

Africa University

James H. Salley, President and Chief Executive Officer, Africa University (Tennessee) Inc.
& Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement, Africa University

United Methodists worldwide celebrated an ‘Ebenezer’ moment in the ministry of Africa University in 2022, marking 30 years of faithfulness, generosity, growth, and impact within and beyond The United Methodist Church.

God’s presence and provision in the life of Africa University are evident, thanks to the prayers and generous support of the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference. Thank you! In 2022, the Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference invested 83.68 percent of its share of general church giving to support the day-to-day operations of Africa University. At 83.7 percent overall in 2022, giving to the Africa University Fund (AUF) remained resilient in all five jurisdictions of The United Methodist Church in the United States.

Supported by Tennessee-Western Kentucky United Methodists and members across the denomination, Africa University embraced new opportunities as it emerged from pandemic-related restrictions in 2022.

- **Enrollment:** Africa University achieved a total enrollment at 2,791 students in August 2022. Female students comprised 58 percent of the student population and 23 African nations were represented.
- **Academic Growth:** Africa University launched its first new academic unit in almost twenty years—The School of Law—with a pioneer cohort of 20 students pursuing the Bachelor of Laws (Honors) (LL.B.) degree program. Five new undergraduate and graduate programs are currently being implemented with the approval of the Zimbabwe Council for Higher Education (ZIMCHE), the national accreditation and quality assurance agency.
- **Infrastructure expansion:** A new residence hall for female students at Africa University is under construction, funded by the \$1.5M East Ohio Conference’s *Teach * Reach * Bless* campaign. At completion, the facility will boost the available on campus housing for students to 1,200 beds.
- **Outcomes:** 712 graduates from 18 African countries became Africa University alumni in June 2022. The university’s almost 11,000 graduates to date are making vital contributions as clergy, educators, agriculturalists, health professionals, entrepreneurs, and innovators. Faculty and students are addressing endemic challenges such as malaria and tuberculosis, food insecurity, and climate change, and gaining significant international support for their efforts.

Africa University’s year-long 30th anniversary program culminated in October 2022 with a gathering of more than 3,000 people at its main campus in Mutare, Zimbabwe. Amidst the commemoration and joyful thanksgiving livestreamed to the world, the Rev. Dr. Peter Mageto was installed as the fifth vice chancellor (president) of the institution.

Mageto, a Kenyan and academic specializing in theological ethics, echoed the gratitude of the students, faculty, staff, trustees and alumni of Africa University for the many answered prayers represented in the Africa University story. His inaugural address highlighted the optimism and commitment to purpose that drive the university’s unfolding vision.

Thank you, Tennessee-Western Kentucky Conference, for nurturing change leaders and building an enduring legacy through the ministry of Africa University. Let us continue to journey together—learning, leading, and serving God, all the time, everywhere.