



DIAKONIA

News

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

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No. 105, September 2019

From Your Editors



Dear Friends:

I hope that you enjoy reading this special issue of DIAKONIA News!

*Laura Lazar
English Editor*

Usually, each edition of DIAKONIA News, there is a summary of what has happened during the past year in our DIAKONIA community: reports from the Executive meeting; reports from the regions; news of interesting conferences; letters from member organizations; and obituaries. Usually, but not this time. This edition of DIAKONIA News is different.

One reason for the difference is that the Executive Committee this year in the month of November, very late in the year: Too late for the News, because we do not want you to receive it in the midst of Advent – Christmas – New Year letters. Rather we ask you to sit back now and take time to enjoy news from your

diaconal brothers and sisters all over the world.

And another reason for the difference is that all three DIAKONIA regions had Regional Conferences this year. I cannot remember that this has ever been the case. So, we decided to honor this special year by devoting the whole issue of DIAKONIA News to the three conferences.

Early next year we will publish the next edition of DIAKONIA News, which will have the reports and news not included in this issue. So, for now, sit back, take your time and enjoy reading how your diaconal brothers and sisters celebrated their time together this year!



*Ulrike Kellner
German Editor*

P.S. DOTAC and DRAE have made available all their speeches and talks on the website!

Please note that DIAKONIA has a new Bank Account!

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Reflections from the President

This year has been a significant year with three regional DIAKONIA gatherings, and I have been fortunate to attend each of them. It was a joy to be with diaconal brothers and sisters from around the world. All together, people from about 30 countries attended the regional gatherings, with upward of 450 people. Friendships were made, and renewed. You will read more about each of gatherings in this special edition of DIAKONIA News. Please do set aside some time to read more about each of the gatherings, and to enjoy the photos. And to give thanks for the faithful service, friendship, generosity and hospitality that characterized each gathering.

The DRAE (DIAKONIA Region of Africa and Europe) Assembly held in June in Edinburgh, Scotland, also served as the 25th anniversary of DRAE, a significant occasion in itself. The theme, For such a time as this (Esther 4.14) was timely in the political, social, economic and environmental context in which we serve in ministry. It was a wonderful gathering with excellent studies by Rev John Bell from Iona, presented with creativity that served as a catalyst for engaged conversation.

The DAP (DIAKONIA Asia Pacific) regional gathering in July was a wonderful time of celebration and learning, and

building relationships across the region. It has been many years since a DAP regional gathering has been held. This was the second one hosted by our friends in the Methodist Deaconess Association in Fiji. The deaconesses were committed to providing generous hospitality, and each one personally contributed to the success of the event. The theme of this gathering is 'Tides of Change'. For our Pacific friends, this is not just a conference theme but a lived reality, especially in this era of climate change and rising tides.

The 14th DOTAC (DIAKONIA of the Americas and Caribbean) Conference in August was held in Vancouver, with the theme, 'Respecting Covenant - Risking the Journey of Reconciliation'. The choice of theme was

timely, given the context in which we live with heightened tensions in and between communities and nations and cultures. It was especially important in gaining deeper insight into covenant and reconciliation through the eyes of Indigenous Peoples, and exploring global issues such as care of creation and global migration.

Each of the gatherings provided thoughtful input for further reflection, and action. Each engaged participants in theological exploration in creative



ways. Each gave prophetic witness to the issues and challenges of our times. Together, they provided the landscape for diaconal ministry in our time and place.

The DIAKONIA World Federation is diverse in language and culture, and member associations are engaged in ministry in very different social, economic and political contexts. Such diversity is a blessing as we learn from and with each other, and prayerfully and practically support each other. As well, in our diversity we find unity as God's Spirit continues to draw us together as one people in the body of Christ, where each is valued and affirmed and strengthened for diaconal service. In this time of enormous



change, we can gain comfort from the assurance that nothing can separate us from the love of God. It is indeed a message of hope for our world, and our communities.

The next major gathering will be at the DIAKONIA World Assembly in 2021. We will gather around the theme, 'Weavers in the World'. We hope to see many from our DIAKONIA member associations around the world in Darwin, Australia.

Blessings to you and for your ministry.

*Rev Sandy Boyce
President
DIAKONIA World Federation*

WEBSITES

DIAKONIA World Federation

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

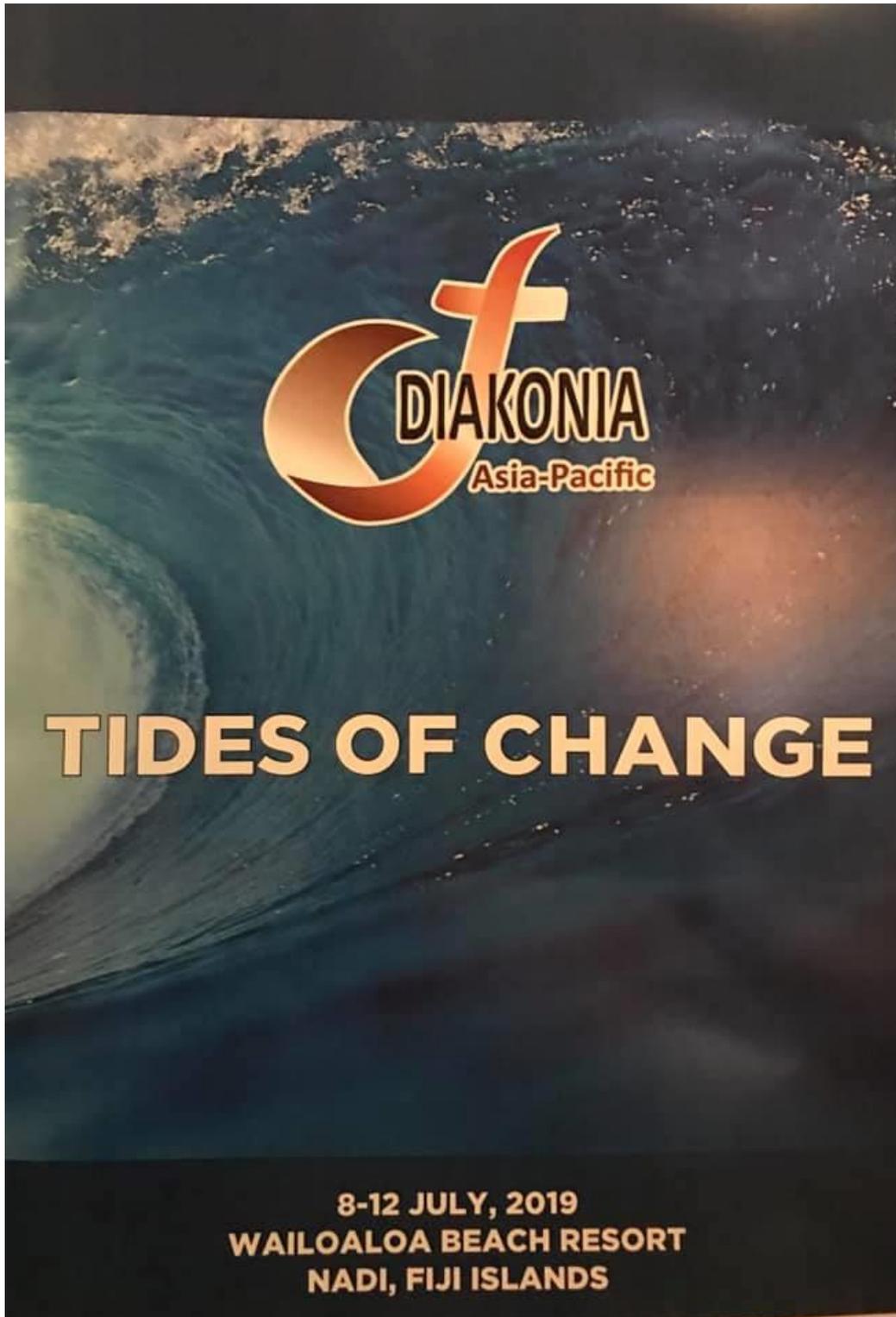
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DIAKONIA-Asia-Pacific (DAP)



Report on the DAP Conference Fiji 2019

by Deacon Anne Russell-Brighty

For the first time in many years, delegates from the Diakonia Asia Pacific region met in July this year warmly hosted by the Methodist Deaconess Order of Fiji. As our President Sandy Boyce noted, “the diaconal associations in the Asia Pacific region are diverse in language and culture, and separated by vast distances and very different socio-political contexts”. Yet the theme ‘Tides of Change’ brought us together in worship and discussion around climate change and social-economic change as well as the personal challenge to respond to the Gospel.



At the opening worship Rev. Dr Semisi Turgavou from the Methodist Lay Training Centre began the Scripture focus on Mark 4:35-41 with his challenge to us as church to be “bold enough to cross over to the other side of the lake” despite challenges because of the church’s

strong mandate to go out into the world to seek out those who are lost, those who are poor, thirsty and imprisoned, those who are strangers.



Fiji deaconesses present a song

Our Bible Studies each day were led by the Rev Dr Carmen Manalac-Scheuerman and she did not hold back from challenging us to fully engage at every level with the Scripture above.



Rev. Dr. Carmen Manalac-Scheuermann leading a bible study

In many different creative ways we used a very powerful event from the life of Jesus and the disciples to reflect on our own social and personal responses to being challenged to 'cross over to the other side'. And this was done in the context of deep worship in song and prayer.



Plenum

The reports from the regional associations gave us a glimpse into the diaconal world of people in the Philippines, Indonesia, Australia, Aotearoa New Zealand and of course Fiji, and it was good to be addressed by the World President also to remind us of the history of our region and the wider world context.



There was much to share about the 2021 world gathering coming up in our region (in Darwin) too. Energy and excitement increased as we discussed and

planned what we believe will be a great experience for everyone who attends.



Australian delegation

Other stimulating speakers and workshops included Rev James Bhagwan who spoke directly to the effects on the Pacific region of globalization and climate change. He reminded us of a number of initiatives from the World Council of Churches particularly at the Pacific level aimed at helping us be a fleet of ships sailing together ... including successful work at ecumenical level.



Wonderful Fijian Banquet

In case we felt overwhelmed by the challenge ahead of us he left us with an important message: we can feel overwhelmed by the size of the ocean waves (the waves are so big and my boat is so small) but we should remember we are one with the ocean in Christ ... and deal with each wave one at a time.



Of course there was also the more playful time of getting to know one another and the area around Nadi – our Fijian venue. We were daily spoilt by overwhelmingly generous hospitality from local villages and church congregations who shared their culture and homes with us: this even included an evening enjoying hotpools and mudbaths!



Participants from New Zealand, Indonesia, Germany and Australia

And all along everything we did together was accompanied by joyful song led by the Fijian sisters:

“Let all the islands rise and sing. And to our God their praises bring: on strings and drum God’s might proclaim, to shout the glory of his name. Pasifica, Pasifica ...”



Participants joining in the Fijian dancing

Many people were part of making this conference a success but of course our regional President Deaconess Meresiana Kuricava was the person first responsible for extending an invitation to us to gather in Fiji and then for working with her colleagues to make everything happen. We went home warmed and inspired by what we had experienced and greatly looking forward to meeting up again with world delegates in Darwin 2021.



DAP Team to organize the
DIAKONIA World Assembly in Darwin,
Australia, 2021

Praise be to God!

40 deaconesses from the Methodist Church in Fiji, 10 deaconesses and deacons from the Philippines, Indonesia and New Zealand and 10 deacons from the Uniting Church and Anglican churches in Australia, all together 60 participants. On the last dinner and social gathering, the delegates received the following statement, read by the Vice President of the New Zealand Methodist Church, who was present during the meeting.

2019 DIAKONIA Asia Pacific Conference Statement

We members of the DIAKONIA Asia Pacific Region recognize that we are ocean people. In response to the promise made in the Deacon's creed, and following our learning at the 2019 DAP conference we pledge as individuals and as the DAPs community:

- To empower all women in our communities through education and enabling them to respond to their call to ministry and through the nurturing of young women so they can reach their full potential
- To stay connected to each other so we can disseminate information, encourage each other, be empowered by each other and offer resistance where needed to advocate for change
- To support and learn from the wisdom of our indigenous communities and to be in solidarity as they seek justice in this world.
- To promote and educate for the care of God's creation, through stopping using plastic, recycling, planting trees and crops, picking up rubbish, using public transport.

We will begin with ourselves as Deacons and Deaconesses and then in teaching and preaching with our Sunday school children and with our families, churches and communities.



DIAKONIA of the Americas and Caribbean (DOTAC)



**"Respecting Covenant - Risking the Journey
toward Reconciliation"
Vancouver, August 14-20, 2019**

Conference Report

by Rev Jan Cherry

We had 160 people in attendance from Brazil, Canada, the Caribbean, and the United States. The four communities of DOTAC from Canada, the Diaconal Ministers of The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, Diaconal Ministers from the Order for Diaconal Ministries of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, the Association for Anglican Deacons of Canada/Association Anglicane des Diacres au Canada and Diaconal Ministers from Diakonia of the United Church of Canada/Diakonia L'Eglise Unie du Canada were our hosts and had many representatives at the Gathering.

Highlights of the week included but are not limited to:

A Welcome from the Musqueam tribe:



Our **Cultural evening** featuring Japanese Taiko drummers and the Hummingbird Ministries Dancers, who invited some of our community to dance with them.



The welcoming of a new community to DOTAC

The ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) Deacons for Ecumenical Engagement Affinity Group was officially welcomed to DOTAC. They were presented with plaques representing the five strains of Christianity represented in DOTAC, Presbyterian, Methodist, Lutheran, Anglican/Episcopal and United Church and they responded by gifting DOTAC with a Candle.





God's Word forever shall abide,
 you thanks to face who face it;
 for God himself fights by our side
 with weapons of the Spirit.
 Were they to take our houses,
 goods, honour, child or spouse,
 Though life be stretched away,
 they cannot win the day.
 The kingdom's ours forever.

As the Spirit fills each heart,
 you see to what you will,
 for we are living, for we are working
 and each is empowered for you as
 the world is for you.
 For we by faith, we brought love for you,
 and we by love, we brought love for you,
 and we by love, we brought love for you,
 and we by love, we brought love for you.

Almighty God,
 as you all hearts are open,
 all desires known,
 and from you all secrets are hidden,
 Remove the thoughts of our hearts,
 for the temptations of our Holy Spirit,
 that we may perfectly love you,
 and surely magnify your holy name,
 through Christ our Lord.

The Spirit increases us with various gifts,
 let each to discover these gifts and
 use them for our Lord.
 I thank you for the Spirit in a sign
 that the Spirit is present.
 The presence of the Spirit is evident
 when people are made whole,
 when people are made whole,
 and abound to grow in Christ.
 Come, Holy Spirit!

We are called to be the Church,
 to celebrate God's presence,
 to live with respect as Catholics,
 to love and serve others,
 to seek justice and create art,
 to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
 our judge and our hope,
 in life, in death, in life beyond death,
 God is with us,
 We are not alone.
 Thanks be to God.

The Executive Committee of DOTAC had entirely changed since the World Gathering in Chicago when they began serving in their new roles, so the current members were installed with a ceremony led by former DOTAC presidents Linda Ervin and Louise Williams.

The new executive for DOTAC is: President/First Representative to DIAKONIA World Federation Executive Committee: Ted Dodd, DUCC; Vice-president, Sister Noreen Steven, Deaconess Community of the ELCA, Secretary: Diaconal Minister Judy Whaley, ELCIC, Treasurer: Deaconess Lisa Polito, LDA, and Second Representative to DIAKONIA World Federation: Deacon Jan Cherry, ELCA.



While our three business meetings, led by President Ted Dodd, did cover the usual things like President's and Treasurer's reports, we also reported on an update of our Bylaws, and then spent time in our Table groups reading and discussing some of the new publications about diakonia that DOTAC has also been studying at their Board of Director (BOD) meetings. The BOD collected some of that discussion through post-it notes and will be considering them during their BOD meetings in the interim between conferences to see how/what

we can do to further co-operation between our members communities, and deepen our understanding of our call to diakonia.

You can find a rich source including the documents we looked at on the DOTAC website, here: <http://dotac.diakonia-world.org/about-us/resources-for-diakonia/>

Our three main plenary sessions each concentrated on one of these topics: indigeneity, creation care and global migration. We had powerful speakers who challenged us to face the realities of our world and to ask ourselves how we, as diaconal people, could beset respond to these issues. Their presentations continue to challenge us as we have returned to our homes. They truly helped us to understand that in striving to respect the various covenants of which we are a part, there is deep pain and difficult recognitions to face.

The journey toward full reconciliation in the areas of how the treatment both past and continuing of indigenous peoples, our disrespect and lack of care for creation and how we welcome, our fail to welcome the strangers among us, is indeed risky. The invitation is to sit in that painful place and face it squarely, in fraught with peril and full of the promise of living into the full promise of the Kingdom of God.



First two speakers

Bible Studies on these three themes were rich and skillfully used technology to draw us into contemplation. One of the highlights was when each table group was challenged to respond in some way other than verbally to each study.



"Blanket Experience"

For example, write a group prayer in response then exchange it with another table and close with their prayer, or for the final Study on Romans 12, take a picture that illustrates our community and write a theme for that.

The pictures can all be found on the DOTAC Facebook page, here are a few samples:



Integrative Task

Each table group,

- using someone's cell phone, take a picture of hands (maybe feet)
- together write a message for your communities which reflects i attach to the photo
- post it on Social Media

Site Visits were to wonderful places on the University of British Columbia campus in the morning such as the Botanical Garden, an Organic Farm and the Museum of Anthropology, where one could spend an entire day and not see everything. The afternoon was spent at ministry sites downtown in Vancouver, with free time following for folks to do further exploration and eat dinner somewhere else.



Worship was varied and rich from the Opening worship which features the Rev. Marg Robertson and Deaconess Arlete Prochow both doing a reflection on the text began with the procession of community banners, to the Closing Communion with leadership from throughout the Region.



Fabulous volunteers who drove golf carts, met folks at the airport, helped with registrations and gave directions. And, of course, one of the fabulous parts of any DIA-KONIA gathering is the time to re-new and strengthen old friendships and create and nurture new ones. Time spent in visiting was rich and full of joy.



What Difference does it make?

Supplement to DOTAC Report

So, what difference does it make? For Deacon Jan Cherry, this has become her pivotal diaconal question. What difference does it make that you attend church? What difference does it make that you hold the Bible as a primary source for how you live your life? What difference does it make in your life, in your world? So, she asked some of the attendees at the DOTAC conference “What difference have you noticed in your lives since you returned from this event? Here are some of the responses she received:



Deaconess Cheryl Erdmann, Lutheran Diaconal Association and the ELCA Deacons: As someone who has attended 3 previous DOTAC conferences, I knew going in that I would be challenged by the speakers and the workshops, as well as learn from my table group companions. And having just attended the ELCA Churchwide Assembly, I was able to have nearly three weeks of reminders of the need for those of us of European descent to acknowledge our responsibility to be advocates to others of European descent to be aware of our innate privilege, and how I/we have benefited from the taking away of the rights, property and culture of others.

At DOTAC, I learned especially about how those who are of European descent not only stole the land from the First Nations peoples, but how much poorer we who are descendants of the settlers and “pioneers” are for not engaging with those already living on the land; and how much my forebearers could have learned about medicine and sustainable practices. As well as learning how the treatment of the First Nations and Métis peoples went against the Christian gospel of this who were settlers and immigrants to the North American continent. And the voices of my fellow deacons at my table added the perspective of those people of color were affected and hurt by by the “discoverers” of the Caribbean and Central Americas areas.

I have found myself praying more, looking more intensely at nature (especially trees) and seeking out practical ways to be open to the stories of others. I have been more willing to tell others about my experiences. And, I am still processing.



Deacon Anita Wood, United Methodist Church: finds she is aware of articles dealing with issues of land acknowledgement and shares this link from Ohio and Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church : <https://www.umcmission.org/share-our-work/news-stories/2019/august/sacred-native-american-lands-to-be-returned-to-wyandotte-nation-by-united-methodists>



Rev. Pam Nesbit, Association for Episcopal Deacons: reports she went home and found she needed to learn more about how the settlers in her area of Pennsylvania came to possess their land. For this area of the country the story of William Penn and his settlement is important history but she wanted to know more about the people who were displaced. She reports it's not the easy, happy story that has been told, and that it wasn't difficult to discover that story.



Deacon Jan Cherry, ELCA Deacons for Ecumenical Engagement: I have been haunted by the stories of the missing and murdered Native women. I find myself more engaged in the Thursdays in Black movement. What difference does it make to wear black on Thursday and wear that pin? Since I have fully committed to that practice I have found myself in more conversations about it. I have named the haunting knowledge of the missing women with others. I have spent some time on the internet learning more. I don't know what steps I will be moved to take, but I do know that my awareness of this has found me willing to sit in the painful space of recognition, beginning to look truthfully at the risk of the journey to reconciliation, and the deeper risk of not stepping out on that journey.



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DIAKONIA Region Africa-Europe (DRAE)



**Assembly & 25th DRAE Anniversary
“For such a time as this”**

**19-24 June 2019
Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh, Scotland**



Reflections from the (at that time) President Diaconate Council

Marion Stewart

The BIG event during the last 3 years was the planning for DRAE 2019. This event will remain firmly fixed in the hearts and minds of all who were involved and all who attended from the various parts of the DRAE region.



Marion Stewart and John Bell

Right from the beginning our own Scottish Deacons were on hand to give a warm welcome and create an atmosphere where strangers became friends, and this continued throughout the DRAE Assembly. Each day as folks made their way into the Lecture Theatre they were greeted by smiles of welcome from Ann Merrilees, Anne MacDonald and Jacqueline Thomson giving out the translation headsets.



The Headset Team

Daily worship organised by Ann Lyall and lead by Pauline Robertson, Mark Evans & Lynda Wright along with wonderful music organised by Jo Love and lead by Jo, John Bell & Margaret McLarty, brought everyone to life. Ann's leading of the Sat Worship, with its Purim Party atmosphere with folks wearing crowns, party hats and blowing tootlers, was a memorable highlight.



Leading Deaconess Joanna Salib, Beni Suef

John Bell was on top form as we reflected on the Book of Esther; Esther the Jew; Esther the Woman; Esther the Hero. With John's gifting in music and as a great communicator we had amazing Bible study sessions, with everyone wanting more. **Check the DRAE website to download a copy of his talks.**

There were interesting plenary sessions

- 1) on how we can address global climate change issues and
- 2) the emerging shape of ministry for 'such a time as this'.

There were DRAE Business Sessions. There was a moving moment when past DRAE Presidents spoke of their time in office. Sr Ute reflected on the beginning of DRAE. Janie Martin shared some of her experiences as her time as a DRAE president and friendships made.



DRAE Regional President Marianne Uri Øverland with her predecessors Jackie Fowler, Doris Horn, Jane Martin, Ute Hampel (from left to right)

A Market Place event organised by Angela Brydson showcased a wide range of Christian work and witness throughout Scotland. Morag Crawford had a super display of material from 1994 and the inauguration of DRAE



Each evening there was time to relax and entertainment was provided on Thursday by the Heart and Soul Swing Band—people were up dancing in the aisles and wanting to dance the night away. On Friday we were delighted to welcome Rebecca Pennykid (Gordon’s daughter) Daniel Barrett & Hebba Benyaghia from the Royal Conservatoire of Music. John Bell along with our faithful

musicians led us in the Saturday Night BIG SING.

Sunday was our last full day and it started off with a mini sightseeing tour of Edinburgh before arriving for worship at the Cannongate Kirk.



Deaconesses from Stuttgart

On our final evening there was a formal dinner and Gordon, Kenny, Mark and Jim, looked resplendent in their tartan. Billy Wishart joined us to do a ‘take the floor’ with Scottish dances to thrill the delegates.



Taken from the Church of Scotland Diaconate Newsletter, DRAE 2019 Special

DRAE Musselburgh..... thought's on my first conference

By Deacon Claire Herbert

This was my first experience of the conference and I was glad it was in my home country where I could comfortably settling into the very full conference program. There were many opportunities for meeting people and for hearing about the amazing work that we each do in our varied context. The sense that everyone is working, to some degree in a season of conflict was addressed in our opening worship by John Bell.



Rev John Bell at the Closing Worship

There were many aspects to the conference which pleasantly surprised me, such as the chance for some of the groups to share in fundraising for their mother house or association, the reflective groups in our accommodation where we could informally build relationships and bonds. The evening entertainment program which allowed for a time of mutual companionship and relaxation and the mixed nature of lunch and dinner seating which can be a challenge if you are more introverted

by nature it was made all the much easier by the many enthusiastic delegates you could most always find someone willing to converse.



Dining Hall

I took away some great reflections, some new worship ideas and a network of new connections. I have not been to any international DIAKONIA events prior to this one but I do believe I would be encouraged to do so in the future.



Classical Music as Evening Entertainment

Reflections on DRAE Jubilee Conference in Scotland 2019

By Deacon Gwynne Lawlor

The thrill of anticipation for this Conference began with the receipt of the well-designed program.



Lord High Commissioner, DIAKONIA World President Sandy Boyce, DRAE President Marianne Uri Øverland, President Diaconate Council Marion Stewart

On flipping through the pages, I was struck by the amount of careful preparation that had gone into this Jubilee Conference over a three year period.... the kind of preparation which would have had my Scottish Grandmother looking very smug. She always maintained that the British Empire would never have been an Empire without the hard work and attention to detail of the Scots! Being a Scot herself, she may of course been just a tiny little bit biased....



However, this attention to detail was evident from the moment I heard the welcoming sounds of the bagpipes as we arrived for registration, to the Ceilidh at the end of our Conference. The whole event was proudly Scottish “For such a time as this”...and the program was very full!



Scottish Delegation

The welcome letter from Marion Stewart DCS, the President of Diaconal Council, Church of Scotland suggested rightly that we would be sharing “...hopes and dreams for the Diaconal Ministry...” and renewing “..friendships and forging new ones..” There was ample opportunity to do this over the meals we enjoyed in the University Dining Room. It was good to engage in such valuable socializing. A particularly thoughtful gesture were the Grace cards placed on the tables at meal times.



The golden thread through the entire Conference was for me, without a doubt, the Bible Study led by Rev John Bell, in three parts: Esther: the Jew; Esther: the Woman; Esther: the Hero. It struck me that each one of us would

have been able to draw something pertinent to our own ministry from this study. Esther in her time, and each one of us in our time, face issues in the course of our ministry that stretch us out of our comfort zones. We may often experience isolation or resistance, which may require us to take a brave stand. The study was both affirming and encouraging.



Delegation from Neuendettelsau

The reflective groups were a good idea to bring strangers together, but difficult to adhere to after some really long days!



Traditional Outfits on the last Evening

The Business of DRAE was ably managed by our President, Marianne Uri Øverland and the Exco. Having the Business Session in two part, with ample time in the two intervening days between to discuss any contentious issues in the different area groupings with their Area ExCo Member, worked well. It allowed the Exco to hear the concerns of all concerned.

The Program was quite intense and the Free Time on the Saturday gave much needed breathing space.



It was on this day that I, personally, experienced the loving attention of the Planning Group to the needs of the participants. A particular wish of mine to view one of the attractions of Edinburgh was overheard and made possible, without my ever finding out who had made it possible!



DRAE Birthday Cake Distribution

Overall there was a good balance of work, worship and play, thanks to the thorough planning of our hosts, the Church of Scotland Deacons, their President and the Planning Group.

I came away with the firm conviction that the Scots play as hard as they work ... and a sneaking suspicion that my Scottish Grandmother may have had a point about the worth of the Scots....in this case their worth to the members of DRAE, and the delegates at the Conference.

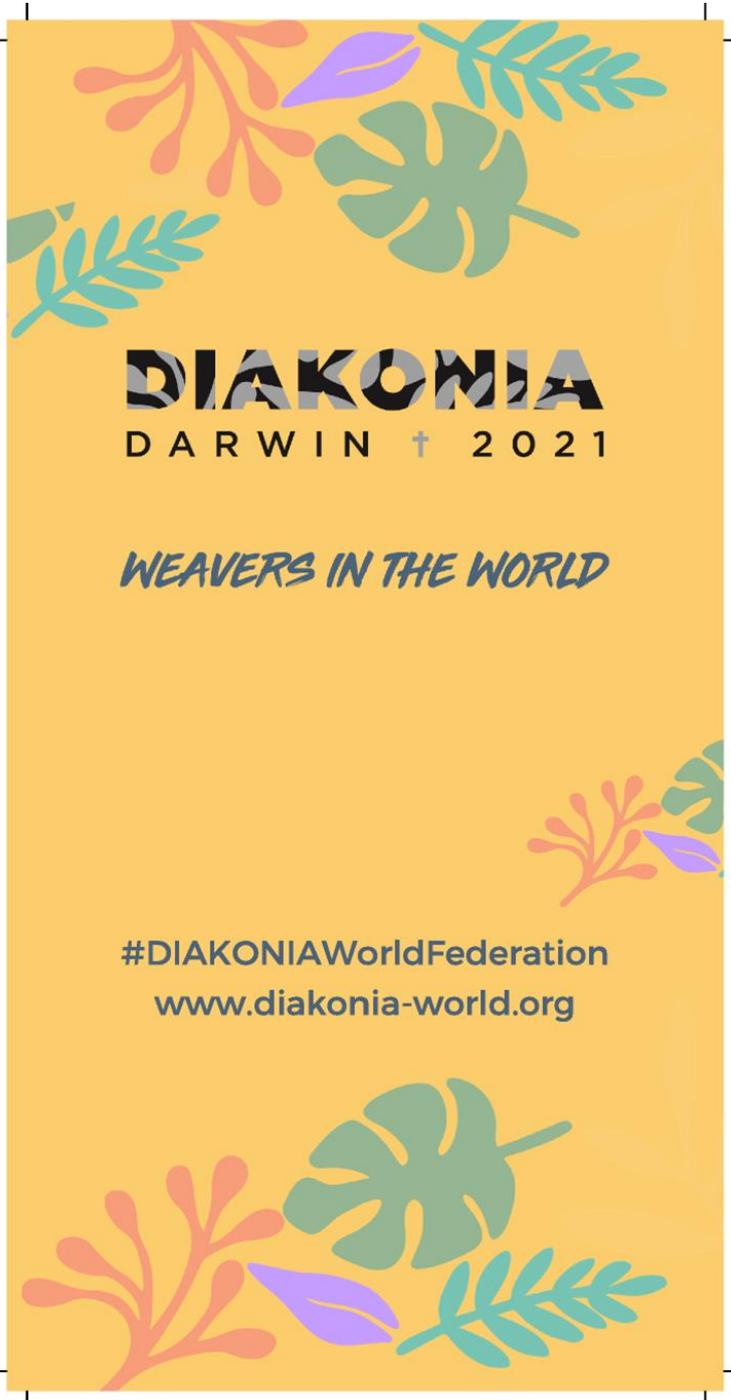
Thank you to everyone involved in making this Jubilee Conference a success

Article DRAE Conference Edinburgh

By Deacon Nathalie Gaitzsch

- D** Definitely thankful for the opportunity and for time, space and resources to meet people from all walks of life and to realize that all are one in service;
- I** International perspective on problems of individuals and their homelands with prayers and deliberation to find answers (such as discussion on the environment);
- A** Always enriched by conversations on the diaconal profile in different areas of work;
- K** Kind of conference that makes you feel simply good and quickens you;
- O** Original tunes of love and familiarity for newcomers;
- N** New insights into a land you thought you knew;
- I** *In such a time as this* - the theme from the book of Esther - requiring courage now more than ever and for a broader view over all walls and boundaries;
- A** Attention to all who could not attend because of financial and political reasons such as having their visa denied.
- R** Really good discussions where time just flew by;
- E** Experience of special songs especially songs from the Iona community and John Bell;
- G** Great hospitality for which we thank the Organizing Committee over and over again. They had spent much time and energy in the planning and thought of lovely details;
- I** Impulses who make one prick your ears and realize things that you have always accepted, for example, John Bell's insight about the role of women in the church;
- O** Opera singers and an orchestra made everybody sing and embrace each other;
- N** Nice people with whom having met once, whom when meeting again, continue sharing from before. And the opportunity to meet many new people.
- A** Attempting to lose weight? No chance with good, delicious food and numerous Scottish meals;
- F** Female images in the Bible seen with new eyes and given new meaning. There is still much to do to develop new understandings;
- R** Rain was described by the Scottish sisters as liquid sunshine – and I liked this idea;
- I** Interesting insights into various fields in which sisters and brothers work including the challenges and opportunities;
- C** Charismatic and courageous women surrounding me;
- A** All kind of insights to women of the Bible and their underrepresentation in the liturgy.
- E** Enthusiastic birthday celebration of the 25th jubilee of DRAE with a birthday cake;
- U** Unending fun from dusk to dawn;
- R** Reconsidering how to do my Bible studies so as to incorporate a *Jesus political view* in prayer and songs;
- O** Open-ended talks sometimes turning into chaplaincy;
- P** Politically-relevant insights into Britain and the various church denominations;
- E** Evenings of Scottish dancing with many getting up from their chairs and joining in.





DIAKONIA
DARWIN † 2021

WEAVERS IN THE WORLD

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