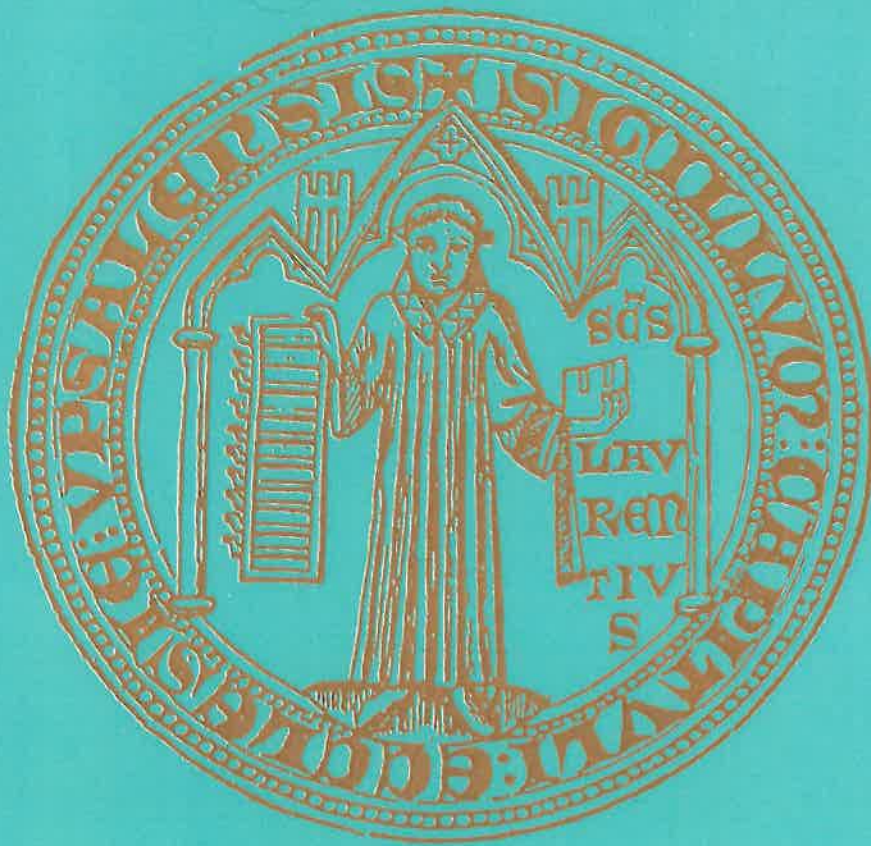


The Ministry of the Deacon



1. Anglican – Lutheran Perspectives

Edited by
Gunnel Borgegård & Christine Hall

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NORDIC ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

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CONTRIBUTORS

Gunnel Borgegård is Director of the Nordic Ecumenical Council.

Sven-Erik Brodd is a priest in the Church of Sweden and Professor of Ecclesiology at the University of Uppsala.

Christine Hall is a deacon in the Church of England and Director of the Bishop Otter Centre for Theology and Ministry, University College Chichester.

Roar Meland is a deacon in the Church of Norway and General Secretary of the Norwegian Association of Deacons.

Terttu Pohjolainen is a deaconess in the Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Finland and a staff member at the Diakonia Institute of Lahti.

PREFACE

The Nordic Ecumenical Council – Nordic Ecumenical Institute – was established in 1940 as an ecumenical council for the five Nordic countries Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. It is older than the World Council of Churches and the Conference of European Churches. It now co-operates with both of them as a sub-regional ecumenical council. Its members are the churches and the national councils of churches within the five countries, including almost every denomination. It deals with the whole range of issues that are dealt with in ecumenical settings and has a long tradition of study and research.

When the conversations which led to the drawing up of the Porvoo Common Statement finished in 1992, the Nordic Ecumenical Council was given the task of co-ordinating the first stage of implementation within the Lutheran Churches in the Nordic and Baltic countries. This culminated in 1996 in the signing of the Porvoo Declaration in Trondheim (Norway), Tallinn (Estonia) and London (England). The signatory Churches were the Church of England, Church of Ireland, Scottish Episcopal Church, Church in Wales, Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Finland, Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Iceland, Church of Norway, Church of Sweden, Estonian Evangelical-Lutheran Church and the Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Lithuania. The Church of Denmark and the Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Latvia did

not sign the Declaration but have continued to be involved and informed.

As the question of ordained ministry was at the heart of the Porvoo conversations, the Nordic Ecumenical Council arranged a series of conferences which explored the ministry of the bishop (Sigtuna, Sweden, 1994), of the deacon (Lärkkulla, Finland, 1995) and of the priest (Järvenpää, Finland, 1996). A fourth conference was held in Liselund, Denmark, in 1997 on the ministry of the laity.

The Anglo-Nordic Diaconal Research Project (ANDREP) grew from the subsequent collaboration of some of those who were present at the Lärkkulla conference on the Diaconate. It started life as a research project set up between academic institutions, namely the Department of Ecclesiology of the Theological Faculty at Uppsala University, and the Bishop Otter Centre for Theology and Ministry at University College, Chichester, to which the Institute of Parish Social Services, Lahti Polytechnic, Finland, and Diakonhjemmet Hospital and College, Oslo, were then added. The Nordic Ecumenical Council agreed at an early stage to co-ordinate the project. Although the project partners had the Porvoo process in mind and hoped very much that their research would make a relevant contribution to the implementation of the Porvoo vision, they did not really know at the outset how interested the churches would be officially in the research which they proposed to undertake.

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¹ See A

² See b

A first meeting of project partners from England, Finland, Norway and Sweden took place in Uppsala in January 1997 and agreed a project plan for a five-year period from 1997–2002. The plan was subsequently approved by the Board of the Nordic Ecumenical Council and received positive encouragement from the Church of England's Council for Christian Unity.

As an international ecumenical research project ANDREP offers a unique opportunity for work on the theology and practice of the diaconate, and the possibility of moving towards the 'common understanding of diaconal ministry' to which the signatory churches committed themselves in the Porvoo Declaration. The Conference of European Churches, the Lutheran World Federation and the World Council of Churches are informed about the project and have expressed their interest in it.

The present volume represents the results of the inventory carried out as phase 1 of the project.¹ As anticipated, the research already undertaken has identified a number of areas on which further work is needed. The research plan for phase 2 of the project (1999–2002) has made provision for this to be undertaken².

During phase 1 of the project, a number of other churches (within and without the Porvoo Communion) expressed an interest in being involved in the research. The Co-Chairmen of the Porvoo Communion Contact Group asked whether it would be

¹ See Appendix A for details.

² See below, *Researching the Diaconate*.

possible for the other Churches of the Porvoo Communion to be involved in the project, perhaps as corresponding members. At that stage, it was not possible to bring the other six signatory churches into the ongoing research. It is very much hoped, however, that they will wish to undertake their own inventories and to contribute further research in collaboration with ANDREP at a later date.

Whilst the contributions in this volume are the work of those who have signed them, the authors are grateful to the following colleagues for reading and commenting on their papers: The Revd Dr Risto Ahonen, Dr. Kari Vappula (University of Helsinki), Deaconess Maija Vehviläinen, (Member of the Diaconate Committee of the Evangelical-Lutheran Church of Finland), The Rt Revd Dr Geoffrey Rowell, Dr Andrew Foster, The Revd Professor Robert Hannaford, The Revd Dr Allan Jenkins, The Rt Revd Barry Rogerson, The Revd Dcn Gunnar Edqvist, The Revd Deacon Ninni Smedberg Roos, Dr Olav Fanuelsen, The Revd Dr Kjell Nordstokke. The research team as a whole is grateful to Dr Kyriaki Karidoyanes Fitzgerald, Orthodox consultant to the project, who gave most generously of her time, comment and encouragement, as the work of phase 1 proceeded.

The members of the Editorial Committee were : Gunnel Borgegard (Chair), Dr Andrew Foster, Deacon Christine Hall and Deaconess Terttu Pohjolainen. The Committee acknowledges its most grateful thanks to Sue Rowley, who provided essential and invaluable professional assistance, analysing the findings of the English survey, doing the final editing and preparing the text for publication.

It is our hope that the present volume will contribute to knowledge and awareness of the diaconate in the churches involved, as they move towards a common understanding. We firmly believe that it also has a substantial contribution to make to the ongoing renewal of the diaconate in the Church world-wide.

Gunnel Borgegård,

Director,

Nordic Ecumenical Council,

Uppsala,

Feast of St Laurence the Deacon, 10 August, 1999.

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Front cover: First Seal of Upsala Cathedral Chapter.
Showing St. Laurence (St Lars). He is holding the Gospel Book and
the gridiron on which he was martyred in 258 and is wearing
the maniple and the dalmatic of a deacon.

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