

Africa University Today

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100 Percent Support

Thank you for supporting Africa University through your 100 percent remittance of the Africa University Fund apportionment in 2013. Jurisdiction Total Support and Annual Conferences with 100 percent or more in 2013 (includes 2012 performance).

North Central Jurisdiction	2013	2012
East Ohio	100%	100%
Illinois Great Rivers	100%	100%
Iowa	106.05%	100.57%
Minnesota	100%	100%
West Michigan	100%	100%
West Ohio	100%	100%
Wisconsin	131.68%	169.31%

Northeastern Jurisdiction	2013	2012
Baltimore-Washington	100%	100%
Greater New Jersey	100%	104.69%
New England	100%	100%
New York	100%	100%
Peninsula-Delaware	100%	100%
Upper New York	100%	100%
West Virginia	100%	100%
Western Pennsylvania	100%	100%

South Central Jurisdiction	2013	2012
Central Texas	100%	
Nebraska	99.82%	
Oklahoma Indian Missionary	100%	100%
Southwest Texas	100%	100%

Southeastern Jurisdiction	2013	2012
Florida	100%	100%
Holston	100%	100%
North Carolina	100%	100%
Red Bird Missionary	100%	100%
South Carolina	100.39%	
Tennessee	121.89%	100%

Western Jurisdiction	2013	2012
Alaska United Methodist	100%	100%
Desert Southwest	100%	100%

As Africa University celebrates 22 years of realized dreams, we look forward to your full support in 2014.



- Africa University is located in Old Mutare, Zimbabwe, and is the first fully accredited United Methodist-related educational institution on the African continent, established by action of the General Conference.
- Africa University offers bachelor's and master's degree programs in six faculties of learning: agriculture and natural resources, education, health sciences, humanities and social sciences, management and administration and theology. The Institute of Peace, Leadership and Governance offers post-graduate diplomas and master's programs.

South Carolinians Share About AU Visit



Bishop Jonathan and Mrs. Holston (right) visit with AU partners.

Andra Stevens

Inspired by their experiences during a Jan. 13-20 visit to Africa University, 32 South Carolina United Methodists are eager to increase their conference's support for the institution.

"This journey to Africa University was a wonderful opportunity for our laity and clergy to experience the excitement of international mission and ministry that is so uniquely connected to South Carolina Methodism," said Bishop L. Jonathan Holston, who led the group. "With our conference's support of giving 100 percent to the Africa University Fund apportionment, we join with others across our connection by investing in the hopes and dreams of this visionary institution."

The Rev. John Culp, who serves Virginia Wingard Memorial United Methodist Church, Columbia, S.C., shepherded a resolution during the 2013 annual conference and

solicited several large donations. He initiated the plan for the South Carolinians to visit the university.

The group is eager to share AU's story, Culp said.

"When you leave home, you see so much more of a need to serve others," said Rachel Sistrunk, St. Stephen United Methodist Church, Orangeburg, S.C. She has invested in Africa University for 21 years, helping her church to pay its apportionments in full and contributing second-mile gifts for scholarships.

"I see faces on every dollar that I have placed (at Africa University)," said Jacquelyn Jenkins, conference Lay Servant Ministries director and lay leader of St. Mark United Methodist Church, St. George, S.C. "I want to invest more because I have seen such incredible results."

Longtime conference commitment

"They have a sense of family, community, and hope and joy like I have never seen," added the Rev. Scott Smoak. "I am going back to share and live this more excellent way."

A generous subsidy from the Ethnic Local Church Concerns Committee enabled eight people

to join the group. The ELCC chair, the Rev. Carleathea Benson, said the committee viewed the visit to Africa University as a chance to educate the leadership and invigorate missions in the conference's small-membership churches.

"We just lit a flame," she said, "and together, we are going to look at ways to take this experience of the trip and make it fruitful for South Carolina and for Africa."

The visitors met Pierrette Kibanza, 21, from the Democratic Republic of Congo. Belin United Methodist Church, Murrells Inlet, S.C., joined AU's Usahwira program in August 2013, with a commitment to provide a four-year scholarship for Kibanza. "Usahwira" means "beautiful friendship."

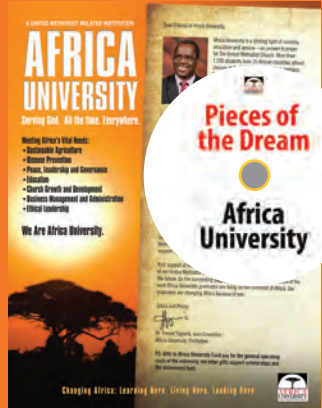
Africa University received its first major cash gift from a South Carolina couple, Dr. Jonas and Mrs. Odette Kennedy. Gifts from individuals and congregations across South Carolina have endowed four scholarships and funded the construction of the Bishop J. Lawrence McCleskey Faculty of Theology building.

—Andra Stevens, director of communications, Africa University Development Office, Nashville, Tenn.



Give Faithfully. Give Hope.

Order a family of resources to help tell the story of the Africa University Fund apportionment:



- Africa University Fund: Pieces of the Dream DVD (600512)
- We Are Africa University (600611)

Order these and other resources from United Methodist Communications by calling toll-free (888) 346-3862.

Hours: Monday - Thursday, 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., Central
Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

For more information, visit www.umcgiving.org or www.infoserv.umc.org.

Learn more about how you can put your faith into action by contacting the Africa University Development Office at (615) 340-7438, audevoffice@gbhem.org or www.support-africauniversity.org.

Visit Africa University's website at www.africauniversity.edu.

Encourage your local church to set a 100-percent apportionment remittance goal! Sending a portion of your goal each month makes it easier to reach full remittance by year's end.

Africa University Fund apportionment receipts from local churches provide the basics necessary to operate the university, such as utilities, equipment and faculty salaries.

Honor your friends or family by sponsoring an Africa University student in their name.



AU Alumni Reflect on Worldwide Mission Lessons

Andra Stevens

In March, the first four Africa University graduates to serve as short-term, young adult missionaries with the General Board of Global Ministries transitioned to assignments in their home countries.

Albert Otshudi Longe, Faida Rachel Bahati and Jacques Kazemb Kambol from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Wuo Christian Zigbuo from Liberia were commissioned in August 2012. They completed half of their three-year term with assignments in Brazil, the Philippines, Switzerland and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

These young leaders, trained at Africa University for the church and the world, describe their international mission experiences as profoundly valuable and transforming.

"I have been moved by a lot of things that I never expected," said Longe, who worked with the Kapatiran-Kaunlaran Foundation, a community development agency in the Philippines that teaches self-reliance and care of the environment.

"I surely have some best practices and lessons that I hope to bring home," he said. "The first lesson being on documenting



Albert Longe (center)

everything done, so we mark the history of our time and share the good work as stories of transformed lives. Secondly, I've learned that it is not just enough to give today but essential to help others move from positions of vulnerability."

Kazemb worked in outreach to at-risk children and youth in Brazil. He now hopes to launch a similar project on the African continent.

"The church has a tremendous role to play in the transformation of the world," he said. "Through a project like the Shade and Fresh Water in Brazil, the Methodist Church is contributing to a positive change in many children's lives. Being part of the Shade and Fresh Water Project ... has shaped my understanding of the importance of accompanying



Jacques Kazemb

children, especially those who are at risk, through their childhood journey by helping them to develop good character."

Both Kazemb and Longe expressed gratitude to Africa University for helping them to discern their call to service.

"I have taken with me a life of service and courage," said Longe. "A life that I saw from all the staff on campus when they went beyond the ordinary to ensure that I had something to eat, a place to sleep, to be safe and to be successful, not just academically but professionally. That AU experience has become my reference point."

Seven Africa University graduates now serve as young adult missionaries. Three more graduates were commissioned in 2013 and assigned to mission outreach in Russia, Brazil and the Philippines.

AU Staff, Alumni and S.C. Conference Address Africa Food Security Issues

Andra Stevens

Unlocking Africa's green revolution was the focus of a seminar held on the Africa University campus in January. Faculty members, partner organizations and alumni of Africa University came together to share ideas for addressing hunger more effectively and improving food security in African communities.

The AU event was inspired in part by the example set by the South Carolina Conference, which led in contributions from annual conferences for Stop Hunger Now. South Carolina United Methodists packed 285,000 meals in just one day, during the annual conference in June 2013. By the end of the annual conference, they had also raised more

than \$145,000 for initiatives to combat hunger.

Noting a shared interest in and commitment to addressing hunger, the university scheduled the Food Security seminar to coincide with the visit to its campus of a 32-person group from South Carolina. The group was led by Bishop Jonathan Holston and included

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Collaboration

continued from page 2

members of his extended cabinet as well as clergy and laity.

As faculty and alumni of AU's college of agriculture shared and outlined local successes in addressing hunger in sustainable ways, members of the South Carolina group said they were impressed by the local expertise and commitment to homegrown solutions. The presenters highlighted ongoing efforts in rural settings and among small-scale farmers. Their successes show that if key challenges are successfully addressed, Africa can indeed feed itself.

Much of the outreach of Africa University's agriculture faculty targets small-scale farmers



AU agricultural students.

and women farmers. It includes sharing cutting-edge research findings with local farmers and helping them to utilize new knowledge, soil testing services, crop and livestock specific knowledge enhancement, and agro-processing courses. The university also offers business skills training and supports agribusiness development

Bertha Mashayamombe, a graduate of AU who now serves as an agricultural extension officer in Zimbabwe, noted that

small-scale farmers want indigenous knowledge to be integrated into training. They are demanding that their perspectives factor in policy making and in discussions around increasing access to credit, inputs and irrigation, and agro-dealer networks.

Through an online survey, other AU graduates shared information on what is happening at the community level in countries such as Malawi, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Zimbabwe. Africa University alumni represent a growing network for strengthening efforts to combat hunger. Alongside faculty and administrators, the alumni committed themselves to active involvement in new and evolving Africa University-led initiatives to enhance food security.

AU Forms Partnership with Paine College



Left to right: Chimwemwe Mwase and Maya Stephens, sophomores at Paine College, Augusta, Ga., and Lacy Denny, a senior at Martin Methodist College, Pulaski, Tenn., participate in a semester student-exchange visit to Africa University.

Barbara Dunlap-Berg

A partnership between Africa University and Paine College, one of United Methodism's historically black colleges and universities, is yielding friendships and collaboration between the two institutions.

Sophomore Maya Stephens is one of two Paine students who studied at Africa University for the fall 2013 semester.

"This is our final week at Africa University and our week for finals," the biology major said. "In my meeting with the directors of the intensive

English program to discuss the BUDDIES pen pal/Google hangout program, I received a lot of encouragement. I think that the students here would definitely love it."

Describing her Africa University experience as "amazing," Stephens added, "I can never thank you enough for making the opportunity available for me."

Chimwemwe Mwase, also a second-year biology student at Paine, said, "Although I am from the neighboring country of Zambia, the opportunity to study in Zimbabwe at Africa University has been wonderful.

"I look forward to talking to my colleagues at Paine College about my experience and encouraging more students to come (to AU). I also look forward to maintaining contact with many students at Africa University through the BUDDIES program."

Tina Marshall-Bradley, Paine associate vice president for academic affairs, said the collaboration would "prove beneficial to students to attend both institutions

(and) have the added benefit of strengthening both institutions.

"I am so delighted to have been afforded the opportunity to work with senior administrators from Paine College and Africa University on this partnership," she said. "Having two Paine College students study at Africa University has not only benefited them, but their engagement with their colleagues at Paine throughout the semester has also enriched the discussions that take place during Honors Seminar.

"I am particularly excited about the proposed project to create 'tech pals' between Paine College students and students at Africa University"

—Barbara Dunlap-Berg, United Methodist Communications

CORRECTION: Our sincere apologies. We regret an error in the Fall 2013 issue of *AU Today*. The photo accompanying the story "AU Graduate Serves as Church and Society Organizer in the Congo" (pages 1 and 2) is that of Glory Mulimba, not Ado Omakinda.

How You Can Help

Africa University continues to be the evidence of faith, hope and belief in the visions of dreamers. We are counting on you! Your church's 100 percent apportionment remittance means 100 percent support of Africa University's operational budget. Consider these additional ways of helping the university to educate new leaders for the nations of Africa:

Planned Gifts – Planned gifts are the foundation for the long-term survival of Africa University. For many, a bequest offers an opportunity to make a more substantial charitable gift than would be possible during one's lifetime. As you make your estate plans, consider leaving a gift to Africa University in your will. If you already have included Africa University in your estate plans, please let us know so we may welcome you to the Richard E. "Dick" Reeves Legacy Society.

Usahwira – This word in the Shona language means "a beautiful friendship." Encourage your local church to become a partner with Africa University by supporting one student at the university for four years. The cost to support one student annually is \$5,400. Local churches may provide full or partial scholarships.

Endowment Fund – Give to the Africa University Endowment Fund (World Service Special Gift #03-01-88). The interest income from the endowment is used to provide scholarships for our students.

Africa University is supported by congregations and individuals across The United Methodist Church. Let's work together to continue the transformation of lives and of Africa.

For more information, please contact:

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Africa University's *Ningen Kokuhō*: The Rev. Dr. Cynthia A. Wilson

Africa University Photo



The Rev. Dr. Cynthia A. Wilson

Japanese culture honors those of its citizenry who have attained high mastery of an art or craft by bestowing upon them the honorific *Ningen Kokuhō*, “living national treasure.” These individuals are certified as preservers of important intangible cultural properties.

The honorific *Ningen Kokuhō* aptly applies to the Rev. Dr. Cynthia Ann Wilson—lecturer, preacher, teacher, conductor, concert artist, and entrepreneur.

Dr. Wilson was born and reared in New Orleans, La., to Mrs. Thelma Wilson and the late Rev. Eli Wilson. “My musical, liturgical, ecclesial, theological, and biblical foundations were established in the context of the Baptist Church,” Dr. Wilson said as she reflected on her childhood. Music was central in her life, and the Baptist Church is where she honed her craft. Dr. Wilson and her

five brothers were the music department in her father’s church, serving as musicians, choir, and choir directors.

Dr. Wilson earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in music education with a specialization in vocal technique from Dillard University; her Master’s of Sacred Music degree with specialization in vocal technique and conducting from Perkins School of Theology; and her Ph.D. in liturgical studies from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary where she currently serves as assistant vice president of student life and dean of students.

Dr. Wilson established Free Indeed Ministries International in 1987 as a recording/production label to enable her to take control of her extraordinary musical gifts, thus allowing her to record the kind of music that resonated with her Christian beliefs and that made sense for her vocal range. Over the past 27 years, Free Indeed Ministries has expanded beyond its initial musical focus to include teaching, preaching, consulting, and mentoring throughout the continental United States.

Dr. Wilson has been on this journey with

Africa University since the summer of 1992 when she was first introduced to James H. Salley, the institution’s newly hired associate vice-chancellor for institutional advancement. Since that time, she has performed more than 100 fundraising concerts for the institution, raising in excess of \$2 million.

She said that her most memorable fundraising concert was held at Carnegie Hall in 1998. The concert was sponsored by the New York Annual Conference under the leadership of Bishop Ernest Shaw Lyght, and the evening was hosted by the late actor, poet, playwright, and social activist, Ossie Davis.

“I have hope that the extraordinary leaders who have been raised up from Africa University will take their rightful places at the helm of government, education, commerce, health care, and agriculture across the continent,” she said. “I have faith that their leadership will bring about the kind of change that will serve to rekindle a flame that will not destroy, but that will burn brightly in the hearts and minds of African peoples.”

—Elaine Jenkins,
AU Development Office