

# **REPORT GROUP 3**

## **DENMARK, ESTONIA AND NORWAY**

### **JANUARY 2018**

DRAE has two members in Denmark: Den danske Diakonissestiftelse and Diakonissehuset Sankt Lukas. In Estonia, there is one member: The Diaconal Hospital. In Norway, there are three members: Stiftelsen Bergen Diakonissehjem – Haraldsplass, Diakonova and Diakonissehuset Lovisenberg.

## **DENMARK**

### **Den danske Diakonissestiftelse**

#### *Personnel and members*

Forstanderinne, sister Merete Pelle Poulsen

In 2017 5 of members of the deacon community passed away– s. Magda Jørgensen, s. Ruth Andersen, s. Elin Edfort, deacon Ulla Hartelius and s. Erna Lauridsen.

In October, they inaugurated 1 new deacon and admitted 1 student deacon to the community. At the ceremony, they celebrated jubilees for 5 sisters.

#### *Issues*

In 2017, they celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their kindergarten Louisegaarden. The nursing home Søster Sophies Minde has been renovated with a new kitchen and redecoration of the dining- and sitting room as well as the corridors. New windows are an ongoing renovation project. Next year the nursing home will be extended with 7 apartments.

In the garden behind the main building of Diakonissestiftelsen 6 new houses are being built, containing 47 apartments especially designed for senior citizens. The first new residents will move into their new apartments February 1. 2018.

Volunteer work is very important for Diakonissestiftelsen. They are increasing the numbers every year. Therefore, it has been very important to update the policy and strategy for volunteer work, to be able to guide the volunteers and develop the area further.

#### *Challenges*

In several departments, they have looked into the growing problem of dementia. In the Centre for church and culture they have developed an e-learning program that will be offered to the church community of Denmark. Also at their nursing homes Søster Sophies Minde and Salem, they are working on how to help the residents, who has developed dementia.

### **Diakonissehuset Sankt Lukas Stiftelsen**

#### *Personnel*

The fellowship has only some few members and the leading sister is Diakonisse Marie Oved.

#### *Issues*

Diakonissehuset Sankt Lukas is an active institution especially in the hospice tradition. They have started the first children hospice in Denmark.

## **ESTONIA**

### **The Diaconal Hospital, a foundation under the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church.**

#### ***Personnel***

There have been changes in the hospital: some people have left the active everyday work at the hospital and a new chaplain Saima Sellak-Martinson is working there since September. The members of the prayer group are still mostly the same: about 5 people, gathering together also from other hospitals. Pastor Annika Laats is the leader of the group.

#### ***Events***

One of the group members has, with the help of their meetings, found her calling to become a full-time chaplain in the oncological hospital and they are very happy about her.

Annika Laats teaches and leads seminaries of theology of diakonia in the Theological Institute of Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church which gives a bigger audience to share the spirituality of Diakonia in Estonia.

The core of their gatherings is sharing, Bible readings and prayers.

#### ***Issues/Challenges***

The biggest challenge is to foster the understanding of diakonia as an essential part of the church and theology.

Due to the changes in personnel and also due to the loss of the place they loved to gather there occurred an interruption in their regular meetings. They continue coming together but they have still not found a place that would be as cosy and convenient for all and this has a negative effect on the regularity of meetings. They find the regularity of meetings very important in order to strengthen our call and understanding of diakonia.

## **NORWAY**

### **Haraldsplass Diakonale Stiftelse**

2017 has been a good year at Haraldsplass Diakonale Stiftelse. Diakonifelleskapet has been flourishing, not in number of members but in attendants at the meetings. The feedback they get is that people enjoy gather together and that they can feel the warmth in the fellowship. At the end of 2017 they had 217 members. During the year, 4 deaconesses have passed away. They have got 5 new members, and 5 have stopped their membership.

#### ***Events***

2018 is a special year for Haraldsplass. They are going to celebrate 100 years anniversary. Much of 2017 has been a time for preparation for this event.

The building of the new hospital is growing according to the plans that had been made, and in September 2018 they are moving into the new building. Everybody is looking forward to that.

During 2017 the new Specialized University, VID decided to place the campus in Bergen at the ground of Haraldsplass. They are very thankful for this decision, because they see it is important to have a close relation with the students. Yearly, all students are invited to lunch at Søsterhjemmet, which is the "heart" of Haraldsplass.

The counselling centre is working very well. Even though it is small, many people are being helped through this centre.

## **Diakonova**

### ***Personnel***

Kirsti Eide is the diaconal leader, and the only employee. During the year she has worked two days a week and visited different fellowship groups in Norway. In addition, she has been responsible for different events connected to the fellowship.

Ann-Elin Winsnes Slettahjell is elected chairman for the fellowship.

### ***Members***

At the end of 2017 Diakonova Fellowship had about 575 members. Sadly, they can see that every year they lose members from different reasons. The main reason is the age. They feel they are too old to continue. But; their oldest member is now 103 years old and she participated in their congress the last summer.

### ***Reorganizing***

101 years ago, the fellowship started a school for training nurses and also a hospital. 01.01.2018 their college for nursing merged with four other colleges into University College VID. The reason was to make the colleges stronger and in a better way be a college for the future.

### ***Congress***

Last autumn they arranged their congress. The theme for the congress dealt with a mighty message about inside and outside storms in our life where they clearly felt whom they could follow out of these storms!

### ***DIAKONIA in Chicago***

This gathering was a big experience for two of their members who were participators. There they met sisters and brothers with diaconal love in their heart. They shared songs, prayers, meals, small talks and preaching.

### ***About their project in Estonia.***

Diakonova has been working 15 years in Estonia with education, courses in grief work, courses in pastoral care and support for nurses, doctors, priests and voluntary people. Last December they finished their work in Tallinn Diaconal Hospital. The staff are now well trained and are working independently. It has been the target of their call, so they are grateful. They will continue to give some support when necessary.

Their work in Narva continues. Diakonova has paid salary for one nurse in 3 years in 100% work. From 1.1.18 they pay 50% and Narva hospital pay 50 %. It goes in the right direction, for which they are very happy.

Lovisenberg Diaconal Hospital in Oslo takes every year part in a hospice conference in Narva and this will continue.

Two weeks during January/February 2018, two nurses from Narva will do hospitant work at Hospice LDS. It is the right way to give knowledge and competence.

This project works has been a very good learning. They have met different cultures, different thinking and they have got many good ideas.  
They are thankful for this possibility.

## **Stiftelsen Diakonissehuset Lovisenberg**

### ***Personnel***

Diakonifelleskapet at Diakonissehuset Lovisenberg had at the end of 2017 some more than 200 members.

There has been no appointment of a new leading sister. The elected board is continuing their work, but is not being recognised by the administration of the Foundation.

### ***Events***

There was no Annual meeting in 2017. But the fellowship had a nice gathering 25th March that was helping to build the spirit amongst the members. The gathering took place at the local church community hall since the Deaconess House was not made possible to use.

Also, some sisters met at a dinner and a Sunday worship at around 20th November, the day of the funding of the Motherhouse.

### ***Issues/Challenges***

The climate between the Foundation and the fellowship is still not very good.

The board of the Foundation has set down a group working with future expectations concerning the fellowship. The members of the fellowship are awaiting the report with some anxiety.