

## AFRICA UNIVERSITY REPORT TO THE UPPER NEW YORK CONFERENCE

In 2015, the Upper New York Conference returned its investment in the Africa University Fund (AUF) apportionment to the 100 percent level, with a year-on-year increase in giving of 41 percent. This substantial upsurge in giving to the AUF, coupled with the strong support for the ongoing \$2 million *Africa360* campaign, assure that the local congregations of the Upper New York Conference will continue to save and transform lives through Africa University.

Thank you, Upper New York Conference, for planting seeds of hope and transformation through your prayers and gifts. As one of a record 32 annual conferences to give 100 percent or more in 2015, the Upper New York Conference's outstanding generosity helped the Northeastern Jurisdiction to exceed 100 percent in overall support for the AUF.

**Institutional Update:** Africa University focused on the quality of life and success of its students in 2015. As a result, new development strategies are being implemented and academic programs are being restructured to make them more relevant and marketable. By 2020, full-time enrollment is projected to grow by 60 percent (to about 2,500 students annually). A new strategic plan, (2017-2021), is in development and will assign resources more effectively, while ensuring that fiscal responsibility and accountability are maintained. In addition, the university is increasing its friend-making and fundraising efforts in Africa, particularly among its graduates and their families.

**Enrollment:** Currently, Africa University has a total enrollment about 1,500 full-time students who represent 26 of Africa's 54 countries. Through intentional recruitment to increase the number of African women leaders, 53 percent of the students are female. An additional 770 students are gaining new skills and knowledge as they pursue undergraduate and graduate degrees on a part-time basis.

**Alumni:** In June 2015, Africa University awarded degrees to its largest graduating class to date, 674 young people. The university has more than 6,200 graduates, dispersed across the continent and engaged in vigorous efforts to improve public health, food security, peace, stability, and the enjoyment of economic prosperity in Africa. Africa University graduates are leaders and role models who inspire a new optimism in the communities where they serve.

- **Alfred Zigbuo**, a Liberian graduate, is a Global Ministries-supported missionary and administrator in the East Congo Episcopal Area. He brings experience as the country director of Operation Classroom and expertise in post-conflict healing/institution-building in Liberia to his new mission field, a recently formed and conflict-ravaged annual conference.
- **Clare Paidamoyo Katiyo**, a young mother who earned a degree in health services management with a United Methodist Church scholarship, is the district administrator

overseeing a network of four large hospitals and 37 health centers in rural Zimbabwe. Her skills and commitment have placed her on the frontlines of an ongoing national effort to improve health and save lives.

- **Pastor Mujinga Mwamba Kora** is a lecturer and registrar of Kabongo Methodist University; and the **Rev. Dr. Kimba Kyakutala Evariste** is the president of Kabongo Methodist University, in the Democratic Republic of Congo. They are two-time graduates of Africa University and represent a growing number of alumni who lead United Methodist higher education institutions on the continent of Africa.

The United Methodist Church benefits greatly from the leadership of Africa University graduates at the general church level.

- The **Rev. Manuel João André** of West Angola and the **Rev. Daniel Mhone** of Malawi, serve as board members of the United Methodist Boards of Church and Society, and Global Ministries, respectively; the **Rev. Dr. Laishi Bwalya** of the Congo Central Conference, serves on the Connectional Table; and the **Rev. Dr. Kimba Kyakutala Evariste** of North Katanga, is the secretary of the Standing Committee on Central Conference Matters.

The ongoing support of local churches in the Upper New York Conference, and across The United Methodist Church, is crucial to Africa University's ministry and its impact within Africa.

Africa University's strategic plan for 2017-2021 calls for a significant increase in the proportion of self-funded students and for achieving a 60:40 ratio of international to national students within the next three to five years. To do this, the university is working to add more on-campus student housing and recreational facilities. Scholarships remain crucial to ensuring access to an Africa University education. The scholarship endowment of \$1 million that is currently being raised in the Upper New York Conference will open doors for financially disadvantaged students for many years to come.

**Call to action:** Please pray without ceasing for Africa University. Make an individual or church gift to the ongoing Upper New York Conference's **Africa360** campaign. Remember Africa University in your will. Remain resolute in the work of making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. As you journey with Africa University, know that you are part of a ministry that equips Africans to grow the experience of God's promised abundance across the globe.

*Submitted by:*

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Serving God. All the time. Everywhere.**