Ordination of Word & Sacraments
- Marg Robertson shared the devotion she wrote that was published in a women's magazine – Glad Tidings

**Caribbean:** *The Wesley Diaconal Community of the Methodist Church in the Caribbean and the Americas:*

- The community meets annually in sub-convocation by sub-regions and triennially in convocation
- 3 persons from the community attended DOVE in Brazil
- In 2011-2014 there will be an emphasis on training for deacons and deacons training lay leaders

**USA:** *Deaconess Community of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

- In 2012 there was an election of a new directing deaconess – Sister Janet Stump
- Lisa attended their assembly and brought greetings from DOTAC and DIAKONIA

*Deacons and Diaconal Ministers, Division of Ordained Ministry, The United Methodist Church:*

- Deacons are clergy / diaconal ministers are lay
- Deacons are ordained to Word, Service, Compassion and Justice, Elders are ordained to Word, Service, Sacrament and Order
- Explained the education requirements, where deacons are serving
- Deacons are to respond to 4 Focus Areas: developing leaders, health issues, poverty, & new church starts
- “the deacons are the eyes of the bishop” – the deacons know the people and what is needed and a bishop needs to listen to them

*Diaconal Ministers of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:*

- This group is planning to have a gathering after Berlin in July 2013.
- Connection is being done through a newsletter and a list serv.

*Lutheran Deaconess Association/Conference:*

- They have opened their doors to men through the Lutheran Deaconess Association – so they have one diaconate with 2 communities – the men will use the title deacon
- Lutheran Deaconess Conference – has a yearly assembly and this is only for deaconesses

- Lisa has been approved for another 5 year appointment as director of LDA
- Each year the deaconesses are to discern: "how is what I do diaconal?"

*Association of Episcopal Deacons, Episcopal Church, USA:*

- Shared a history of the Episcopal Deacons
- AED has two parts: Care of the Community of Deacons and New Canons for Deacons
- Shared how they communicate to their members
- Diaconal Assembly, June 13-17, 2013
- It was resolved at the general Convention of the Episcopal church that its members begin each meeting during the calendar year 2013 with this question, "How will what we are doing here affect or involve people living in poverty?"

*Offices of Deaconess, Home Missioner, and Home Missionary, the United Methodist Church:*

- A decision was made to hire an additional staff person because of the consultation that has ended by the Human Resource Consultation.
- Starting in 2013 – 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Love, Justice, and Service
- 2012 General Conference – deaconesses are to be consecrated and not commissioned as are the Home Missionaries –they are starting a study of the Lay Order

- Vision for 2021 – The Office of Deaconess & Home Missioner is a prophetic voice for love, justice and service so that all may experience abundant life.
- With the restructure the Deaconesses and Home Missioners will have 2 guaranteed seats with the United Methodist Women's Board

## COMMUNICATIONS

Our official languages are: English, Portuguese, and Spanish (French when we are in Canada)

We have a Facebook page that has 239 members.

## OFFICERS

We held elections and the change in officers will happen at DIAKONIA World Federation Assembly

President: Lisa Polito (USA)

Vice President: Marg Robertson (Canada)

Secretary: Sr. Mary Arie (USA)

Treasurer: Jan Cherry (USA) Alternate to Gillian

2<sup>nd</sup> Rep to World: Gillian Wilson (Jamaica)

*Deaconess Lisa Polito  
DOTAC Regional president*



**Fees, donations and contributions you may send to the following accounts**

**Bank account No 4002199**

**Stiftung DIAKONIA**

**Ev. Kreditgenossenschaft, BLZ 520 604 10**

**IBAN: DE23 5206 0410 0004 0021 99**

**BIC: GENODEF1EK1**

**Or**

**Bank account 38 81 759**

**DIAKONIA World Federation**

**1081 KL Amsterdam, Netherlands/Niederlande**

**IBAN: NL92 INGB 0003 8817 59**

**BIC: INGBNL2A**

## Report DIAKONIA-Region-Africa-Europe (DRAE)

### Current DRAE Executive:

**President:** Dc. Jackie Fowler (United Kingdom)

**Secretary:** Sr. Sabine Ritter (Germany)

**Treasurer (interim):** Rev. Marianne Uri Øverland (Norway, Sweden & Denmark)  
Sr. Ulrike Kellner (Germany)  
Dc. Terttu Pohjolainen (Finland & Baltic States)

Sr. Elly Urio (Africa)

Sr. Elisabeth Meier (Switzerland, Austria, France & the Netherlands)

**Webmaster:** Vacant



*DRAE Regional president Jackie Fowler*

### Executive meetings

The DRAE Executive met in March 2013 in Zurich at the invitation of Sister Margrit Muther a former member of the Executive. During the last 4 years I have been able to visit all the home countries of the members of the Executive as we have held our meetings around the region.

During our meeting in Zurich we spent much of our time in preparing for the World Assembly in Berlin: the DRAE presentations in the World Focus sessions; and also the Regional meetings.

During the last 4 years we have considered changes to the DRAE Constitution & By laws; these were finalised and will now be presented at the Delegates' Meeting in Berlin.

Another important item of business will be the new structure of the Region. The proposed changes in representation from DRAE to the World Executive means that there is a need to change the representation to the DRAE Executive to ensure that all voices are heard. The DRAE Executive will have 9 members: the Regional President with 8 representatives of member

groups in revised groupings. The five representatives to the World Executive will be the Regional President; one African (with the other as alternate); three chosen by the DRAE Executive, with all others as alternates.

I am not seeking re-election as President. Terttu will have completed her 2 terms; all other members of the Executive can be re-elected. It is our aim that there be some continuity at the same time as welcoming new members to the DRAE Executive.

Since the end of office of Neil Thomson as Treasurer, Marianne has served as interim treasurer, for which we thank her. We are delighted that Martin Vogler has been appointed as the new Treasurer. He brings a wealth of experience as a former DRAE treasurer and one of those involved in the formation of the region in 1994. We are still seeking a new webmaster.

We also discussed the venue for the next Executive meeting. It is hoped that this can be in Poland, connected to the Kaiserwerther General Conference.

The next Regional Conference is planned for 11th – 15th June 2015 in Lah-ti, Finland.



*DRAE President Jackie Fowler and DRAE Secretary Sabine Ritter at the Regional Meeting in Berlin*

### Challenges and aims

During the last 4 years the Executive has worked with the following challenges and aims:

- to contact and build relationships with other diaconal communities especially in Eastern Europe
- to contact ecumenical organisations and build relationships



- to continue to support the African members and if possible to enable better communications and contact between them

So, for example, Ulrike Kellner has attended the Kaire meeting and Sr Elisabeth attended a Eurodiaconia meeting. At our recent meeting we were pleased to hear that some sisters from Russia and from Poland will be attending the World Assembly in Berlin. We hope that the new Executive will continue to build these relationships especially in Eastern Europe.

In Africa, the highlight of these last 4 years was, of course, the Regional Conference in Moshi, Tanzania; the first to be held in sub-Saharan Africa. In our meeting this year, Sister Elly reported on an African diaconal conference held in Nairobi in February 2013. This was planned by members of some of the African associations. 32 people attended, sharing their work, learning from each other and celebrating in worship together. The Executive members were encouraged by this big step forward for the African communities.



*DRAE Regional Conference in Moshi/Tanzania*

There is a meeting planned for the African delegates after the World Assembly in Berlin to enable them to meet together as it is not easy to travel across Africa!

### **Ongoing conversations**

During the last 4 years at each of our meetings members of the Executive have shared reports of the associations which they represent. As we have shared so we recognised our common heritage, ethos and understanding but also the great variety in the way this diaconal ministry is expressed through deaconesses, deacons, diaconal workers in motherhouses, institutions and churches.



*Sister Elisabeth Meier  
and the little daughter of Sr. Elianka Oworu*

In Europe especially there are many common challenges as diaconal institutions, sisterhoods or associations are becoming smaller; some are also struggling to relate to their churches which in turn are changing their structures.

At the same time because of the current economic and social conditions in many places in Europe as well as in Africa it seems that *diakonia* is needed more than ever to respond with acts of love and mercy to those struggling with unemployment, poverty, debt and other issues. How can diaconal communities respond to the ever increasing need? How can we represent and maintain Christian values in an increasingly secular world.

All questions to which there are no easy answers but challenges which I believe must be grasped as we look to the example of Jesus, the servant king, who came to the lost and unloved, the poor and the blind, the prisoner and the free.

*Jackie Fowler  
DRAE Regional president*



# DIAKONIA EXECUTIVE REPORTS 2013

## ECUMENICAL RELATIONSHIPS

### Report World Council of Churches

*“The WCC brings together 349 churches, denominations and church fellowships in more than 110 countries and territories throughout the world, representing over 560 million Christians and including most of the world's Orthodox churches, scores of Anglican, Baptist, Lutheran, Methodist and Reformed churches, as well as many United and Independent churches.”* The Central Committee of WCC serves as the main decision-making body of the WCC between assemblies. The capacity of DIAKONIA World representative is to be an Advisor as an international ecumenical organization in a working relationship with the WCC.



*Diakonisse Terttu Pohjolainen*

**The World Council of Churches, Central Committee Meetings in the period 2009-2013:** The Central Committee of WCC had three meetings:

*Geneva 26<sup>th</sup> August to 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2009.* In this meeting *Rev. Dr Samuel Kobia from Kenia* left his place as the *General Secretary*. The new General Secretary election was one of the main topics in the meeting. *Rev. Dr. Olav Fykse Tveit* from Norway took his place as the new General Secretary of WCC. The 10th Assembly venue was the other main topic in the meeting. The city of Busan, Republic of Korea, was chosen as venue for the

WCC 10th Assembly in 2013. The WCC Central Committee also established an assembly planning committee. Busan as venue was in voting with Damascus in Middle East. *Rev. Dr Walter Altmann, moderator of the World Council of Churches Central Committee* brought his greetings from *DIAKONIA World Federation Assembly in Atlanta USA*.

*2. Geneva from 16<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2011.* This meeting discussed a lot about the proposal for the new forms of the WCC organization and governance. According to the proposal the WCC Assemblies should be once in eight years and the Central Committee should meet once in two years to discuss more about the theological questions of the unity of the member Churches. The number of the members of the Central Committee should come down from 159 to 120 members. The Executive Committee of WCC should have more tasks with the programmes and practical leading of the WCC. The diaconal subjects should be more tasks in the ACT Alliance. The background here is the finance of WCC, but also the need to effectiveness in working.

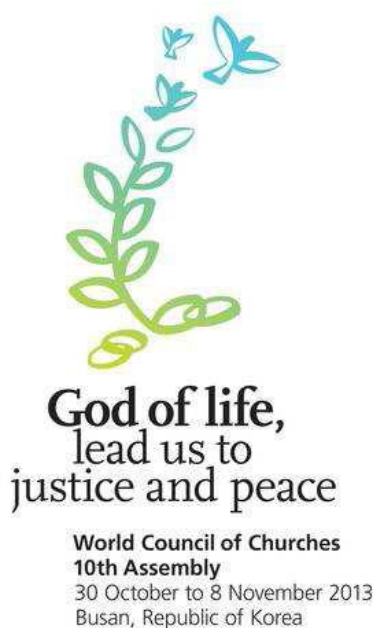
*3. The 60<sup>th</sup> Central Committee meeting of WCC was in Kolymari, Crete, 28<sup>th</sup> August – 5<sup>th</sup> September 2012* under the theme of Busan Assembly



*The Orthodox Academy of Crete*

"God of life, lead us to justice and peace". According to the General Secretary this central committee meeting had the task to guide the preparations for the 10th assembly and to prepare decisions to be made at the 10th assembly, and plan for and give guidance to the next months of work of the WCC until the assembly and a new central committee can take over. This meeting heard planning committee and discussed about the Busan Assembly plans. The Assembly theme, "Emphasis on economic justice" as well as "Community of women and men" were discussed in the committee groups as well as in the plenary sessions. Very special was also the session with His All Holiness Bartholomew, Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople. According to the Moderator of WCC, the WCC is called to be the prophetic voice to the world and it is summoned to give a spiritual witness to the hope and to show commitment on the ecumenical journey. Human rights, social politic, challenges for diakonia have always been important for WCC.

This is the logo of the Busan WCC Assembly:



*WCC Moderators and General Secretary Dr Olav Fykse Tveit at the meeting in Crete*

### **The Contacts to the Diakonia Programmes of WCC:**

*Rev. Dr. Carlos E. Ham*, World Council of Churches, Programme Executive for Diakonia & Latin America-Caribbean;

and

*Rev. Dr. Dong-Sung KIM*, Asia Regional Relations / Solidarity and Diakonia (Scholarships),

WCC has had discussions about Prophetic Diakonia and organized consultations about Diakonia with individuals, groups and regional actors. The consultations have been in Netherlands in December 2010 and after that in Brazil and the last in Sri Lanka. The Central Committee meeting 2012 also published and discussed about the Document "Theological Perspectives on Diakonia", which is from the Conference jointly organized by Justice and Diakonia, Just and Inclusive Communities, and Mission and Evangelism programmes of the World Council of Churches, in Colombo, Sri Lanka, June 2-6, 2012. The document gives some fresh perspectives about diakonia as a mission of the Church in the twenty first century and in different contexts of local congregations and church bodies in different societies as well as in international organizations. (Document No. GEN PRO 07)

The invitation to DIAKONIA World Federation to take part to Busan WCC Assembly (January 2012, President Doris Horn). "The activities of the International Ecumenical Organizations (IEOs) that have established a working relationship



with the WCC provide diverse forms of ecumenical engagement through which the churches respond to the call to work for justice and peace. All this you do so that Christian unity and witness are made more visible. The cooperation between the WCC and IEOs has helped to encourage mission, development, advocacy and participation in the ecumenical movement; working closely with churches, agencies and networks. The WCC is committed to strengthening this joint work and these relationships as we gather in Busan. In the spirit of preparing an assembly that will strengthen and renew not only the Word

Council of Churches, but the one ecumenical movement; the WCC Central Committee, when it met in February 2011, confirmed that Associate Councils be invited to nominate their delegated representatives and to offer suggestions about how they would like to be involved in the assembly.”

Thank You very much for the possibility to work together with DIAKONIA World Federation and in many, many groups and discussions as an advisor in a working relationship with the WCC.

*Diakonisse Terttu Pohjolainen*  
*DIAKONIA Representative to the WCC*

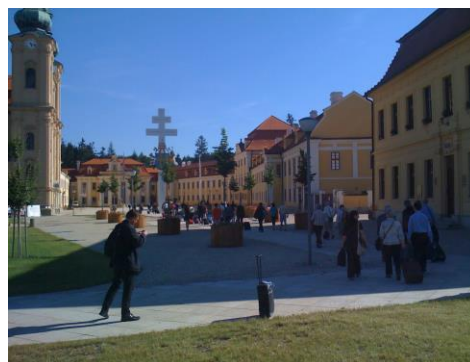
## International Centre for the Diaconat (IDC)

As the DIAKONIA World Federation, the IDC has its own assembly every four years. This year it took place in Velehrad, Czech Republic from June 13-16. The theme was: Diaconia in an intercultural context. Around 120 people, mostly men, gathered at the place, where the Slavic apostles, Cyril and Method lived and worked 1100 years ago. The basilica and



*Cathedral of Velehrad*

the attached cloisters are a pilgrim place for many faithful and a lot of tourists. The local bishop of Olomouc, Archbishop Jan Graubner welcomed the participants. At the closing worship, held in the basilica, it was an impressive picture, when the acting priest, Cardinal Duka from Prague was surrounded by nearly 60 deacons in their traditional habit.



*Monastery of Velehrad*

Four major lectures were held during the days. The Czech theologian Jaroslav Lorman, Prague/Czech Republik, described the situation of the roman-catholic church in the Czech Republic after the end of communism. Many of those facts, like a growing disinterest in Christianity, sounded familiar at least in the ears of the other European participants. J. Lorman identified three major reasons for the ongoing secularism:

- low value of religion in general
- religion is seen as a private task
- mistrust in clerical institutions

IDZ-President Klaus Kießling, Frankfurt/Germany answered the question whether the diaconate in a cultural diverse world is a mission impossible. Many of the doors, the Second Vatican Council opened have not been used. But there are some



examples for diaconal movement, in history (he talked about Johann Hinrich Wiechern and Alfred Delp) and today. There he painted the picture of diaconal work in India, Africa and Latin America. The most important thing, Kießling said, is to be open towards the other, the new and different one.



Unfortunately the speaker of the third lecture, Oswald Cardinal Gracias from Mumbai/India could not attend in person. His letter about the role of deacons for the new evangelization in a diverse context was read.



*Meeting Room Veleherad*



*Auditorium at the IDC Assembly with Metropolit Preslav Kyrill of Varna and Veliki*

The fourth speaker, Metropolit Preslav Kyrill of Varna and Veliki/Bulgaria, described the way, the Bulgarian Orthodox Church deals with the challenges of the modern diverse society. The Orthodox Church concentrates primarily on strengthening the church itself.



*IDC President Klaus Kiessling (right) with Archbishop Jan Graubner, Olomuc*

The newly elected board of the IDC shows both, continuity and going into the future. President Klaus Kießling was confirmed, but the assembly elected many young people into the board. On many occasions the IDC expressed the hope that the fruitful connection with DIAKONIA World Federation will continue in future.

*Diakonisse Ulrike Kellner  
DIAKONIA Representative to IDC*

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<b>Or</b>	
<b>Bank account 38 81 759</b>	<b>DIAKONIA World Federation</b>
<b>1081 KL Amsterdam, Netherlands/Niederlande</b>	
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## DIAKONIA WORLD ASSEMBLY

**REPORT WORLD FOCUS SESSIONS  
21st DIAKONIA WORLD ASSEMBLY  
1.-8. July, 2013  
Ev. Johannesstift, Berlin / Germany**

- Sandy Boyce gave a short overview of her life and shared her vision for DIAKONIA for the next four years.

### World Focus 1

- DIAKONIA Region DRAE was introduced by means of a PowerPoint presentation on the theme of the day: healing.
- President Doris Horn reported on the work of the Executive Committee in the past four years.
- DIAKONIA Region DAP was introduced by means of a PowerPoint presentation on the theme of the day: healing.
- A new member was announced and recognized:
  - Dayosis Ya Kaskazini Ushirika Wa Diaconia Faraja



*Keynote Speaker OKR' Cornelia Coenen-Marx*



*Deacon Bariki Mlaki and Deacon Richard Mbaga from Ushirika Wa Diaconia Faraja*

- DIAKONIA Region DOTAC was introduced by means of a PowerPoint presentation on the theme of the day: healing.
- The Nomination/Election Committee (Doris Horn, Ulrike Kellner, Lisa Polito, Ristua Sirait) introduced Sandy Boyce, the candidate for president, and explained the voting process.

### World Focus 2:

- DIAKONIA Region DAP was introduced by means of a PowerPoint presentation on the theme of the day: community.
- President Doris Horn presented the new DIAKONIA Treasurer Laura Lazar.
- DIAKONIA's Treasurer Laura Lazar presented a summary of the finances during the past four years.
- DIAKONIA Region DOTAC was introduced by means of a PowerPoint presentation on the theme of the day: community.
- DIAKONIA Secretary reported on the changes of the bylaws during the past four years. Then DIAKONIA President Doris Horn introduced the new Secretary, Dr. Katharina Wiefel-Jenner, who will begin her service on January 1, 2014.
- DIAKONIA Region DRAE was introduced by means of a Power-

Point presentation on the theme of the day: community.

- DIAKONIA President Doris Horn acknowledged the work of former Webmaster Neil Thomson and former English Editors Jane Martin and Sandy Boyce. She then welcomed Laura Lazar as the new English Editor



*Keynote Speaker Prof. Dr. Ralph Kunz*

- The Communication Committee presented the media DIAKONIA is currently using: a website, Facebook, PDF information sheets, and a bookmark
- The major theme of the DIAKONIA Executive during the past four years has been human trafficking. It was introduced by means of a PowerPoint presentation. Then both the resolution and a prayer on human trafficking, created by the Executive Committee at its Moshi/Tanzania meeting, were read.

### **World Focus 3:**

- President Doris Horn welcomed the additional guests at the Berlin Cathedral and explained the work of DIAKONIA and the purpose of the World Focus session.



*World Focus 3 at Berlin Cathedral*

- Members of the Executive Committee gave a presentation on DIAKONIA World Federation by means of a PowerPoint presentation.
- DIAKONIA President Doris Horn thanked the out-going Secretary Ulrike Kellner and the out-going members of the Executive Committee: Dc. Jackie Fowler/England, Dc. Terttu Pohjolainen/Finland, Dc. Ristua Sirait and Diác. Ingrid Vogt/Brazil



*Farewell of the outgoing Executive*

- The Regional Presidents thanked outgoing DIAKONIA President Doris Horn and presented newly-elected President Sandy Boyce to the Assembly.
- The Assembly of Delegates affirmed the election of the following members of the Executive Committee as selected by the regions:
- Sandy Boyce, the new DIAKONIA president, was introduced. She gave her vision for DIAKONIA
- Four members of the Philippines diaconal organizations extended an invitation to the 22<sup>nd</sup> DIAKONIA Assembly in to be held in Manila, in the Philippines, in 2017.



## Impressions of the DIAKONIA World Assembly in Berlin







*Participants of DIAKONIA World Assembly 2013 in front of the Berlin Cathedral (Photo: Müller)*

For more information contact the website. Participants of the DIAKONIA World Assembly in Berlin can receive all keynotes and photos. In this case, please contact the Secretary: [secretary@diakonia-world.org](mailto:secretary@diakonia-world.org)

## Introduction of the New DIAKONIA World President

Grace and peace be with you, in the name of Christ.

My name is Sandy Boyce, and I find myself in a position where I am the sole nominee for President of World DIAKONIA. I had not expected this to be the case, but feel privileged and humbled to be presented to you for consideration as the next President, World DIAKONIA.



I am from the DAP region - DIAKONIA Asia Pacific and I am a Deacon in the Uniting Church in Australia. I am currently National Convener for DIAKONIA in the Uniting Church in Australia.

I worked for 20 years as a teacher, and a commitment to education remains a key priority for me. I have now been working with the Uniting Church for more than 20 years, in many roles including:

- youth worker, and youth ministry consultant
- a national coordinator for people in the Uniting Church seeking to serve as volunteers in Asia, Africa and the Pacific
- a coordinator for cross-cultural programs for young adults
- a national resource person for ministry with young adults, and faith development in particular
- and more recently as a Deacon in placement with a city congregation.

We are in a time of change in the church generally, and there are many issues with which the church needs to engage. This is also true for DIAKONIA, and in our associations and communities. There are many challenges for us now, and on the horizon, some which we share in common with each other, and some challenges which are particular to those from the west, the east, the north and the south.

Diakonia is a primary expression of the church's participation in the ongoing and transforming mission of God in the world. Indeed, I would say that diakonia has a key role to play in shaping the church as it goes forward into the future. We have a calling to be engaged with the community, and in the world - in service, in public witness, in education, in advocacy. Diakonia is life affirming - a calling to do justice, and to love mercy and kindness.

I believe I have a capacity for working with complex issues and information, and have experience in managing multiple and sometimes complex projects.

I believe I have a capacity to work across the social, cultural and theological breadth of DIAKONIA, where a good listening ear and respectful dialogue is essential.

I have a commitment to work ecumenically, an area of our work that remains for us of critical importance, as Dr Olav Fykse Tveit, General Secretary of the WCC demonstrated so well this morning.

The President is a representative for DIAKONIA, and has the opportunity to speak in the public arena in a way that will enable greater understanding of the work of DIAKONIA and contribute when necessary to public conversations and consultations about diakonia in general, and to related areas such as 'public theology' and engagement in the community.

I value working with a collegial team. I value the particular roles that each team member has and what they bring to the 'whole'. I believe in equipping, empowering and enthusing so that all members of a team understand and can work effectively within their role. I also recognize the pastoral component involved in working with teams, and the additional challenges involved in developing a sense of team



when people seldom meet face to face and when people are from diverse cultural, social and geographical locations.

I recognise that the President has a role to continue to tell the story of who we are as DIAKONIA, as well as who we are 'becoming' - our history, our present, and directions for the future. Who we are, what we stand for, and why we do things as we do. I am indebted to the examples of leadership shown by previous Presidents including Doris Horn and Louise Williams, and to Ulrike Kellner, who has been a patient and wise mentor. I also wish to acknowledge Bill Harris, faithful in his commitment to DIAKONIA and diaconal ministry, and a wise sage. I also wish to acknowledge the members of the DIAKONIA Executive, who show great commitment and dedication,

good humour and service in the work. I value this community of people greatly.

You will see in your handbook on pages 43-45 further information, and some elaboration on my vision for DIAKONIA. I invite you to look further at this printed information and would be glad to speak with you about it.

But, for now, I simply offer myself to you for consideration for election as President, World DIAKONIA. I also ask you to continue to pray for the work of the World DIAKONIA Executive, and for the communities and associations that make up World DIAKONIA.

Thank you.

*Sandy Boyce  
DIAKONIA World President*

## **Sad News at the End**

During the past year we learned of the deaths of three deaconesses: Betsy Ewing, Hildegart Hertel, Nazgul William. You can find information about the lives of these faithful servants at the links below:



[Betsy Ewing](#)



[Nazgul William](#)

*(at the DIAKONIA World Assembly in Berlin 2013)*



[Hildegart Hertel](#)

*(at the DIAKONIA Workshop, WCC Assembly in Porto Alegre 2007)*