

Group: Samariterhemmet Uppsala

Year: 2016

Personnel

Samariterhemmet, founded by Ebba Boström 1882 has about 150 members and about 150 not active. Newcomers 2015 are Paul Forsander and Karin Gustavsson. Birgitta Forsell died on September 5. 2015. Born in 1942.

49 people came to the yearly meeting in September 2015, which is an increase compared to last years. The theme was: "To be a sign of mercy for life".

Highlights

During October 2015 opened several parishes in the Swedish church it's premises for transit accommodation with the help of volunteers.

162 877 asylum seekers come to Sweden 2015th. Most of Syria and Afghanistan.

Issues/Concerns/Impediments/Challenges

As I mentioned earlier, the training as a deacon, now relocated to the University instead of diaconal institutions. This has in several years led to a reduction in membership. Samariterhemmet is undergoing changes. Because of the large refugee flows, we have decided to open the old house for newcomers to Uppsala and we are planning for extreme housing opportunities for newcomers. We have been clear with our zoning and renovation work would begin planned. But now we want to hold off on that, and instead help in the acute refugee crisis along with the Swedish Migration Board and Uppsala. It does not mean that our planning for additional activities scaled down. The board has now formed an operations committee and a management committee. There intensive work is underway to see what is Samariterhemmet and diaconal activity in the future. Since we now have access to our premises in "new hospital" move right now our expedition to the "link" between the DH and the hospital entrance, level 2. This means that we will have a new address, and visitors' entrance.

Our healthcares businesses are continuing to quality assure our own business but also build a center of excellence for dementia care in Uppsala. It is an exciting and promising work that later may also mean that we build up resources to develop capabilities in health care based on a diaconal values.

Uppsala City Mission, which is Samariterhemmet's social diakonia, is developing well. Along with Samariterhemmet we work there around the new arrivals in different ways. A new second hand store opens in December in Gottsunda Centre Mall. Where we expect to get a nice cooperation with Gottsunda congregation. A great gift book has been developed where a number of restaurants in Uppsala presented and people from Uppsala City Mission operations are presented. Our hotel and conference business is affected by the considerable upheaval refugee



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situation. Patient hotel works well and we still have great confidence from the University hospital to take care of their patients for living and assisted living for their treatment, even though it built new patient hotel near the University. The guest house can no longer accommodate individual guests as before, or engage in long-term accommodation. But the latter was already planned to be phased out as it goes hand in hand with that we will now help new arrivals and individual guests who want to stay at Samariterhemmet can get rooms at the Dove.

Publicity

Several during the year.

For our meeting in September we read an article. *Church whistleblower - what are the conditions like.* Erik Lundström.

Group: Vårsta Diakonkår

Year: 2016

Personnel

We are 355 members in our region. Then there are a lot more deacons working in the congregations but they have chosen not to be a member. When sisters or brother dies we write about their life and work in our letter that are sent out three times/year. We also give thanks for their life and work at our annual meeting.

Events/Celebrations

Our key event is our annual meeting that this year will be held in April as usual, 8-10/4. About the theme we have decided to borrow and continue to work with the theme from the DRAE conference in Norway, *In the eye of the storm*. We will share in services, lectures and workshops.

Issues/Concerns/Impediments/Challenges

Our biggest challenge right now is the falling figures of membership. The system for education for deacons in the Swedish Church has changed a lot the last years. The schools have also been moved geographically. That means that the new students don't have the same contact and relation to the house, so lack of new young members are a problem. We will see in the coming years what will happen. Maybe we will have to change the whole system.

Publicity

Publications that have included stories and articles about Deacons in your region are not published by age group, but by The Swedish church in general. But our members may be a part of the articles.

The role and future of diaconal ministry agents

The diaconate and the work done or lead by deacons are getting a lot of publicity right now, because of all the refugees coming to Sweden. This work is a challenge for the whole society. But the work initiated by the congregations and their deacons are highly appreciated. As the system of education is changing in the Swedish Church, the influence of the diaconal ministry agents has decreased a lot. Our main task today is to support and inspire our members in the sister and brotherhoods, so we can go out and serve in our congregations the way God let us to.

Written by Maria Westerlund