

REPORT FROM GROUP 9

A general overview of our group

The Zehlendorfer Verband für Evangelische Diakonie e.V. (ZV) is an association of 11 independent protestant sisterhoods and diaconal communities throughout Germany. The task of most communities is to work in professional care and education.

The ZV is a working group for mutual strengthening. It represents the common interests of its members in church and diaconia, in society and politics, in ecumenism and the public. The ZV sees itself as a community of solidarity in which mutual consultation and support, communication and information, planning and implementation of joint events and projects take place. The members know that they are carried in mutual intercession.

Celebrations

We celebrated the 125th anniversary of the Ev. Diakonieverein Berlin-Zehlendorf e.V. (EvDV) on 11 April 2019 with about 750 guests in Berlin. It began with a celebration and blessing service in the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church. The sermon was delivered by Diakonie President Ulrich Lilie. Afterwards it went on in the Berlin Urania. Invited were Federal Health Minister Jens Spahn, doctor and cabaret artist Dr. Eckart von Hirschhausen and Christine Vogler, Deputy President of the German Nursing Council. The event was moderated by Barbara Manterfeld-Wormit, radio and television representative of the EKBO. Sisters and brothers of the Diakonische Gemeinschaft Berlin-Zehlendorf handed over a position paper to the Minister of Health on the "situation of professional care in Germany".

Conferences and important meetings

In January 2019 a joint meeting of the Sisters' Councils took place, which met with interest and lively participation. The topic was "Future perspectives of the sisterhoods/communities", a topic which has been intensively dealt with by the EvDV in the past two years within the framework of the "Project Future".

Change in personnel

In June 2018, Sister Susanne Sorban was appointed Superior of the Sisterhood of the Protestant Diakoniewerk Friederikenstift Hannover.

Challenges and events in particular communities

The healthcare group DIAKOVERE has taken over three clinics in Hanover, in which the care of independent sisterhoods was originally the responsibility of each. Today, the sisterhoods of the Ev. Diakoniewerk Friederikenstift Hannover, member of the ZV, and the Diakoniegemeinschaft Henriettenstiftung, member of the KWV, are left. A merger of the two sisterhoods was planned for autumn 2018, but did not take place. DIAKOVERE Hannover is looking for an interview with the ZV. The KWV rejects in principle a double membership of communities in both associations. We are excited to see how Diakovere will deal with this.

The sisterhood of the Evang. Diakonieverein Berlin-Zehlendorf can also be brothers since a few years. The Sister's Day in April 2018 decided to change the name to "Diakonische Gemeinschaft des Evang. Diakonievereins Berlin-Zehlendorf e.V.". It is not easy to cultivate and stay in contact with each other throughout Germany and beyond. Therefore the EvDV has had its own digital social network since April 2019: "Diacomm".

What we work on together, what occupies us

Already in January 2018 a conference of the associations in the diaconate (VID) took place, at which after discussions of many years also with the VEDD and the KWV it was clarified that the Diakonische education of the Diakonie sisterhoods and communities is complete and needs no supplement by the Diakon(innen) - training.

The curriculum "Basic Course in Diaconal Education", which was developed by four members from four ZV member organisations, was presented to the ZV Executive Board. Pastor Joh. Lehnert (EvDV) developed it further and it will now be used under the name "Developing

Diaconal Areas: Qualification in Diaconal Presence" in the EvDV. Participation in the modules should be possible for all members of the ZV on request.

"Diaconal profile" is increasingly a topic in the Diakonie. The EKD is starting a project on this in 2020 and is setting up a "Protestant office for missionary church development and diaconal profile building". The ZV has signalled the interest of the communities in cooperation.

The ZV supports the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Deutscher Schwesternverbände und Pflegeorganisationen (ADS) financially with a sum that accounts for almost half of its own budget. The ADS represents the interests of the ZV and KWV. The support is necessary in order to shape Christian-oriented professional care in politics and society and to give it a voice, e.g. in the German Nursing Council and in the German Education Council for Nursing. To be present in these and other committees with financial and personnel commitment is particularly necessary at present, since the training in professional care in Germany is fundamentally redesigned.

Personnel and financial commitment are hitting the ZV more and more drastically, since the total number of members is decreasing and thus also the income from membership fees.

What the last report was about is still very important to us:

The structure of sisterhoods has changed in recent years. Core tasks have changed, the needs and commitment of members have changed.

The institutions with which the communities of the ZV cooperate and contract the gainful employment of the members see only their business areas in tightening framework conditions. They transfer the diaconal profile of the institution, as far as they are concerned,

to the communities without granting them the resources to do so. If the concept does not work, it is the fault of the community. There is a controlled withdrawal of resources with increased expectations at the same time. The communities as a whole and their sisters and brothers are personally overwhelmed by this.

Contacts with other organisations

There are also regular meetings of the managing directors of ZV, DEDD and KWV. In addition, meetings of the board members take place within the context of the specialist groups at Diakonie Deutschland.