

**AFRICA UNIVERSITY REPORT  
2018 YELLOWSTONE ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Africa University enjoyed a banner year in 2017, thanks to the local congregations of The United Methodist Church. United Methodists throughout the connection held special celebration events marking Africa University's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. These efforts brought Africa University's progress and ministry contributions to the forefront, allowing congregations to reaffirm their commitment to the institution's mission.

The university community—students, faculty, administrators and support staff, trustees, and alumni—is thankful to the Yellowstone Conference for investing 100 percent of its asking to the Africa University Fund (AUF) in 2017. Thank you, Yellowstone United Methodists. This is a significant milestone that took extraordinary effort, generosity, and commitment to achieve.

A record number of annual conferences—35—achieved or exceeded their 100 percent investment in the AUF. The strong support of the Yellowstone Conference helped the Western Jurisdiction to celebrate an overall investment of 100 percent to the AUF for the first time.

As Africa University embraces emerging opportunities for service within and beyond the church in Africa, the ongoing support of the Yellowstone Conference is crucial. It is the university's prayer that the members of the conference will work diligently to establish a tradition of investing to the AUF and other general church funds at the level of 100 percent.

**Institutional Update:**

- Currently, Africa University hosts a campus community of 1,417 full-time students and faculty and staff from 31 African nations. In addition, 392 students are pursuing degree programs on a part-time basis.
- Africa University's annual operating budget of just-under \$10.5 million prioritizes student access and retention, with more than \$2.2 million in scholarships and financial aid awards disbursed in 2017.
- Amidst a transition in the governance of Zimbabwe, lectures, research, and outreach activities at the Africa University campus are continuing without interruption.
- A new academic structure and the realignment of programs is encouraging innovation and enhancing Africa University's relevance to The United Methodist Church and to sub-Saharan Africa. The recently-launched Institute of Theology and Religious Studies offers multi-disciplinary training and leadership formation opportunities for both clergy and laity.
- Researchers at Africa University are providing critical data on mosquitos and regional malaria control programs to aid Africa's efforts to eradicate malaria and other insect-borne diseases.
- Through teaching and research, Africa University is making trailblazing, regional contributions in migrant and refugee protection, child rights, and the harnessing of intellectual property for development.
- The first 25 years of AU's ministry have produced more than 8,000 graduates who are leading efforts to make disciples, alleviate poverty, improve global health, and better the quality of life in communities across sub-Saharan Africa.

The Yellowstone Conference's engagement with Africa University represents hope and transformation for young women and men who are answering the call to meaningful discipleship. On June 9<sup>th</sup>, Africa University will add more than 600 new graduates to the ranks of its alumni. Your graciousness through the AUF has given these young people a pathway to new possibilities and they give thanks to God for you.

Thank you, Yellowstone Conference, for your foundational role in the Africa University story. Thank you for being a part of this incredible year of blessings. May God bless and keep you always in an abundance of grace and mercy.

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*Thank you for giving faithfully to the*  
**AFRICA UNIVERSITY FUND APPORTIONMENT**  
*at 100 percent*  
*Yellowstone Annual Conference*



**2017**

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Serving God. All the time. Everywhere.

