



Summary Minutes DRAE Executive Committee 2016

The DIAKONIA Region Africa-Europe (DRAE) Executive held its annual meeting January 27th – 31st 2016 at the Bethesda Motherhouse, Basel/Switzerland.

Detailed reports were given on the work of the presidents, the groups, the officers and the situation with the ecumenical contacts. They are available in full with the members of the Executive or on the website.

Finances: The Executive Committee (ExCo) accepted the annual report 2015 unanimously.

The ExCo decided to establish a **DRAE facebook group**. Diane Kaufmann and Dc. Ibironke Oworu volunteered to establish and to take care of it.

The ExCo evaluated the previous **DRAE assembly in Kongshaug/Norway** and gave outlines to the planned next assembly in Scotland 2019. This will be the 25th anniversary of DRAE, founded 1994 in Sterling/Scotland.

The **new members** in Estonia and Poland were integrated into group 3 (Estonia) and 4 (Poland). It was decided to take on further steps to enhance the membership of DRAE with diaconal movements / communities / groups in Eastern Europe.

The ExCo talked about future strategy and developed a **mission statement**:

DIAKONIA REGION AFRICA EUROPE (DRAE) STANDS FOR

- Spiritual encouragement
- Empowerment for diaconal commitment and work
- Advocating for dignity of people and social justice
- Mutual exchange

WE ARE ACHIEVING THIS THROUGH

International networking of

- Diaconal associations
- Religious communities
- Groups of diaconal workers

WE ARE OFFERING

- To be a part of a worldwide community
- To experience mutual understanding of diaconal workers in different contexts
- To provide an avenue for fellowship through regional and world assemblies

In a meeting with **Eurodiaconia** CEO Heather Roy, the DRAE ExCo decided to work on a mutual agreement and accept each other as partners. Sr. Elisabeth Meier will be the liaison person on behalf of DRAE.

During the meeting the Executive Committee **visited two institutions** who introduced their work. A trip to the project "Miteinand" (Get together), a project of Diaconal Work of the Basel Reformed Church. The second visit led us to the Spiritual-diaconal Centre of Community House of Deaconesses in Riehen. On Sunday the members of the Executive Committee were involved in the service and created different parts of the liturgy in the morning worship at the hospital church.