

Dear Colleague,

As board of ReDi – The International Society for the Research and Study of Diaconia and Christian Social Practice – we approach you and/or your institution because you may be interested in our activities. In this letter, we wish to inform you about our Society and its upcoming activities. We are doing this because we want to connect as many people as possible who are professionally involved in the research and study of diaconia and Christian social practice or interested in it.

ReDi was founded in 2011 to answer the need for a network in which all who are interested in the study of diaconia and Christian social practice can exchange information and develop common projects. Diaconia and Christian social practice should be understood in a broad way, including activities of local congregations, Christian based organisations, church organisations and institutions that are involved in work with people facing poverty, illness, handicaps or other material, social, physical or psychological challenges. This includes the political, ethical and societal aspects. Diaconia and Christian social practice, therefore, includes efforts to advocate for social justice and human rights. The study of diaconia is also increasingly interested in ecumenical and interreligious approaches to this field.

ReDi as an organisation is formed by scholars who are contributing to the study of the field of diaconia and Christian social practice and a key place for members to network and meet is at the international ReDi conference, which takes place every two years. ReDi has also a broad interest in the practice and education of diaconia and is, therefore, committed to co-operation with practitioners and organisations. We would like to highlight the following activities:

- A *website* at: [www.diaconiaresearch.org](http://www.diaconiaresearch.org). We invite you to have a look at this website which is intended to give and exchange information. We also invite you to send us information that you want to share with a broader international community.
- The *ReDi Newsletter*. This is sent four to six times a year to our members and contains announcements of coming activities and reports from conferences, new research projects and regional activities.
- *Diaconia. Journal for the Study of Christian Social Practice* is an academic journal closely related to ReDi. It is the only existing international academic journal focussing on diaconia and Christian social practice. Since 2017 it is an Open Access publication, see [http://www.v-r.de/de/diaconia\\_journal\\_for\\_the\\_study\\_of\\_christian\\_social\\_practice/c-3148](http://www.v-r.de/de/diaconia_journal_for_the_study_of_christian_social_practice/c-3148). Have a look at all issues since 2010 at [http://www.v-r.de/en/diaconia\\_journal\\_for\\_the\\_study\\_of\\_christian\\_social\\_practice/m-2/500059/](http://www.v-r.de/en/diaconia_journal_for_the_study_of_christian_social_practice/m-2/500059/). On this website you find also information how to submit articles or reviews.

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## Conferences:

*Stellenbosch* - Please take note of the Africa diaconia & development conference on 'Diaconia community and development: Exploring new theories for social justice and inclusion', which will take place at the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa between 3-5th July 2018. More details will be provided via the website of ReDi, see: <https://www.diaconiaresearch.org/save-the-date-diaconia-development-conference-in-south-africa/>

*Berlin* - the Seventh Biannual ReDi Conference for Research in Diaconia and Christian Social Practice will take place from 14-16th September 2018 in Berlin. The title of the conference is 'Beyond Social Services Towards Justice'. The Anders Bäckström Prize for an excellent Masters thesis in the field of diaconia, religion and welfare will be awarded at the conference for the first time. For more information see: <https://www.diaconiaresearch.org/7th-bi-annual-redi-conference-in-berlin-12-14-september-2018/>

We trust that this letter has provided a good overview of what ReDi is and does. It is important that more people become involved in our work. Therefore, we encourage you to take part in our networking activities and to send information about your work to the ReDi website and the ReDi newsletter. We also invite you – and/or your institution - to become a member. As a member you will receive regular information about current conferences, projects, publications and discourses with regard to diaconia and Christian social practice. By becoming a member you enter a worldwide network of people involved in the research and study of diaconia! The ReDi website provides detailed information about how to become a member of ReDi and how to pay the membership fee, see: <http://www.diaconiaresearch.org/membership>.

If you are interested in more information, please do not hesitate to approach us.

We thank you very much for your attention!

With best wishes,

## The Members of the Board

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