

## **AU @ 24+ - TALKING POINTS**

### **January 2016**

Africa University approaches the celebration of 25 years of impactful ministry as a relatively young but very vibrant United Methodist Church-related institution.

Currently, Africa University has a total enrolment of 1,394 full-time students who represent 25 of Africa's 54 countries and all of the United Methodist Central Conferences in Africa.

Thanks to an intentional focus on access to education for women, more than half of the students (51%) are female. This is twice the average for higher education institutions in Africa.

AU's commitment to women's empowerment in Africa is being strengthened through the Girl Child Scholarship Fund, which was launched in April 2013. Recognizing its trailblazing efforts, African corporate and civic leaders are working to give Africa University more funds to enroll, educate, and nurture females from economically disadvantaged backgrounds.

Africa University graduates number around 7,000. They are dispersed across the continent and engaged in critical efforts to improve public health, food security, peace, stability, and the enjoyment of economic prosperity in Africa. AU graduates are in the forefront of articulating contextually-appropriate and sustainable responses to continental challenges.

Africa University has grown and developed because of the:

- Holy Spirit-guided vision shared across Africa and within the worldwide church;
- Faith-filled commitment and action by the people called United Methodists;
- Steadfast investment by friends and partners within and beyond the United Methodist Church.

Why should you and your local church continue supporting AU?

1. Africa University's efforts are very closely aligned with the four areas of mission focus of the UMC, and the institution is immensely effective in advancing the denomination's global mission: To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

- Across Africa, graduates are in key leadership roles in the church, government, the business sector and civil society.
- Through its graduates, AU has evolved into the cornerstone institution for United Methodist-related efforts on the continent of Africa and is a crucial feeder system for human capital to nurture a new generation of leaders and transform communities.
- AU graduates are in the forefront of evangelization, church-planting and church growth in Africa.

2. Through AU, The United Methodist Church honors its Wesleyan roots and values: active personal faith, social justice, connection, and global concern.

3. The United Methodist Church benefits from leadership skills and gifts of AU graduates at the general church level.
4. The transformative impact of AU is not limited to the church but is also tangibly underpinning the work of governments, businesses and non-governmental organizations.

Looking ahead...

Across Africa, there is renewed optimism/confidence and African nations are seizing the opportunity to chart a new course for the continent. More than half of the 1.1 billion people living in Africa are under the age of 19 years. It is the youngest continent, population-wise.

Leaders with the ethical grounding, knowledge, pan-African network and passion for service that Africa University inculcates are profoundly important to the changes that are underway in Africa. And, across sub-Saharan Africa these graduates are standing out as leaders and role models and inspiring a new generation. Students will keep coming because our “Cross and Flame” is a beacon of hope and opportunity.

Investment in AU produces excellent results and continuing that investment means that The United Methodist Church will produce a growing number of effective disciples and tangible positive change. Your investment goes into:

- Scholarships for students—especially for orphans and females—who are hard-working and socially-engaged but have no way to pay for a university education on their own;
- IT and distance learning capacity so that more students can learn where they live;
- Expert faculty, research and teaching resources;
- More housing and recreation facilities on campus to continually enhance the quality of life of students on the campus; etc.

Africa University contributes the knowledge and leaders for the work of making disciples of Jesus Christ and realizing more equitable, peaceful, healthy and prosperous communities.

The university matters because a relevant and holistic education generates a living legacy that changes everything. You and the UMC have answered a call to witness through this transforming ministry. It should not be abandoned while it is still growing and striving to reach its full potential.

Invest and help Africa University to continue as a springboard for future generations of global leaders.

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