

THE STATUTES OF DIAKONIA

Adopted by the Annual Meeting 2014-06-15, latest revision 2021-09-08

THE STATUTES OF DIAKONIA, TWO PRINCIPALS

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§1 ORGANISATION

Diakonia is a non-profit organization (Organization No. 802017-3517) which performs international aid and development work on a Christian basis. The registered office of the organization is in Stockholm.

§2 PRINCIPALS

Diakonia has two Principals: the Uniting Church in Sweden and Swedish Alliance Mission religious communities.

§3 BASIC FOUNDATIONS

According to the gospels, Jesus' mission was an indivisible one, that of preaching and deeds. Through the word of forgiveness, he relieved people of their burdens and provided them with a new future. By healing their shattered existences and curing their diseases, he gave them a new beginning in life.

In the same way that Jesus was sent by the Father to restore creation and individuals, his disciples were sent through the Power of the Holy Spirit to the ends of the earth and until the end of time. Creation and all its parts are threatened by evil, divisions, suffering and death. Man's sins and the power of evil manifest themselves in fractured relations between groups and individuals as well as other structures in our world. The church, following in the path of Jesus, is called upon to proclaim the message of the forgiveness of sins, reconciliation and new life in order to, both in words and deeds, make Jesus' prayer clear, "Let thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven".

Consequently, every word and action that expresses God's will towards the world is important and contributes to making the vision of God's kingdom clear and in accordance with the gospel. God's congregation, the new community with Christ at its head, is called upon to provide clarity and visibility of God's will, regarding the unity of humankind beyond all borders.

Jesus himself witnessed the suffering and heard the cries of the people from the roadside. In the same way, the Church must constantly be prepared to see, hear and seek out situations and conditions where God's will towards mankind is being undermined, and where the value of human life is threatened or where relations have failed or broken down. Hunger, disease, repression and other suffering are all clear cries for help that demand a response from the

Churches in the form of cross-border diaconal work. The Church would be betraying its call, if it failed to respond and act in the name of the kingdom of God, to events affecting mankind's everyday life.

§4 MANDATE

Diakonia is one of the expressions used for the Christian community's call to serve its fellow people beyond all borders, through the love of Jesus Christ. This involves sharing burdens and thus bearing witness to the Christian faith through a network of human relations.

Diakonia's task is to seek God's will and, on the basis of fundamental Christian values, perform its mission by:

- working for the freedom and redemption of mankind and to ensure that just and fair structures are created or restored.
- analyzing the forces behind injustice and conflicts from a theological and social perspective as well as seeking alternative solutions.
- tackling distribution of wealth issues by exposing unjust structures and working for greater fairness in the distribution of resources.

§5 ESTABLISHMENT OF POLICY DOCUMENTS AND THEOLOGICAL DOCUMENTS

The Annual Meeting of the General Assembly establishes policy documents that develop the content of Diakonia's basic foundations and mandate and the documents that clarify the theological basis that Diakonia works from.

Other policy documents are established by the Board.

§6 ANNUAL MEETING

Diakonia's highest decision-making body is the Annual Meeting. The Board is the executive organ of the Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting shall be held before the end of the month of June and invitations to attend shall be provided in writing and sent to the representatives at least three months before the Annual Meeting. A Principal can submit proposals for resolutions by the Annual Meeting. Proposal for resolutions shall have been received by Diakonia's Board not later than 15 February. The Board shall respond to the resolution and the reply in writing shall be provided to the Annual Meeting at the same time as the other documents.

The following issues shall be addressed at the Annual Meeting:

- a. Election of a Chairperson of the Meeting, a Secretary, two persons to verify the minutes and two tellers to count the votes. The Chairperson of the Meeting shall alternate every other year between the two Principals.
- b. Determination that the Meeting has been duly convened
- c. Preparation and approval of a voting list
Each Principal shall report who shall have responsibility in the event of mediation.
- d. Annual report
- e. Auditor's report
- f. Adoption of the income statement and balance sheet
- g. Decision on account of the year's financial result
- h. Discharge from liability for the Board, as appropriate, adoption of policy documents that develop the meaning of Diakonia's basic foundations and mission and documents that clarify the theological basis that Diakonia works from.
- i. Resolution on an orientation plan and orientation budget for the coming year
- j. Election of a Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson
- k. Election of the remaining Board members
- l. Election of an authorized auditor and a deputy auditor
- m. Election of internal auditor
- n. Election of nominating committee
- o. Proposals by the Board
- p. Proposals for resolutions

At an Extraordinary Annual Meeting, items a, b and c shall be dealt with in addition to the matters that led to the Extraordinary Meeting being convened.

A resolution of the Annual Meeting shall be by simple majority unless stipulated otherwise.

Each Principal shall appoint four representatives, each with one vote.

The members of the Board shall have the right to make statements and proposals but shall not have the right to vote at the Annual Meeting. Others present shall have the right to make statements.

§7 EXTRAORDINARY ANNUAL MEETING

An Extraordinary Annual Meeting shall be convened when the Annual Meeting so resolves or the auditors request one, when the Board decides on one or after written request to the Secretary General by one or both Principals.

§8 THE BOARD

Between the Annual Meetings, the Board is Diakonia's highest decision-making body. The Board represents Diakonia and shall have Diakonia's interests constantly in mind. The Board shall lead the organization as regards ideas and take the initiative for change.

The Board, which has the support of the principals, shall consist of seven to eleven persons. The Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson shall be elected for a term of two years. The other Board members shall be elected for a term of three years. Each year, the required number of Board members to be elected are based on the required number of Board members according to the Annual Meeting's decision.

The duties of the Board: In accordance with guidelines set out by the Annual Meeting on general operational and budget frameworks the Board shall direct the work, submit the Annual Report, decide on persons authorized to sign and the right of attestation, make decisions on the Order of Delegation within the organization and prepare matters that shall be dealt with by the Annual Meeting.

The Board has a quorum when at least half of its members are present.

In the case of a tied vote, the Chairperson shall have a casting vote. In the case of a tied vote with an election, lots shall be drawn.

§9 SECRETARY GENERAL

The Secretary General shall be appointed by the General Assembly after nomination by the Board.

The duties of the Secretary General are to represent Diakonia to authorities and the general public and to lead Diakonia's operations by ensuring that activities are performed in accordance with the guidelines set out by the General Assembly and the Board, and ensuring that the resolutions of the General Assembly and the decisions of the Board are implemented.

§10 NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee shall consist of four members, two from each Principal, and shall be elected at the Annual Meeting. The mandate period shall be two years, with election of two members in year one and two members in year two. Instructions for the Nominating Committee shall be decided by the Annual Meeting.

§11 INTERNAL AUDITORS

There shall be three internal auditors, to be elected at the Annual Meeting. Instructions for the internal auditors shall be decided by the Annual Meeting.

§12 MEDIATION GROUP

In the case of disagreement between the Principals in dealing with issues in the Representative Assembly or Extraordinary Representative Assembly, which might hinder Diakonia's mandate (Clause 4) or activities, a Mediation Group shall be summoned. The Principals shall each appoint one mediator, not the Principals' representatives, who, together with the Secretary General, shall constitute the Mediation Group. The task of the Mediation Group shall be to submit a proposal to solve the disagreement. If four representatives of the Representative Assembly request input by the Mediation Group, it shall be summoned.

§13 ACCOUNTS AND AUDITS

Diakonia's accounts run from 1 January to 31 December. For review of Diakonia's financial administration, the Annual Meeting shall appoint one authorized public accountant and one deputy. With the final audit the Internal Auditors and the Board shall be represented.

§14 AMENDMENTS TO THE STATUTES

Amendments to the Statutes shall require unanimous resolutions by two consecutive Annual Meetings of which one shall be an Ordinary Annual Meeting.

§15 DISSOLUTION

Dissolution of Diakonia requires resolutions by two consecutive Ordinary Annual Meetings. The resolutions shall be unanimous on both occasions. In the summons to both these Annual Meetings it shall be stated that the issue of the dissolution of Diakonia is to be considered.

For the disposal of assets that are related to government grants and other grants that are required to be repaid, separate negotiations shall be conducted with the authority involved.

On dissolution, equity shall be placed at the disposal of international aid and development work as specified in §3 and §4, Diakonia's basic foundations and mandate.