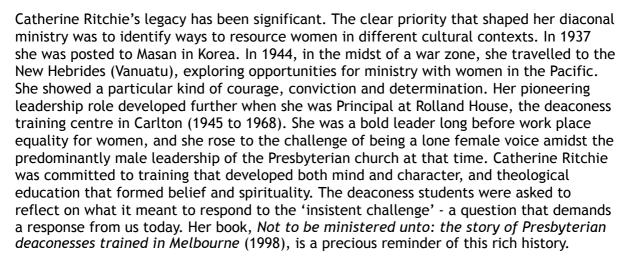
To: Margaret Allan 12 Ridge Road Wantirna South 3152 Vic

Re: Thanksgiving Service, Catherine Ritchie House

Dear Margaret,

On behalf of the Diakonia of the UCA (DUCA), I wish to express gratitude for the life of Catherine Ritchie, and for the Catherine Ritchie House, Mt Martha, and all it has meant over the years to the many Deacons and Deaconesses who have been blessed to use the facilities (and many others who have used the house for retreats).



Today, the service of thanksgiving remembers the house that was acquired as a result of her generous legacy, and which carried the memory of Catherine Ritchie's diaconal ministry. The house has been sold, and that may bring sadness and regret for the loss of the physical property, and perhaps some relief and joy that the house has released funding for new avenues for diaconal ministry in the 21st century. The bricks of the house provided shelter and refuge for many Deacons and Deaconesses, and built a sense of community, but the sale of the property will now enable shelter and refuge and community to be expressed in new ways, including pastoral assistance to those in need. And in its own way respond to the 'insistent challenge' of our time and place.

While I would love to have been able to attend the service of thanksgiving, today is also the DUCA national business meeting for Deacons and Deacon candidates in the UCA, in Sydney, followed by a 2 day Deacons Conference and the Deacon Intensive for candidates.

I send my greetings and prayers to you on this significant occasion, which marks a time of transition for diaconal ministry which honours the past and welcomes the opportunities for new expressions of diaconal ministry.

Grace and peace

Rev Sandy Boyce

Sandy Boyce

DUCA

President, DIAKONIA World Federation