

Resolution to the Global Young People's Convocation and Legislative Assembly on the Continuation of Africa University, Zimbabwe.
29 December 2006

Whereas, the Africa University initiative formally began by inspiring address delivered by Bishop Emilio de Carvalho of Angola at the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the United Methodist church in October 1984: and

Whereas, Bishop de Carvalho was joined by Bishop Arthur Kullah of Liberia, Bishop F Herbert Skeete, then President of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and Bishop Felton E May, then President of the General Council on Ministries, and other members in discussion the educational needs of Africa and ways the denomination might respond to this challenge: and

Whereas; the Africa Central Conference of the United Methodist Church asked the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the General Board of Global Ministries to assist then in developing significant post- secondary institutions of learning for the churches of Africa: and

Whereas, in St. Louis, Missouri, the 1988 General Conference of the United Methodist church overwhelmingly approved the establishment of a university on the continent of Africa to be built in Zimbabwe and authorized an apportionment of \$10 million over a [four-year](#) period and an additional \$10 million to be raised through the World Service Special Gifts: and

Whereas, the official ground breaking ceremony for the University occurred on site at Old Mutare in 1991, and Africa University opened in 1992 with two faculties and forty students representing six nations on the African continent: and

Whereas, Africa University's enrollment reached a significant milestone in 2006 with its student population reaching 1,300 representing 22 African nations; and

Whereas, the number of faculties has grown from two in 1992 to six in 2006.

Whereas, in February 2003, the Africa University launched its Institute of Peace, Leadership and Governance with an initial enrolment of 15 students, each of whom earned a Master's degree in Peace and Governance (MPG): and

Whereas, 2,317 Africa University Alumni have been deployed across the African Continent in fulfillment of the University's mission to train new leaders for the nations of Africa – new [leaders](#) like Walter Manyangarirwa, who was in the first graduating class of Africa University and who is now a leader in the field of study of fungi, viruses, bacteria and other plant diseases and Reverend Almeda Lemba of Angola who serves As a member of the Board of Directors of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry; and

Whereas, Africa University is the only private institution of higher learning on the African Continent that may fly the international flag of the United Nations; and

Whereas, Africa University has been called one of the great success stories of Christian Missions in the world today by Millard Fuller, founder and President of [Habitat for Humanity](#) International; and

Whereas, in the year that the United Methodist Church is celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the ordination of women, the gender ratio of student body is 53% female and 47% male; and

Whereas, Bishop Daniel [Wandabula](#) of Uganda was elected to the Episcopacy on 28 May 2006, during a meeting of the denomination's Africa Central Conference on the Africa University campus in Zimbabwe; and

Whereas, Bishop Eden Nhiwatiwa of Zimbabwe and Bishop David K. Yemba of the Democratic Republic of Congo, both founding members of The Faculty of Theology were both elected to the Episcopacy while serving in that faculty; and

Whereas, the support and enthusiasm of the United Methodist world-wide of Africa University are demonstrated in the apportionments remitted annually, the second-mile giving, and contributions from churches and individuals for the Africa University endowment fund; and

Whereas, The Global Young People's Convocation and Legislative Assembly calls upon each local church in the annual conference to pay the full Africa University apportioned line item and give generously to the Africa University Endowment Fund; now therefore

Be it resolved, that The Global Young People's Convocation and Legislative Assembly meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa affirms that Africa University is a dynamic and important mission project of the United Methodist Church; affirms the leadership of all those involved in the continuing development and day to day operations of the University, commends the Africa University Board of Directors and Advisory Development Committee for their persistence, diligence and visionary leadership in overcoming the obstacles and barriers to fulfilling the dream.

Be it further resolved, that the Global Young People's Convocation and Legislative Assembly calls upon the 2008 General Conference to make Africa University a priority and to allocate an apportionment of \$10 million over the four period and an additional \$10 million to be raised through World Service Special Gifts to continue development, construction and endowment of Africa University as outlined in the planning process determined by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the Africa University Board of Directors.