

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS/PAPERS

THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR THE RESEARCH AND STUDY OF DIACONIA AND CHRISTIAN SOCIAL PRACTICE



2025 SOUTH AFRICAN CONFERENCE HOSTS



REDI CONFERENCE 2025 WELLINGTON, WESTERN CAPE PROVINCE, SOUTH AFRICA

THEME DIACONIA AND CHRISTIAN SOCIAL PRACTICE: CHALLENGING CONTEXTS AND EMERGING TRENDS

The Tenth Conference for Research in Diaconia and Christian Social Practice

1-4 April 2025

Caring for one another is part of being human and has produced different of helping practices in different cultures. One form of helping that is salient for Christianised Western cultures can be seen in organisations where people can receive help in emergencies independently of family ties in the name of loving one's neighbour. These charities are named after the Greek word *diakonia*. Today's Christian diaconal welfare organisations mostly emerged in the 19th century to combat the social consequences of industrialisation in Europe. Christian missionaries spread the concept of *diakonia* to other parts of the world in the wake of colonialism. Thus, manifold traditions of Diaconia and Christian Social Practice have evolved worldwide that noticeably include the many Christian formations that have grown independently from the mainline Christian traditions (e.g., African Initiated Churches, Pentecostal-Charismatic Churches).

Against this background, this Call for Abstracts invites contributions from across the aforementioned wide spectrum of formations and traditions to advance a *global* debate on *diakonia* and Christian social practice. In view of meeting this aim, the call takes account of the fact that "diaconia" may not be the salient concept used in many contexts and that the notion of "Christian social practice" more appropriately incorporates and defines the practices of Christian social care, social welfare and social development prevalent in those contexts.

This call acknowledges and relates to recent encyclopaedic and other related work similarly aimed at advancing a global debate on Diaconia and Christian Social Practice: *International Handbook on Ecumenical Diaconia* (2021); *International Handbook on Creation Care and Eco-Diaconia* (2022); and *Diaconia and Christian Social Practice in a Global Perspective (Religions, Special Issue 2023/24)* (see full references below). Building on this recent scholarly work, the REDI Conference

Call 2025 seeks to further advance a global debate and perspective through paper contributions across a wide scope of thematic, topical and contextual possibilities.

The following topics/tracks serve as a guideline for paper contributions:

1. Diaconia and colonialism: Entanglement and detachment.
2. Diaconia of the marginalised: self-empowerment and self-representation through church-based initiatives towards social responsibility in local Christian social practices.
3. Diaconia, climate change, creation care and the sustainable development goals (SDG) agenda.
4. Expressions of Christian social practice (*diaconia*) in independent (including neo-Pentecostal and Charismatic) Christian traditions and churches / New approaches and practices of the diaconal church.
5. Diaconia and the non-profit sector: questions of diaconal agency and identity in market-related and civil society contexts.
6. Diaconia in dialogue with religion and development (RaD) / Diaconia and religion and development as overlapping expressions of Christian social practice.
7. Diaconia and interreligious or secular collaborations: Challenges and opportunities.
8. Conviviality, diaconia and society: transforming vision and creative practice for life together.
9. Health and healing in diaconal practice: Trauma healing, diaconal health, science, social healing and other practices.
10. Youth agency: Diaconia by, with and for the young people.
11. Diaconia and the *missio Dei*: New thoughts on the relationship between Diakonia and Missiology
12. Practitioners' research: Reflections on diaconal practice

Open Session: Miscellaneous Papers

Papers outside the above scope will be accommodated in separate sessions.

Keywords

- christian social practice
- conviviality
- creation and social care
- decolonialism
- diaconal church
- diaconia of the marginalised
- *diakonia*
- health
- independent churches
- interreligious collaboration
- *missio Dei*
- non-profit sector
- religion and development
- religious-secular collaboration
- sustainable development goals
- young people (youth)

Abstract submissions

Please submit a proposed title and an abstract of 350-500 words summarising your intended contribution. Please also indicate under which topic/track your contribution falls. Please send it to our conference email address: ReDiSAConfe2025@vemission.org.

Completion schedule and dates:

- **Abstract submission deadline:** 31 October 2024
- **Notification of abstract acceptance:** 4-8 November 2024

Who is invited?

In this call, we invite abstracts for the 10th ReDi conference on 1-4 April 2025. Participants from any continent are welcome to submit an abstract; however, since this is the first conference in the Global South, we particularly encourage researchers from the Global South to participate in this conference. We hope that (emerging) researchers, diaconia students and practitioners from many countries will participate in this international exchange event for research and practice-based reflection. The conference's language will be English.

Funding assistance for postgraduate students from the Global South

ReDi also allows students to apply for travel support/funding. Travel costs will partially be subsidised. Masters and PhD students from the Global South in Diaconia or relevant disciplines are encouraged to email us if interested by ReDiSAConfe2025@vemission.org.

Conference Venue

Andrew Murray Centre for Spirituality in Wellington, South Africa. (For more information, see <https://www.andrewmurraysentrum.co.za/home/>)

Conference Fee

Participants are encouraged to become members of ReDi and to attend the conference in person to experience the South African context and flavour with us!

The conference fee is structured as follows:

- €20 for Masters and PhD students of the Global South (ReDi members)
- €30 for Masters and PhD students of the Global South (non-members of ReDi)
- €70 for Masters and PhD students of the Global North (ReDi members)
- €100 for Masters and PhD students of the Global North (non-members ReDi)
- €80 for participants from the Global South (ReDi members)
- €120 for participants from the Global South (non-members of ReDi)
- €200 for participants from the Global North (ReDi members)
- €250 for participants from the Global North (non-members of ReDi)

The following is included in the conference fee: Stationery, transport to and from the airport, excursion transportation, lunches, coffee breaks, refreshments, and two conference dinners. Flight and accommodation costs are excluded.

The conference fee has to be paid when registering. Registration will open on 15 November 2024 until 28 March 2025.

Banking details:

Account holder: HUGENOTE KOLLEGE NPC

Account name: HUGENOTE KOLLEGE NPC

Registration number: 200901462208

Bank name: Nedbank

Branch name: CPT Central Suburbs Metro NCB

Branch code: 198765

Bank account number: 1156056861

Account type: Current Account

SWIFT code: NEDSZAJJ

* When making a payment, use the following as your reference: **ReDi-Initials&Surname**.

* Email proof of payment to finance@hugernote.ac.za and ReDiSAConfe2025@vemission.org.

Conference travelling, transport and accommodation

The nearest international airport to Wellington is Cape Town International Airport. Transport will be provided from Cape Town International Airport to the accommodation/conference venue and back.

Several conference accommodation possibilities are available, including the Andrew Murray Spirituality Center (the venue) and nearby guesthouses. More information about nearby guesthouses will be provided with registration. However, accommodation bookings can now be made at the Andrew Murray Spirituality Center. Contact Derine Piek by telephone at +27218732151 or by email at admin@andrewmurraysentrum.co.za. Or please make an online booking by visiting the webpage: <https://www.andrewmurraysentrum.co.za/contact/>.

Photos of Hugenate Kollege and Andrew Murray Centre for Spirituality



(Above: Hugenate Kollege – Main Building)



(Above: Andrew Murray Centre for Spirituality)



(Above: Chapel of the Andrew Murray Centre for Spirituality)



(Above: Hugenate Kollege Main Entrance)



(Above: Students and staff prayer session)



(Above: The Cross in the Courtyard)

Conference organising team and contact details

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References

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