

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

JUNE 2019

DRAE ExCo MEETING

The ExCo had its last meeting in Edinburgh, in January 2018.

To be followed up from the meeting in Edinburgh:

- Dropbox, because it was not functional well. Is it working ok now? Do you find what you need of minutes, reports and address lists?
- The term for the ExCo election: should it be from Assembly to Assembly, as now. Or should it change to for example from one Regional Conference to the next.
- Membership fees. To be handled in this meeting.
- The Prayer Diary
- Our Strategy. To be handled in this meeting
- The Domicile of DRAE, awaiting the decision of World
- A revised Constitution and by-laws following change of Domicile
- What to do with Group 2 – at the moment included in Group 3
- Officers and finalizing job descriptions
- For all of us to be active on our web-side and Facebook group
- Collecting DRAE archives and include them in the archives of WORLD

The minutes of the ExCo meeting January 2018 is on the Dropbox.

STANDING COMMITTEE (SC)

The standing committee consist of the Secretary, the Treasurer and the Regional President.

The committee mainly works and communicate through e-mails. It is a very efficient way of working and there is a lot of contact across borders and languages.

The SC has also had two meetings since our last ExCo meeting. First we met 30th June 2018 in connection with the meeting of the ExCo of the World.

Important issues from the meeting:

- To make good systems for handling the Minutes and using the Dropbox
- Increase of Membership fees
- Relocation of Domicile from Switzerland to Germany
- Regional Conference 2019
- Mission Statement/Strategy

The minutes are attached.

It was not economically viable to have an Exco meeting in January 2019 since we were meeting in June. Instead we decided that the SC should meet in Norway. To be able to meet with the Planning Group for the Conference the meeting places was changed to Edinburgh. The meeting took place January 10th – 13th January 2019.

Important issues from the meeting:

- Regional Conference 2019. The SC went trough tasks and program both by itself and together with the Planning Group
- Assembly of Delegates at the Conference
- Applications to the Travel Fund
- Constitution and change of Domicile
- New members

- Officers

The minutes are attached.

DIAKONIA WORLD ExCo MEETING

The meeting for the World ExCo took place in Zehlendorf, Berlin, 28th June to 4th July 2018.

- On the 29th June the ExCo went down to Neuendettelsau in Bavaria to formalize the agreement and sign the documents to move the legal address from the Netherlands to Germany.

Other important issues at the meeting:

- Membership change for ELCA Diaconal Community
- Evaluation of the 2017 World Assembly
- Planning for the 2021 World Assembly in Darwin, Australia

ECUMENICAL MEETINGS

- **Eurodiaconia**

DRAE has signed a memorandum of understanding with Eurodiaconia. One of the items is to take part in the others general meeting e.g. Annual General Meeting (AGM) for Eurodiaconia and Regional Conference for DRAE.

The AGM for 2018 was in Wroclaw, Poland 13th – 15th June 2018 with the theme “The future of Social Europe?”. They had good speakers like professor Piotr

Bledowski and Rev Kathy Galloway, devotions, study visits and nice social gatherings. The AGM 2019 was in Edinburgh and Gordon Pennykid attended from DRAE.

- **World Council of Churches**

The meeting of the Central Committee took place in Geneva June 2018. A report made to the WORLD is attached.

OTHER CONTACT

During the year the main contact goes via e-mail. It is an easy way to communicate. Some of the correspondence will be from people more interested in being supported than to actually become members.

For 2018 there were two invitations from member organisations to visit them. Straight after the ExCo meeting in January I went to Tallinn to take part in the Pastor’s Conference of the Lutheran Church in Estonia and give a workshop on diakonia. Due to flight cancellations I was not able to take part in the full program but had some good and interesting discussions with the church leaders.

In September 13th – 16th, I was invited to take part in the Third Provincial Conference of Anglican Deacons in South Africa at Stellenbosch. The Theme of the Conference was “From the Altar to the Street”. I was impressed with the work they are doing in the Church and in the society. And with their efforts to make them be together as one group by a Constitution for the deacons in all of the Province. The Conference had solid devotional gatherings, very good and including social gatherings and fruitful discussions. A field visit to a youth prison was a moving, touching and impressive experience.

PREPARING MEETING EDINBURGH

Again Gordon Pennykid has done the organisation for this meeting. A big thanks to him for the work he has done.

Fredrikstad, June 2019

Marianne Uri Øverland