

AFRICA UNIVERSITY REPORT - 2017 YELLOWSTONE ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Africa University ended 2016 poised to celebrate its Silver Jubilee and eager to embrace new opportunities for transformative ministry over the next 25 years.

The university community acknowledges, with heartfelt gratitude, the faithfulness and generosity of the Yellowstone Conference in helping Africa University to realize its mission. We thank the Yellowstone Conference for investing 90 percent of the asking to the Africa University Fund (AUF) apportionment in 2016.

In 2016, the Western Jurisdiction made its most generous investment in the AUF to date — 99.70 percent — and came within \$456 of the goal of 100 percent across the board. Overall, the AUF achieved a high level of support within The United Methodist Church last year. A total of 34 of the 56 United Methodist annual conferences in the United States invested 100 percent or more of their asking to the AUF.

The ongoing support of the Yellowstone Conference is of vital importance to Africa University. On the occasion of the 25th anniversary, we invite the individual members, congregations and districts of the Yellowstone Conference to celebrate Africa University. After all, much of the credit for the university's progress and impact goes to local congregations, such as those of the Yellowstone Conference, who are committed and who give selflessly.

Please encourage your congregation to remain steadfast and aim to invest 100 percent of its asking to the AUF and other general church funds in 2017. Engage in a season of daily prayer for Africa University. Join Africa University's honorary alumni association. Consider hosting a special "AU@25" event or an Africa University Sunday in your local church or area. Use your event to increase awareness of Africa University's ministry and invite attendees to each give \$25 each in honor of the 25th anniversary.

Great things are on the horizon for Africa University in the next quarter century. Your Africa University is continuing to evolve and serve by:

- Restructuring its academic units in order to remain relevant and provide a broader-based education to meet new demands in the African workforce.
- Providing leadership formation experiences and learning for more than 1,400 full-time students each year. *Contrary to the norm for African higher education institutions, women represent more than half of the student body.*
- Generating new knowledge and capacity to support peacebuilding and to improve food security, human rights, and leadership for the African continent.

Thanks to your generosity, the dream of the global United Methodist Church is alive in the contributions of the Africa University's 7,000+ graduates. More than 90 percent of these graduates are still in Africa, serving communities in 32 countries. Currently, more than two dozen Africa University graduates are missionaries in Africa, Latin America, Asia and Europe, under the auspices of the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM).

Without Africa University, “I am sure that I would not have the mental maturity and spiritual growth that I have now,” said Albert Wakili, an AU graduate who is a Global Mission Fellow. Wakili is currently serving as a youth and children’s worker at Blanchardstown Methodist Church in Dublin, Ireland, one of the newest and most ethnically diverse congregations in Irish Methodism. Wakili plans to return to Nigeria later this year, when his two-year term with the GBGM ends.

Thank you, Yellowstone United Methodists, for your unwavering witness in response to the call to faith, hope, and transformation in the world. We pray that blessings continue to abound for all who lead and serve in disciple-making ministry in the Yellowstone Conference.

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