



# Constitution

The following is the English language version of the DRAE Constitution incorporating the amendments made at the Assembly of Delegates, July 2013 in Berlin Germany

## **Article 1 Name and Place of Registration**

- 1.1 **DIAKONIA REGION AFRICA - EUROPE** is an Association originally founded according to Art. 60ff of the Swiss Civil Law.
- 1.2 DIAKONIA REGION AFRICA - EUROPE is part of the "DIAKONIA Foundation: the World Federation of Diaconal Associations and Diaconal Communities" (DIAKONIA - World Federation).
- 1.3 DIAKONIA REGION AFRICA - EUROPE is an international body for all members of the REGION AFRICA - EUROPE and shall be governed by the national law of the country in which it is registered.
- 1.4 DIAKONIA REGION AFRICA - EUROPE should be registered in a country in accordance with a decision of the Executive Committee.

## **Article 2 Purpose and Aim**

- 2.1 DIAKONIA REGION AFRICA - EUROPE is called by Jesus Christ, the Lord of the Church, to the service of reconciliation in the world with the word of faith and the action of love like the DIAKONIA World Federation fulfills the tasks and aims of the DIAKONIA - World Federation in the region of Africa and Europe as follows:
  - 2.1.1 To advance the Christian religion by promoting unity amongst all Christians and Christian Churches.
  - 2.1.2 To further ecumenical relationships among diaconal associations and diaconal communities.
  - 2.1.3 To reflect on the nature and tasks of diaconia in the Biblical sense and to further the understanding of the diaconate.
  - 2.1.4 To strengthen a sense of awareness of community among its members.
  - 2.1.5 To render mutual aid.
  - 2.1.6 To undertake common tasks.
- 2.2 The Association solely and directly pursues church and community aims. It is a nonprofit organization.

## **Article 3 Membership**

- 3.1 All African and European Full Members of the DIAKONIA World Federation are also Full Members of DIAKONIA REGION AFRICA - EUROPE.
- 3.2 Additional categories of Membership of DRAE may be created by the Assembly of Delegates and must be detailed in the By-Laws.
- 3.3 Membership of DRAE in additional categories of membership is granted by the Executive Committee and members will be received by the Assembly of Delegates.
- 3.4 The membership is established by participation at the Foundation Assembly or subsequently by a written application of membership which is to be addressed to the Executive Committee.
- 3.5 The Executive Committee keeps a register of members.

## **Article 4 Assembly of Delegates**

- 4.1 The DIAKONIA REGION AFRICA - EUROPE Assembly of Delegates takes place at least every four years, usually to coincide with the DIAKONIA World Federation Assembly of Delegates.
- 4.2 The number of Full Member voting delegates is the same as those for a DIAKONIA - World Federation Assembly of Delegates. The voting delegates are chosen by the members.
- 4.3 Assemblies are to be announced by the President at least three months in advance stating the agenda. Notice of any change to the Constitution or dissolution of DIAKONIA REGION AFRICA -EUROPE must be sent at least three months in advance to all members giving details of the proposals.
- 4.4 The President is the only member of the Executive Committee who has a vote at the Assembly of Delegates.
- 4.5 In the event of a tie vote, the motion is lost.

- 4.6 The Assembly of Delegates has the following tasks:
  - 4.6.1 To enact or change the Constitution with a 2/3's majority decision by Full Members.
  - 4.6.2 To elect the President by a written ballot of Full Members only, for a four year term of office. The Regional President is a member of the Executive Committee of DIAKONIA - World Federation as one of the representatives of its region.
  - 4.6.3 To approve the annual financial reports for the period under view presented by the Executive Committee and to discharge the Executive Committee.
  - 4.6.4 To determine the membership fees.
  - 4.6.5 To receive the report of the President on the activities during the period in review.
  - 4.6.6 To elect the auditor.
- 4.7 The Executive Committee can declare an item of business as a "Special Item" that requires a vote by Full Members only. This must be identified in advance on the Agenda.
- 4.8 Any Voting Member at the Assembly may request that an item be declared a "Special Item" requiring a vote by Full members only. The request must be made before any vote is taken on the item, and must be supported by at least 50% of Voting Members present.
- 4.9 The agenda can be added to by the voting delegates present or the Executive Committee, by unanimous agreement.
- 4.10 Valid resolutions can be made if at least half of the Voting Members of the Assembly are present.

## **Article 5 Executive Committee and Officers**

- 5.1. The Executive Committee consists of representatives of the Groups of members as defined in the Bylaws. The minimum number is five. Of these representatives, five will be members of the DIAKONIA World Executive.
- 5.2 The Executive Committee can co-opt a maximum of two persons as members with voting rights according to a regional and/or professional balance. Duration of office corresponds to that of the DIAKONIA REGION AFRICA - EUROPE Executive Committee.
- 5.3 The Executive Committee will hold a meeting at least once in each calendar year.
- 5.4 An extraordinary meeting will be held whenever two thirds of the Executive Committee members deem it necessary.
- 5.5 The Executive Committee has the following tasks:
  - 5.5.1 To elect a Vice-President, a Secretary and a Treasurer among its members.
  - 5.5.2 To carry out all DIAKONIA REGION AFRICA - EUROPE business with the exception of that reserved for the Assembly of Delegates.
  - 5.5.3. To pass on information regularly to the DIAKONIA REGION AFRICA - EUROPE members regarding its plans and projects including information regarding financing.
  - 5.5.4 To appoint advisers and/or committees for special tasks.
- 5.7 The President, the Secretary and the Treasurer are responsible for the administration in the time between the Executive Committee meetings. DIAKONIA REGION AFRICA EUROPE is legally represented by the President and the Secretary, or the President and the Treasurer.
- 5.8 Valid decisions can be made if at least half of the Voting Members of the Executive are present.

- 5.9 Written decisions by circular letter are valid if more than half of the members in office express their decision.  
(Remark: "written" includes all electronic means which can produce a printed copy.)

## **Article 6 Finance**

- 6.1 DIAKONIA REGION AFRICA - EUROPE is carried financially by annual fees from its members, donations, legacies and other freewill offerings.
- 6.2 The membership fee for Full Members is calculated according to the quota upon which the calculation of the fees to the DIAKONIA - World Federation is laid down and is decided by the Assembly of Delegates of DIAKONIA REGION AFRICA - EUROPE.
- 6.3 The amount of membership fees for all members (subject to 6.2 above) is set by the Executive Committee and approved by the Assembly of Delegates.
- 6.4 DIAKONIA REGION AFRICA - EUROPE is held responsible for its liabilities exclusively with its own assets; private responsibility of the members or of the DIAKONIA World Federation foundation is excluded.
- 6.5 The Auditor examines the accounts annually, reports to the Executive Committee and proposes the discharge of the Executive Committee to the assembly of delegates.

## **Article 7 Bylaws**

- 7.1 The Executive Committee is authorized to lay down By-Laws which regulate and provide for those subjects which are not included in these Articles.
- 7.2 The By-Laws may not be contrary to this Constitution, any resolution of the Assembly or the law of the country of registration.
- 7.3 The Executive Committee may amend or cancel the By-Laws at any time. To do this they need a two-thirds majority.
- 7.4 All changes to By-Laws will be reported to the next Assembly of Delegates in writing and will be valid unless the Assembly directs otherwise.

## **Article 8 Dissolution**

- 8.1 The dissolution of DIAKONIA REGION AFRICA - EUROPE requires a 2/3's majority vote by all Full Members.
- 8.2 In case of dissolution, the remaining assets have to be used solely and directly in accordance with the aims of DIAKONIA REGION AFRICA-EUROPE.

## **Article 9 Conclusion and Enactment**

- 9.1 The constitution is drawn up in English.
- 9.2 The original Constitution was agreed upon at the founding Assembly on 24<sup>th</sup> June 1994 in Stirling, Scotland, United Kingdom.
- 9.3 This Constitution becomes valid immediately.

As amended by the Assembly of Delegates, 23 June 1999, Uppsala, Sweden; 7 July 2001,  
Brisbane,  
Australia; October 2003, Beni Suef, Egypt; corrected 2006; amended July 2009 Atlanta USA;  
amended  
July 2013 Berlin Germany