

Africa University Report to the 2019 Florida Annual Conference

Africa University thrives in ministry because of the steadfast support of the local congregations of The United Methodist Church. The students, faculty, administrators, trustees and graduates are immensely grateful to the members of the Florida Conference for prioritizing Africa University and its ministry with an investment of 100 percent of your 2018 asking to the Africa University Fund (AUF) apportionment.

In sowing so generously and consistently into the Africa University Fund, the Florida Conference honors its foundational role in the establishment and growth of AU's ministry. The students, faculty and staff value every gift. They are especially humbled by the sacrifices made to enable the Florida Conference to maintain its tradition of 100 percent support for the AUF. The ongoing support of the local churches of the Florida Conference affirms the university's core mission of nurturing leaders who help people to know Jesus Christ and to experience peace, sustainable livelihoods, food security and abundant health.

Institutional Update:

- Africa University remains a top choice for African young people who are seeking a relevant and life-changing educational experience. In 2018, Africa University enrolled more than 700 new students and maintained an overall enrollment of around 2,000 students. There were 25 African countries represented in the student body. Women made up 53 percent of the student population, which is almost twice the average for African higher education institutions.
- Throughout 2018, Africa University weathered the challenges of Zimbabwe's depressed and uncertain socio-economic environment with creativity and prudence. The university delivered teaching, learning and community service activities of high-quality without interruption, while also renewing and expanding its infrastructure. Key enhancements in 2018 included the refurbishment of three residence halls for women students and the full implementation of an ERP software system to integrate and manage all facets of the university's operations.
- For the first time in five years, there is new construction on the Africa University campus thanks to a 25th anniversary gift from Highland Park United Methodist Church in Dallas, TX. In December 2018, work began on the foundation for a new residence hall. The university subsequently broke ground for the construction of phase two of its Student Union and Cafeteria building. Both projects are progressing well and are expected to be fully in use by August 2020.
- With conflict, poverty, and the impact of climate change persisting as the key drivers of food insecurity and the rise in internal displacement, migration, and refugeehood in Africa, the university consolidated its position as a trailblazer by offering new graduate training and research opportunities. Africa University has also continued to provide scholarships for refugee women so that their

experiences, talents and ideas are integrated into the search for sustainable solutions.

- Africa University delivered critical data for reducing malaria deaths in southern Africa and controlling the spread of insect-borne diseases world-wide. AU's insectary—a laboratory for rearing and studying live insects, such as mosquitos—shares its findings through the Southern Africa Centers of Excellence for Malaria Research. This data informs regional policies, practices and malaria control efforts.

Africa University is deeply indebted to the members of the Florida Conference for their prayers and support, which sustain its ministry. Thank you, Florida Conference, for all that you have invested in mission and ministry through Africa University over the past 27 years. The impact of the generosity of the local congregations of the Florida Conference is a shared story of transformation, hope and realized dreams. As Africa University and the Florida Conference move forward together in missional engagement, we trust in God's unending grace for the increase.

Submitted by:

James H. Salley

Associate Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement

Africa University Development Office

jsalley@gbhem.org

615.340.7438