

# **REPORT DIAKONIA-DRAE**

## **DENMARK AND NORWAY**

**February 2014**

Since my last report in 2013 DIAKONIA-DRAE has changed the rules for the board members representation. Last year my report was from Denmark, Sweden and Norway. This year from Denmark and Norway.

DIAKONIA has two members in Denmark: Den danske Diakonissestiftelse and Diakonissehuset Sankt Lukas.

In Norway there are three members: Stiftelsen Bergen Diakonissehjem – Haraldsplass, Diakonova and Diakonissehuset Lovisenberg.

All these five motherhouses have good contact and we meet or communicate regularly. It has been put effort into this sharing and it is good to see that this work give fruits.

### **DENMARK**

#### **Den danske Diakonissestiftelse Forstanderinne Merete Pelle Poulsen**

Diakonissestiftelsen celebrated their 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in May and in November Forstanderinne Merete Pelle Poulsen celebrated 25 years in office. These two celebrations helped us to meet and to share our visions and our challenges.

Diakonissestiftelsen is, as for all of us, in a time of change. They have rather elaborate plans for the coming years of setting up new buildings and to try to get into new markets. They aim especially at housing for old people, like nursing homes, but also houses for younger people to be able to make a different kind of environment.

#### **Diakonissehuset Sankt Lukas Stiftelsen Acting forstanderinne Marie Oved**

Forstanderinne Edy Kjærsgaard died 15<sup>th</sup> November 2013 and her illness has taken a lot of energy for the last half year. Sister Marie Oved was the vice forstanderinne and is now for the interim in charge of the sisterhood/fellowship and the church whilst Jørn Jensen is in charge of the activities.

They have decided on a new constitution changes the leadership from being the classical two, forstander and forstanderinne, to a new leadership with a director on top.

The fellowship has by now 27 members, one being a man. They are all quite old. They are planning to get new rules for entering the fellowship to be able to recruit new members.

Their biggest activity is hospice. They were the first to start with hospice in Denmark and hade the biggest one with 24 beds and an ambulant team for around 50 patients living at home. Nowadays they are planning for a hospice for children.

A year ago they opened their new nursing home, which they are running for the municipality. They want to start two new activities: a housing community for violent struck women with children that come from a different ethnic background, and an activity for patients with anorexia.

## **NORWAY**

### **Stiftelsen Bergen Diakonissehjem - Haraldsplass Forstanderinne Rollaug Waaler**

In the last year they have been active in the work they have started together with the deacons in the diocese. They want to emphasize on and visualize the need for diaconal work in the region.

They also continue in the work of educating new members to get knowledge about their institution and to feel obliged to it. By now they have 233 members.

They have also started to prepare for some training of “deaconesses in a new time” that will eventually lead to a service of consecration and the receiving of the deaconess cross.

### **Diakonova Forstanderinne Kirsti Eide**

Last year they had a lot of changes when it comes to persons in office. Their new director is Kari Gran Bø who is in charge of running the school and the other activities. Forstanderinne Åse Snøtun has started in a new position at Diakonova and the new forstanderinne is Kirsti Eide. She is in charge of the fellowship, but works only part time. Some of the forstanderinne duties are shared with Ann-Elin Winsnes Slettahjell who for example keeps up their contact with the diaconal work in Estonia. Slettahjell has been in contact for helping the Estonians to apply for membership in DIAKONIA.

### **Stiftelsen Diakonissehuset Lovisenberg Forstanderinne Marianne Uri Øverland**

The number of members is now increasing. Lately there have been quite many new applications and the fellowship has by now 253 members.

But the situation for the fellowship is severe. Last year the board of the foundation passed a new constitution that marginalized the fellowship and the forstanderinne. The new constitution is emphasizing on the board, the director and the employees. The fellowship is reduced to a society with no actual power and ability to act. The board are using diaconal as a word, but are showing very clearly that they have no theological understanding of the term. The fellowship has appealed the new constitution into the law system in Norway and is awaiting their decision. In the meantime, the fellowship struggle to keep up the spirit and the hope for still a diaconal future at Lovisenberg.