

CODE Forum 2026

Introduction to the Papers and Workshops

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The role of diaconia in a situation of crisis and polarization

The challenge for diakonia today currently consists not only of classic crises such as traffic accidents, natural disasters or terrorist attacks, but also of crises that can be described as “protracted” or “long-lasting” such as Covid-19 pandemic or the war in Ukraine. In the first case, the inspiring response of diaconia is represented by the practice of the Psychosocial Intervention Team Czech Republic or the development of the academic interdisciplinary discipline of Community Crisis. Cooperation in the Czech Republic with an emphasis on community, support for mutual aid, recognition and rituals. The motto here is: “Through the power of disaster to the power of community”. Crisis management is more difficult in the second case by the fact of division in society, churches and families, based on different perspectives on events based on different experiences, values, ways of thinking, and places in society. These crises do not have clear boundaries and a visible end, making it impossible to use classic procedures such as memorial rituals. Christian communities can play an important role here not primarily by what they do, but by what they are: as a space for coexistence, based on deeper roots than political preferences or value orientations.