

Africa University Report

Grace and peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ.

Thank you to the congregations of the East Ohio Conference of The United Methodist Church for your faithful and gracious support of Africa University. In 2025, East Ohio Conference congregations generously invested at 100 percent in the Africa University Fund.

That level of steadfast commitment makes a real difference in forming disciples who love boldly, serve joyfully, and lead courageously across Africa and around the world. Among them are 12 students from four African countries, preparing to serve as agriculturalists, business professionals, medical laboratory scientists and social workers, thanks to East Ohio Conference endowments at Africa University. In addition, ten refugee women are embracing new possibilities for themselves and their families as they progress through college with the support of local congregations and individuals in the East Ohio Conference.

2025 was a year of robust growth and momentum for Africa University (AU). In June, AU graduated its largest class ever—622 students from 20 African countries. In August, the university welcomed its most diverse incoming class, with students from 30 nations. They study in four colleges, a law school, and two institutes on a modern, fully debt-free campus built for learning and community.

2025 highlights:

- A self-funded solar power plant now supplies 100 percent of AU campus electricity, easing pressure on Zimbabwe's national grid and benefiting nearby communities. The plant is saving Africa University close to \$250,000 a year in electricity costs.
- A new collaboration with the United Nations University Institute for Water, Environment and Health advances research in food security, sustainable agriculture, and environmental resilience. Faculty and graduate researchers are developing evidence-based responses to climate stress, water insecurity, and agricultural vulnerability—equipping communities to adapt and thrive.
- An expanded partnership supporting applied research with The United Methodist Church's Global Ministries agency focuses on at-risk agriculture and malaria prevention, strengthening rural communities.
- In partnership with United Methodist Communications, AU is training African church communicators in digital engagement and media strategy—strengthening the Church's witness across diverse contexts.
- AU's School of Law moot court team earned the honor of representing Africa at the World Round of the Price Media Law Moot Court Competition in the United Kingdom in 2026.

Africa University's growing impact is directly connected to your generosity. As this quadrennium continues, Africa University urges every congregation in the East Ohio Conference to maintain AUF support at the 2016 budget level and work toward 100 percent funding each year. AU also encourages churches to consider becoming a "Keystone Congregation" by committing \$7,000 annually in direct

scholarship support for one undergraduate student—and walking alongside that student with prayer and encouragement throughout their degree journey.

Africa University remains a living expression of our worldwide connection. Your continual engagement is pivotal. Because you pray, East Ohio United Methodists, leaders are called and formed. Because you give, research advances. Because you believe in Africa University, hope expands across nations.

Thank you for standing with AU in 2025. Together, we are shaping a generation equipped to lead Africa—and the Church—into a resilient and faithful future.

James H. Salley

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