



## Report Group 5 for the Year 2017

### Overview of the group

- **Europäischer Verband Freikirchlicher Diakoniewerke, EVFD (Europe)**  
25 Organizations with about 990 Members in Germany, Georgia, Norway, Austria, Switzerland and Czech Republic
- **Zendingen Diaconessenhuis Amerongen (Netherlands)**  
10 Members
- **Deutscher Gemeinschafts-Diakonieverband (Germany)**  
144 Members
- **Communauté des Diaconesses de Saint-Loup (Switzerland)**  
29 Members
- **Diakonissenschwesternschaft Neumünster, Zürich (Switzerland)**  
33 Members
- **Kommunität Diakonissenhaus Riehen, Basel (Switzerland)**  
71 Members
- **Schwesterngemeinschaft Bethesda, Basel (Switzerland)**  
28 Members
- **Schwesterngemeinschaft Diakonieverband Ländli, Oberägeri (Switzerland)**  
55 Members
- **Stiftung Diaconis, Bern (Switzerland)**  
38 Members

## **Conference of the „Europäischer Verband Freikirchlicher Diakoniewerke“ – EVFDW - in Zürich (September 2017)**

Some of the challenges almost all of the Members are preoccupied with:

- How can the diaconal identity and spirituality – the heritage of the Deaconesses that very often where the founders of these organizations – be maintained and carried on in today's work situations?
- What does “Love in Action,” mean for the organization and for each employee?
- Ethic challenges like euthanasia, induced abortion, pastoral care and counselling in multi religious contexts
- Shortage of staff especially in care units (hospitals, nursing homes, palliative care)
- Poor financing and difficult conditions, mainly in small establishments.

There is a wide spectrum of diaconal social services represented by the members of the EVFDW. (Ein grosses Feld von diakonischem Engagement das “kleine Welten” verändert.) Many staff members are involved and many new and creative ideas are implemented.

During the Business meeting the new President was nominated: Pastor Dr. Stefan Stiegler, Director of the Albertinen Diakoniewerk in Hamburg, as successor of Fredy Jorns, who was the President for 12 years.

### **Communauté des Diaconesses de Saint-Loup (Switzerland)**

The Communauté des Diaconesses de Saint-Loup (Switzerland) celebrated their 175 Years Jubilee. “**Soif de plus? Venez et goûtez !**” (Thirst for more? Come and taste!) was the theme of their celebration.

The main ministry of the Community is prayer. In a retreat center, they have different offers to different groups for counselling and prayer, including prayer for healing.

### **Beteli, Humanitarian Charity Association** (Member of EVFDW in Tbilisi in Georgia)

The leadership is planning a training for deacons and deaconesses, but are facing organizational problems.

### **Diakonat Bethesda Basel** (Member of EVFDW in Switzerland)

The nonprofit christian foundation had a change in leadership. Pascal Gregor is the new director of the foundation. He too would like to find ways of putting more emphasis on the christian and spiritual values.

Sr. Elisabeth Meier  
Basel, January 8, 2018