



Report Group 5 for the Year 2018

Overview of the group

- **Europäischer Verband Freikirchlicher Diakoniewerke, EVFD (Europe)
(European Association of Free Church Diaconal Organisations)**
27 Organizations with about 990 Members in Germany, Georgia, Norway, Austria, Switzerland and Czech Republic
- **Deutscher Gemeinschafts-Diakonieverband, DGD (Germany)**
The DGD is a network with 750 Members and more than 3'000 members of staff in diaconal and missionary Institutions.
Within Germany there are Deaconary Fellowships at 8 different places. Internationally there are 5 places: Switzerland (Oberägeri), Netherlands (Amerongen), Brasil (Curitiba), Japan (Kobe), Ruanda (Rubengera)
- **Zendings Diaconessenhuis Amerongen (Netherlands)**
10 Members
- **Communauté des Diaconesses de Saint-Loup (Switzerland)**
29 Members
- **Diakonissenschwesternschaft Neumünster, Zürich (Switzerland)**
28 Members
- **Kommunität Diakonissenhaus Riehen, Basel (Switzerland)**
64 Members Diaconesses, 11 Members "Third-Order"
- **Schwesterngemeinschaft Bethesda, Basel (Switzerland)**
25 Members
- **Schwesterngemeinschaft Diakonieverband Ländli, Oberägeri (Switzerland)**
53 Members
- **Stiftung Diaconis, Bern (Switzerland)**
30 Members

Europäischer Verband Freikirchlicher Diakoniewerke, EVFD

Every two years a conference of the Association takes place. This will be from September 12 - 15, 2019 in Tbilisi, Georgia, with the interesting theme of "*Diaconal work in an interreligious context – how we can build trust*".

Motherhouses in Switzerland

As the number of Deaconesses is decreasing, all of the Motherhouses face changes in their way of living together. The Sisters have to move closer together so that parts of houses or whole buildings can be used for other purposes - chances and challenges! Often this gives a new dynamic of getting to know each other and our personal needs in a better way and to share life in a deeper sense.

Some buildings still belong to the Sisterhoods; the alteration for new purposes is within their responsibility - again chances and challenges! Other buildings are going back to the foundations and they are using them for their purposes.

In several places the idea of "multi generation houses" is planned or implemented. Most of them will offer the opportunity of regular prayer and fellowship times.

Some Sisterhoods have expanded their communities with a Circle of Friends or an Order in a more open setting; the growing varies.

Sr. Elisabeth Meier
Basel, June 4th, 2019