

Africa University

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4 Chairperson/Leader: Dona Lou Imler, Chairperson
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7 Africa University in Mutare, Zimbabwe has a new interim Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Fanuel Tagwira,
8 as Dr. Murapa has retired after ten years of service. Dr. Tagwira was the first agricultural
9 professor hired in 1992 and has served well.
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11 Scholarships for students are still urgently needed. Each of our Conference districts has chosen
12 an African nation to receive a scholarship, except Huntington, willing for it to go to any African
13 country.
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15 Calumet District to a student from Nigeria
16 Ft. Wayne District to a student from Sierra Leone
17 Huntington District to a student from Africa
18 Kokomo District to a student from Sierra Leone
19 Lafayette District to a student from Liberia
20 Marion District to a student from Sierra Leone
21 Michiana District to a student from Liberia
22 Muncie District to a student from Uganda
23 Warsaw District to a student from Zambia
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25 Our 25 year involvement in the Operation Classroom education of Liberia and Sierra Leone
26 students is reflected in the wish to send some of those worthy students on to Africa University.
27 Over 29 different countries have been represented since the school's inception. Enrollment today
28 stands near 1300. The Pan-African student experience of getting acquainted with other African
29 cultures, languages, and histories is creating an invaluable learning for all which will have long
30 lasting influence across the continent for decades to come.
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32 This year, six full scholarships have been funded from four N IN districts. Other districts have
33 contributed at least half toward the needed \$5200 per year for tuition, room, board, and fees.
34 Individuals or churches have also funded scholarships separately. First year students and those
35 from countries in Africa, other than Zimbabwe, are often the recipients of this support.
36 Educating students makes a difference in their personal lives now, but in the long run, it will
37 make a difference in the lives of many persons in the areas where they will eventually live and
38 work.
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40 During 2007, churches in the conference gave \$53,453 to Africa University (in addition to
41 apportionment payments) including \$29,683 in scholarships.
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43 Work teams visited Africa University in June and October, 2007 under the leadership of Bonnie
44 Naas and Tim Grace, both from the Trinity UMC of Plymouth, Indiana. All participants felt a
45 deep blessing for what they had learned and experienced from the fervent prayers and the deep
46 faith of African Christians.

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2 The Small Farm Resource Committee sponsored one Amaranth/AU dinner in Culver, IN. Dick
3 Dugger met with "best cooks" of seven UMC churches in his district for three months
4 experimenting with amaranth in recipes, devising new ones, tasting the results and developing a
5 unique fellowship. The grand finale was a delicious dinner with each menu item containing
6 amaranth, for over 100 people. An excellent Power Point presentation on subsistence farmers
7 in Africa, AU campus, and information about amaranth was included. Some African songs were
8 learned under the tutelage of Rev. Christian Kakez-A-Kapend. Amaranth is one of the highest
9 grains in fiber content, nutritional content and high protein digestibility that boosts the immune
10 system.

11
12 Dr. Tagwira, previous Dean of Agriculture at Africa University, has proposed to the University,
13 development of a Small Farm Resource Center to serve agricultural needs of the small plot
14 farmer. The Center would provide demonstration and training in the planting of nutritional
15 gardens, thus promoting health and nutritional values. Dr. Tagwira points out that 1/3 of the
16 diseases on the continent are related to poor nutrition.

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18 Dr. Martin Price, former director of ECHO, in Ft. Myers, FL retires this summer and will go as a
19 volunteer to Africa University for several weeks to work with faculty, students and farmers.
20 This will be a great boon. Proceeds of the Lesh Fund last year was given to this endeavor as a
21 natural fit for the donors' interest in agriculture and education.

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23 Wesley Foundation at Purdue University this year has had Rev. Christian Kakez-A-Kapend as
24 their AU theological intern. He has spoken to many churches in the conference as well as
25 serving musically and ministerially on campus. He will enter graduate school this fall at Drew
26 University hoping to return as a professor in AU's Theology Faculty.

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28 Work and planning with our committee have provided a meaningful way to become involved
29 with Africa University in transforming lives, ours and theirs. Thanks be to God!