

January 2017

## **VEDD- Report to DRAE 2017**

### **VEDD-Days – 17.-19.06.2016**

2016 VEDD has initiated – after more than 30 years, a meeting through the different communities of female and male Deacons and diaconal communities.

Wie the view to the Reformation jubilee this day was located in Eisenach, a place Martin Luther was studying in former time. There also are two communities located, one belonging to VEDD and the other to KWV.

This meeting was formerly for Sisters and Brothers which are still working. The mentioned slogan was „Ich bin so frei“ - playing with words like „I’m free in mind/I’m not fixed to do it“, taken by Galatiens 5,1 „For freedom Christ has set us free.“ and even on the thoughts of Martin Luther to the „Freedom of a Christian.“ - „Freiheit eines Christenmenschen“ - to force the Sisters and Brothers to reflect themselves and their ministry.

There was a gathering with the mothers house of KWV, where Sisters and Brothers are living now for eight years and even with two parishes there. The Sisters and Brothers have been moved and discussed a lot about their own diaconic profile and their effort for a diaconic Church

Churchservices and Lord’s supper and churchly cultural activities together with workshops and lections filled heart and mind. A lot of communities participated - a strong signal sent inside the communities and to society.

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### **Communities and Companies**

In VEDD the conference of the elder and the CEOs on the topic „communities and companies“ in the years 2015 up to 2017.

Behind there is the interest to centralize the diaconic-theological work - which is needed now in a secular world which needs a lot of staff working in diaconic Institutions- The communities, female and male Deacons have inside a big „potential“ which comes to mind of the leaders. „Old“ views are reflected again with the goal to use them again according to the needs of our time and to strengthen working together.

In November 2016 there was a seminar for professionals, prepared by VEDD, KWV and Zehlendorfer Verband, together with the Association of Employers of diaconic Institutions (Arbeitgeberverband diakonischer Einrichtungen), Diakonia Germany (Association of German Diakonia of EKD - Evangelical Church of Germany).

We are glad about these directions and challenges which strengthen the communities and the female and male Deacons!

The current process shows central questions of diaconic-churchly work in Diakonia and Church. In EKD was discussed if a churchly membership is needed to get an employment there and it was fixed.

On the other hand the Institutions are forced now to follow and to attract people to join a working place in Diakonia and Church knowing that we face a lack of staff in the social and care taking fields of Diakonia and Church.

We see a chance to bring in diaconic-theological Staff to this fields. Male and female Deacons and the communities they are coming from will get a new powerful meaning in Diakonia and Church.

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## **Strategical Development > 2014 - 2018**

- With implementing the studies to get an Bachelor in the Training for Deacons way and time structure have changed to make sure that diaconic-theological are there in a qualified way.
- On the other hand there are possibilities of a wide range of even theological studies. All the studies come in modules for one or more semester. The whole education is timely extended now.
- One challenge is that not everyone who likes to study to become a Deacon comes with a good churchly background. The effort to guide the students is much more higher than before. A faithful life has to be shown and followed up. The students have to be shaped.
- The project „Work-Life-Supervision (Berufsbiografische Begleitung) will be activated again, to strengthen the Sisters and Brothers maybe to bring them in leading positions if possible.
- Public Relations is on the way of reviewing and renewing, to be a strong partner to the communities and members of VEDD and to serve them as expected.

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