



**DIAKONIA WORLD FEDERATION (DWF)
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (EC) Zoom MEETING
March 1st / March 2nd 2021**

PRESENT:

Members: Sandy Boyce (President); Ted Dodd (DOTAC Regional President); Marianne Uri Øverland (DRAE Regional President and Vice-President DWF); Anne Russell-Brighty (DAP Vice-President); Christa Megaw, Advisor (DAP); Jan Cherry (DOTAC); Ibironke Oworu (DRAE Vice-President); Gordon Pennykid (DRAE); Birgit Banzhaf (DRAE); Sr. Elisabeth Meier (DRAE); Meresiana Kuricava (DAP Regional President);
Officers: RFL Thorsten Walter; Sara Manning, Web Manager; Traude Leitenberger, Secretary

Sandy Boyce welcomed the Executive Committee Members.

Ted Dodd led the opening reflection.

1. By-Laws, Jan Cherry, Gordon Pennykid

Revision not yet completed. A special meeting will be convened specifically to finalise the By-Laws.

2. Reports

2.1 DOTAC see report, Ted Dodd

2.1.1 Monthly Prayer Zoom Meeting

A DOTAC group meets on the first of every month for a time of reflection and prayer. Everybody is invited to join the group at noon Central time.

2.1.2 Racial Justice Group

The group met several times in 2020 and they are planning more sessions. The forum offers learning about becoming allies for anti-racism. If you are interested to join this group, contact Ted.

2.2 DRAE Marianne Uri Øverland

The DRAE ExCo will have the next Zoom Meeting in March.

The Diaconal Fellowship at Lovisenberg in Oslo, Norway celebrated its 100th anniversary end of February.

The diaconate of the Church of Scotland is very active.

2.3 DAP, Meresiana Kuricava

Fiji: Three deaconesses were ordained in February 2021.

Philippines: Zoom meetings have been happening, including resourcing for deaconesses during COVID

Uniting Church in Australia: A week long Deacon Intensive for candidates was held in the first week of February.

2.4 Volunteer Committee Report (see report on Dropbox)

In July 2020 the EC agreed to establish ten new committees. In the second half of 2020, the Volunteer Committee began its work, led by Sandy Boyce (DAP*), Gwynne Lawlor DRAE, Lisa Polito DOTAC, Ted Dodd EC.

* The DAP Regional President nominated Sandy to be the DAP representative on this committee.

The Volunteer Committee identified the need to be clear about matching skills and experience of EC members when appointing them as ex-officio to Committees.

The following committees have begun their work, with representation from all regions. The cooperation in the international teams is impressive.

2.4.1 Membership Connections Committee (see charter/mandate)

Represented by: Megan Ross DOTAC, Joan Jones DRAE, Meresiana Kurikava DAP, Sandy Boyce EC (ex-officio)

The first zoom meeting was held in February.

The Membership Connections Committee will manage and oversee the work of encouraging relationships between and amongst DIAKONIA World Federation member communities and individuals and encourage relationships within DWF between Assemblies by establishing electronic forums for discussion, prayer and learning, and connect those who are involved in similar ministries (e.g. prison chaplains, hospice workers, anti-poverty activists).

2.4.3 DIAKAID Committee (see charter/mandate)

Membership: Joy Prim DOTAC, Shulamith Nonimba Moshesh DRAE, Christa Megaw DAP, Ronke Oworu EC - ex officio, Thorsten Walter RFL.

The Committee will consider whether an annual focus for projects will be set, and also whether further DIAKAID projects can be supported in 2021.

Christa provided a brief update on the first meeting.

2.4.3 Membership Communication Committee (see charter/mandate)

Membership: Quinton De Beer DRAE, Sophia Agtrap DOTAC, Mandy Herriman DAP, Sandy Boyce EC - ex officio, Jan Cherry - UC e-news, Sara Manning - website.

It was suggested that a video be produced for members with comments about the World Federation to link in with the 'benefits of membership' already identified.

2.5 Finances Thorsten Walter, Gordon Pennykid

The finance committee will take responsibility to explore and bring recommendations regarding ethical investments.

A credit card for DWF transfers was approved which will make it easier to arrange payments when need be.

3. New partnerships

3.1. World Council of Churches (WCC), see report, Ted Dodd

DOTAC was offered a grant to foster the WCC Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace, focused on North America in 2021.

3.2 ReDi, see report, Ted Dodd

Sandy, Ted and Marianne met with board members of ReDi with a view to discuss opportunities to work closely together and for DWF to have membership with ReDi.

3.3 Journal

Discussions will continue on the idea of a diaconal journal, in collaboration with David Clark (Methodist, UK) and Michael Jackson (Episcopal, Canada).

4. DIAKAID special grant update

All 15 projects have been funded. Traude and Thorsten to follow up with those who have not submitted their final reports. It had been anticipated that a special edition of DWF e-news would feature highlights from the reports.

5. Website

The contract has been renewed and fees paid as requested for the Facebook link. The update is urgently needed.

6. E-News and Prayer letters

6.1. Jan has set up a folder for the E-News publication schedule and a folder for the DIAKONIA Prayer Letter. Dropbox: DWF EC(1) DWF News, DWF Prayer letters. It is imperative that each Region take responsibility to add information, news updates etc so that the e-news represents each Region without the editor needing to chase up stories.

6.2. When the new website is active, the e-news will be uploaded each month. The plan is for this to be in English and German.

7. World Assembly Darwin 2022

There is still uncertainty about long-distance travel, which will affect the 2022 World Assembly. Probably the situation will decrease only when people are vaccinated worldwide. The next Zoom meeting will have a primary focus on making a decision about the viability of the World Assembly being held in Darwin in 2022.

Action: All EC members are asked to give consideration to this, from the perspective of their Region. Sandy to prepare a discussion paper to resource the next meeting.

8. EC face to face meeting

It is clear that international travel will be very restricted in 2021, so unfortunately there will be no EC face to face meeting in 2021.

Sandy closed with a benediction from Kathy Galloway (Iona)

The love of the faithful Creator,
the peace of the wounded Healer,
the joy of the challenging Spirit,
the hope of the Three in One
surround and encourage you,
today, tonight and forever.

(Source: Kathy Galloway, The Pattern Of Our Days, Wild Goose Publications, 1998)

Next Zoom meeting April 12/13, 2021. Please note the time difference, the orientation is Adelaide 5.30 am.

Mössingen, March 24, 2021



Sandy Boyce, President



Traude Leitenberger, Secretary