

Report from

DIAKONIA Member Organizations in Sweden and Finland 2015-02-11

Sweden

Diakonistiftelsen Samariterhemmet, Uppsala

The work to get the different “branches” of the Samariterhemmet up to date, regarding priorities vs. needs as well as fund raising, is now going in the right direction. A negative result of 4 million SEK is recently turned to a positive result.

Regarding the City Mission (Stadsmissionen), a suborganisation of its own, the Board of Samariterhemmet will continue to cooperate. The Board will also specifically identify what diaconia stands for in the motherhouse.

Despite many branches of health care and meeting points for disabled and fragile groups, only two (2) deacons are employed. To maintain the diaconal profile in the sense an ordained deacon brings to, it is most difficult. I noticed that Sabine wrote about the same problem. It would be interesting to discuss this when we meet in Hannover.

The ordained deacons meet once a year in October for one day seminar and celebration. These yearly meetings are decreasing in participants. Our Director has proposed to dissolve our sisterhood, however The deacon Board did vote against

Vårsta, Härnösand

I have had several calls from Vårsta regarding the membership. During 2016 they will discuss if they will continue as a member in DRAE or not. I guess is that they leave DRAE/DIACONIA. May be it would be good to have a visit from our president?

Finland

Finland - Lahti Diaconal Institution 09.02.2015

The director of Lahti Diaconal Institution Tiina Mäkelä made her Doctoral Thesis in summer 2014 about “tiredness among the elderly people”. She says that “tiredness and loss of energy are common complaints among the elderly that often fail to receive the attention they deserve even when raised by the sufferers themselves. Tiredness and loss of energy are common complaints among the elderly that often fail to receive the attention they deserve even when raised by the sufferers themselves. Tiredness must be recognised in service situations, and its background and significance must be understood so that each individual can benefit from appropriate assistance and support.”

Also other way Lahti Diaconal Institution has worked for developing elderly care for example organizing two seminars about changes and management of change in the elderly care. In September 2015 there will be a seminar about Hospice care. The financial situation is not easy in the social- and health care in Finland. Also in elderly care of Lahti Diaconal Institution we have to make more with less money. Lahti diaconal Institution works meeting people on the market place with the Word of God, coffee and discussions. Some parishes has taken this work to their program too.

Lahti Diaconal Institute (school) is discussing about co-operation in training and education with the Helsinki Diaconess House. Every educational institution must apply a new license from the Ministry of Education in September 2015 for the vocational training and education which should begin 2017.

The Deaconate in Finnish Lutheran Church:

The government of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland has given the proposal for the Synod about the new understanding of the Deaconate. The Deacons, Deaconesses, Youth workers, Missionaries and leaders in child work should have ordination to the Deaconate. – This discussion has been about 40 years in our Church. After this decision we should have much more deacons than today (1500 working in the Church).

(Report given by Terttu Pohjolainen)

Kersti Raustorp
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