

Resolution for Africa University, 23 February, 2011

Whereas, the Africa University initiative formally began by the 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 Kulah of Liberia, Bishop F. Herbert Skeete, then President of the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, Bishop Felton E. May, then President of the General Council on Ministries, and other members in discussing the educational needs of Africa and ways the denomination might respond to this challenge; and

Whereas, the African Central Conferences of The United Methodist Church asked the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry and the General Board of Global Ministries to assist them 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 World Service Special Gifts; and

Whereas, the official ground breaking for the university occurred on site in Old Mutare in 1991, and Africa University opened in 1992 with two faculty 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 1,123 representing 22 African nations; and

Whereas, the number of faculties has grown from two in 1992 to eight in 2006 with the ninth faculty opening in the fall of 2006; and

Whereas, in February 2003, Africa University launched its Institute of Peace, Leadership and Governance with an initial enrollment of 15 students, each of whom will earn a Masters degree in Peace and Governance (MPG); and

Whereas, 3,300 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 Manyangawirwa, who was in the first graduating class at Africa University and who is now a leader in the field of study of fungi, viruses, bacteria, and other plant diseases; 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 the Late Millard Fuller, founder and president of Habitat for Humanity International; and

Whereas, the gender ratio in the student body is 49.6% female and 50.4% male; and

Whereas, Bishop Daniel Wandabula of Uganda was elected to the episcopacy on 28 May, 2006, during a meeting of the denominations’ Africa Central Conference on the Africa University Campus in Zimbabwe; and

Whereas, the support and enthusiasm of United Methodists worldwide for Africa University are demonstrated in the apportionments remitted annually, the second-mile givings, and contributions from churches and individuals for the Africa University Endowment Fund; and

Whereas, each local church is called upon to pay the full Africa University apportioned line item and give generously to Africa University Endowment Fund, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the General Conference affirm that Africa University is a dynamic and important mission project of The United Methodist Church; affirm the leadership of all those involved in the continuing development and day-to-day operations of the university; and commend 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; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the 2012 General Conference make Africa University a priority and allocate an apportionment of \$10 million over a four year 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.

By Africa University Development Committee
Bishop Ernest S. Lyght, Chairperson
23 February, 2011