

Deacons Dreaming... “Hearts on Fire in a New Time”

A Credal Statement from the 18th World DIAKONIA Assembly

The worldwide assembly of deacons and diaconal ministers held in Brisbane, Australia in July 2001 was attended by four representatives of NAAD (See article in the Michaelmas 2001 Issue of Diakoneo, Vol. 23 #5). The conference theme explored the symbolism of fire in our diverse life styles and in our faith. This credal statement is a compilation of thoughts shared by members within the Assembly's 40 different small meeting groups.

The title ‘Deacons Dreaming’ reflects the aboriginal concept of Dreamtime (creation). The aboriginal word for ‘Dreaming’ implies a deep and eternal sense of identity – gifted from the Dreamtime Creator of all life – the Rainbow Spirit (God).

We believe in God, creator and re-creator, awesome mystery and ever present, rock and ground of our life.

We believe in God, wide of heart and full of compassion, gathering us and embracing us in all our diversity.

We believe in Jesus Christ, friend and forgiver, companion and redeemer, one with us in vulnerability, full of grace and kneeling at our feet.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, comforter and disturber, sustaining guide and liberator, exciting, leaping flame of life and sacred space for our dancing.

We affirm our diaconal ministry with thankful hearts.

We celebrate with wonder and joy the safe place of our meeting and in renewal of our passion for service.

In unity and diversity and in humble faith, we commit ourselves again to justice and caring, to seeing the world through the eyes of Jesus and to moving towards the truly inclusive community of a God who makes the impossible possible.

In faith we will face the truth of our times, with its powerful global forces and sweeping new technologies.

In Jesus Christ, we will discern the good and the evil, we will seek the struggling and lost in it all and we will lift up in hope the dignity in the chaos.

We will be the splash which creates the ripples of transformation and which points to the miracles of God.

We believe that Pentecost is renewed every day. The fire of the Holy Spirit will burn within us as the grand passion in the core of our life, sometimes gently flaming from the patient rubbing of the fire sticks, sometimes sparking painfully as we dare to risk the costly friction of coming very near to each other in our diversity, that diversity sometimes given as a gift as we sit warming ourselves and resting by the fire of God.

We believe in the fire of life, which always leaps free of us, surprising and refining, cleansing and consuming, costly burning from the very heart of God, the fire which burns for ever.

