



SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF DIAKONIA 2024

The Executive Committee:

President:

Sandy Boyce (DAP), Diakonia Uniting Church in Australia

Vice-Presidents:

Ted Dodd (DOTAC), Diakonia of The United Church of Canada
Ibironke Oworu (DRAE), Deaconess Order Methodist Church Nigeria
Meresiana Sadrata-Kuricava (DAP), Methodist Deaconess Order, Fiji

Treasurer:

Gordon Pennykid, Treasurer (DRAE), Diaconate Council of the Church of Scotland

Members:

Christa Megaw (DAP) – Diakonia Uniting Church in Australia
Ann Blane (DOTAC) – The order of Diaconal Ministries, The Presbyterian Church in Canada
Gunhild Heidke (DRAE), Zehlendorfer Verband für evangelische Diakonie
Mable Sichali (DRAE), Deaconesses of the United Church of Zambia
Tina Earl (DRAE), Kaiserswerther Verband Deutcher Mutterhäuser

Officers:

Sebastian Haupt, Finance and Law
Marianne Uri Øverland, Secretary, from January 2024. The former secretary Traude Leitenberger stepped down after 10 years of service.

Meetings:

The Executive Committee has had nine meetings during 2024, eight of them being digital and one meeting in Moshi, Tanzania.

The Executive Committee will have a set agenda for the meetings:

- Opening reflection
- Minutes from the previous meeting
- Business arising
- Regional reports
- Assemblies and Conferences
- Partnerships
- Committees
- DIAKAID
- Update Member Organisations

Important items during 2024.

DIAKONIA Assembly 2025

The main item during 2024 has been the planning of the Assembly in Moshi July 2025.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, Northern Diocese and our member organisations Ushirika wa Neema and Ushirika wa Diakonia Faraja will be the hosts of the Assembly together with the Executive Committee.

The Assembly will take place 7th -12th July 2025. The theme of the Assembly will be *Dancing the faith – Drumming up hope*, and the theme will be explored from different perspectives.

The invitation letter was sent out in September including the preliminary program with worships, Bible studies, presentations, electives and a visitation program. The Assembly of Members will take place during the Assembly and there will also be regional meetings. In the evenings there will be different kind of programs.

The Executive Committee is pleased that the General Secretary of World Council of Churches Rev. Prof. Dr. Jerry Pillay has accepted the invitation to speak at the Assembly.

Election of new President

A Nomination Committee is preparing the election. Several nominations have come in.

Sandy Boyce from the Uniting Church in Australia (DAP) has been the DIAKONIA President since 2013 and is completing her term in July 2025.

Constitution and Bylaws

The Executive Committee has gone thoroughly through the Constitution and the Bylaws to check that everything is OK to be presented or amended at the Assembly of Members next year. DIAKONIA got a new Constitution in 2018 but because of the pandemic its first presentation to the Assembly of Members will be in Moshi 2025.

Financial report

The Executive Committee has decided upon the annual financial statement for 2023.

- Income: 42.644,83€
- Expenses: -25.620,34€
- Balance sheet plus: 17.024,49€
- Overall result: 33.427,30€
- Balance sheet total: 210.911,14

DIAKAID

The information regarding applications for DIAKAID 2024 was sent out in March, with 30th April the deadline for applications. 15 applications were received and 11 of them were approved. This is five more than in 2023. There were three approved from DOTAC, one from DAP and eight from DRAE. Altogether, a sum of 11.675,10€ was approved, providing support for 312 children and adults.

Partnerships

DIAKONIA has several partnerships. The activity reported for this year is that one of DIAKONIA's Vice-Presidents, Ted Dodd, has been appointed to the World Council of Churches Ecumenical Diaconia Committee. And that the outgoing President, Sandy Boyce is willing to stand for election to the Delegate Assembly for the Roman Catholic organisation Pro Diaconia Christi (IDC).

Committees

DIAKONIA has many committees, but it has been hard to populate the committees and keep the membership engaged. Some committees are working, and we should build further on them. Others can be led by the regions where they have active committee members. The Executive Committee will involve the upcoming Assembly in the decision of which committees DIAKONIA needs to do its work.

Statements

The Executive Committee worked for some time on a statement on the Gaza situation but decided in the end to not send it out because there is no tradition for the Executive Committee to make statements like this. DIAKONIA has made few statements and when it's done it has been presented by the Assembly of Members. It is a policy decision if the Executive Committee can make statements and should be decided by the Assembly of Members.