



Region 8 of DIAKONIA Region Africa Europe are the 21 evangelical Communities of male and female Deacons and Co Workers in the Diaconate in Germany which are organized in **VEDD** the „Union of Evangelical Communities of male and female Deacons and Co Worker in the Diaconate“, „Verband Evangelischer Diakonen-, Diakoninnen- und Diakonatsgemeinschaften in Deutschland e.V.“

VEDD is representing about 8.000 members in DRAE.

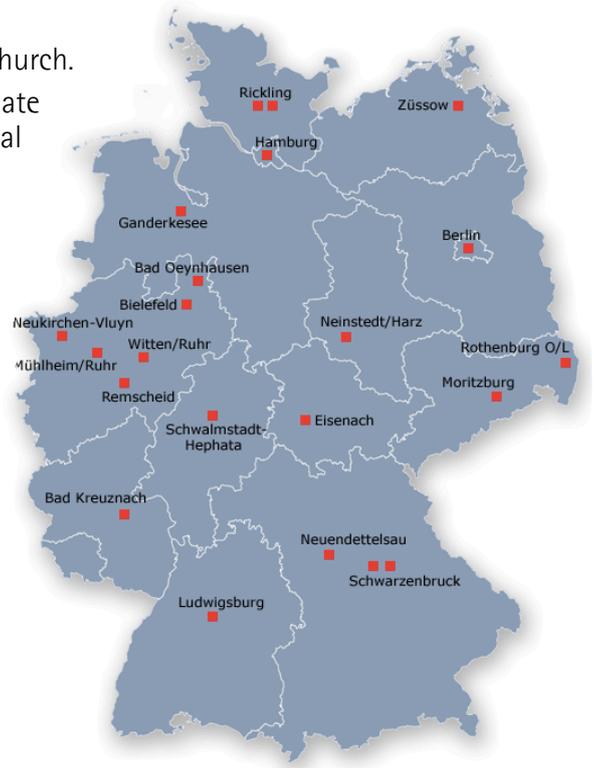
## The Diaconate

In the mind of VEDD the **Diaconate** is the social duty of the Church.

Those male and female Deacons and Co Workers in the Diaconate run the Diaconate with their theological and social-professional expertise in their work place and ministry.

VEDD is part of the network of the different sections of „Diakonie“ (Institutions dealing with Diakonia) and the Evangelical Church of Germany (EKD) as well as with those „Organizations in the Diaconate“ like „Kaiserswerther Verband“ and „Zehlendorfer Verband“ and for Communities, male and female Deacons and Co Workers in the Diaconate.

With duties in representation and networking VEDD supports the development of a „Diaconal Church“.



## Development VEDD

In 2018 we realize first results of our „Strategic Goals for the development of VEDD“ which has been started in 2016.

The „Strategic goals“ correspond with ideas of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD):

- to accentuate the need to be a diaconal Church
- to accentuate the need to be a pursuing Church
- to develop a straight diaconal-theological identity in a joint office between the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD) and „Diakonie Deutschland“ (Union of Institutions dealing with Diakonia)

The main idea of the „Strategic goals“ likes VEDD to be „not only the roofing bond of the Union but to be the professional body on base of a diaconal spirit“.

## „Communicating the Gospel“ - VEDD Strategic Goal in 2017/2018

„Communicating the Gospel“ and the significance of this topic has been discussed through the conferences of the 21 members of VEDD in 2017 and 2018.

### Conference of Leaders in VEDD 2017

To the Conference of Leaders in VEDD belong the Leaders of Institutions where diaconal Communities are (KLD) and the Conference of the Elders of the 21 Communities and the Managing Directors of the Communities.

In 2017 has been a common conclusion: to alert the „double qualified“ diaconal ministry and profession to church, diaconate and employers as well as inside the communities.

The Union VEDD should be the common source to help to shape diaconal identity, to qualify and to strengthen diaconal staff spiritually and theologically for their work. This has to be done in a common sense between church, diaconal employer and VEDD reflecting the changing times and responsibilities.

The Task of VEED is to guide this process from the view of the 21 communities.

First General Assembly VEDD 2018

In March 2018 even the First General Assembly has been working on „Communicating the Gospel“. Common sense has been to take more effort in networking: „think globally - plan globally - act globally“. VEDD boosts this process realizing the different traditions and local churches the communities belong to.

Symposium #religionsundkultursensibel (sensitive in religion and culture)

VEDD has been co organizer for this symposium which has been discussed „point of views for the work with children and youth in the evangelical context“.

VEDD is co editor of the specialized book named #religionsundkultursensibel on base of the lectures, discussions and results of the symposium which is now available. Authors are several male and female Deacons and experts belonging to VEDD.

**Coming into the Ministry of male and female Deacons and Co Worker in the Diaconate**

The cultural sovereignty in Germany means that every federal state has its own power about law and administration relating to culture like language, schools, colleges and universities, education, radio, television and art.

The 21 Communities are located in the 16 German federal states; like the federal states they have their own history, culture, regulations and system of education and studies.

Training and Studies

The VEDD Conference of the Leaders of Deacon Training and Studies in VEDD has been working on a new „Competence matrix for Deacon Training“. Goal is to level the mentioned „double qualification“ in theological knowledge and professional skills and to implement it as reflected action to the spheres of activities.

The „Competence matrix for Deacon Training“ will assist the changes which already have been made and the changes which are expected to be done - to keep our diaconal-theological action in mind and ministry.

Multidisciplinary Committee for Trainings in diaconal and pedagogical work in Congregations

The Evangelical Church of Germany has formed the „Multidisciplinary Committee for Trainings in diaconal and pedagogical work in Congregations“ (Fachkommission 3). The goal is to level the different Trainings and to develop „matchable Trainings“ which enable Deacons to shift to another federal Church or Community.

The representative of VEDD is a Deacon who takes care that the different kind of Deacon Training like Technical College or University will fit to the idea of matchable Trainings.

Draft paper „True to dimensions - while Deacon Training“

The VEDD Conference of the Spiritual Guides of students in Deacon Training has been working on a draft paper named „True to dimensions - while Deacon Training“.

Behind of this paper has been the wish of Board VEDD to the Conference of the Spiritual Guides to renew the concept. The goal has been to have a common base for the guidance of Students in Deacon Training.

Coming from the three key aspects of the draft paper useful samples are included:

- Community life and Life in community
- Faith: to live a spiritual life, to shape own faith and to reflect Christianity
- Mission and Ministry

The regional implementation between Community, Studies and Spiritual Guidance has to start now. The paper is part of the strategy to prepare professional staff and to attract diaconal institutions to employ them.

Focus „The first years in ministry“

The Diaconal Association Karlshöhe is asked to share its conception „The first years in ministry“ as best practice model to the member communities in VEDD.

The idea behind „The first years in ministry“ is to keep the Deacon in a close touch with the community and to guide him on the track of his ministry.

## **The Profile of Office and Job / Ministry and Profession**

### Glossary - Male and female Deacons and Diaconate

In 2018 VEDD has prepared the „Glossary - Male and female Deacons and Diaconate“ including public statements of VEDD and churchly announcements.

We see the need to talk about the position and goals of VEDD depending ministry and profession in Church and Diaconal Work. The glossary will be helpful for an understandable discussion about the points of view depending Office and Job between the different professions. The glossary shows the standing of VEDD as well as positions and laws of the different „Federal Evangelical Churches“ in Germany. The glossary figures out the different churchly traditions and the current situation for employment in Church and Diaconal Work.

The glossary shows the agreed view of the Evangelical Church in Germany to male and female Deacons as well as the discussion about the „Ministry of a Pastor“ and „Ministry of a Deacon“.

The glossary will be helpful for all communities, for the federal churches they belong to and for the professional public.

### Synopsis - Current Laws depending Deacons

In addition to the „Glossary - Male and female Deacons and Diaconate“ VEDD has prepared the „Synopsis of current Laws depending Deacons“.

The synopsis shows

- Entrance qualifications to Deacon Training and Certificates
- Expected commitment to the Community
- Blessing or Ordination into the Ministry
- Overview about employment possibilities

The synopsis is useful for the federal churches who like to establish or develop the ministry of a Deacon as well as in the discussion about interdisciplinary leadership in congregations.

Every part of the synopsis has a short introduction which shows the „sticking points“ prepared by VEDD on behalf of the 21 communities belonging to the Union. This will be helpful to implement a wise and fruitful development.

The synopsis is available on the website of VEDD to keep it up-to-date.

## **German Evangelical Church Meeting in 2019**

More than 300.000 people are expected to gather together while DRAE Conference is running, to sing, pray and worship, to discuss topics and to be informed about the activities of „their“ church.

VEDD is represented on the „Market of Possibilities“ and attracts young people to think about their perspective to life with „Profession with a Call“ and „Living in a Community“.

VEDD invites all warmly all Sisters and Brothers who are members in VEDD to meet together there.

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