



The African Pulse

January - April 2024
Issue 11



Churches in Africa together for life, peace, justice and dignity

The African Pulse

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The African Pulse is published periodically by the All Africa Conference of Churches as an information, educational and advocacy channel for the ecumenical movement in Africa.

AACC is a continental ecumenical body that accounts for over 200 million Christians across the Continent and a member of the world wide ecumenical network. It is the largest association of Protestant, Anglican, Orthodox and African Indigenous Churches. AACC has 210 members comprising Churches, National Councils of Churches (NCCs), Theological and Lay Training Institutions, and other Christian organizations in 43 African countries.

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Message from the General Secretary



...and let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful...

Colossians 3:15

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, and thanks be to God for all the work that has led to the production of this 11th issue of the African Pulse. This issue highlights AACC's work throughout the first four months of 2024, a period that marked the beginning of our journey of implementing the AACC strategy 2024-2028. We are grateful to God for the milestones reached so far.

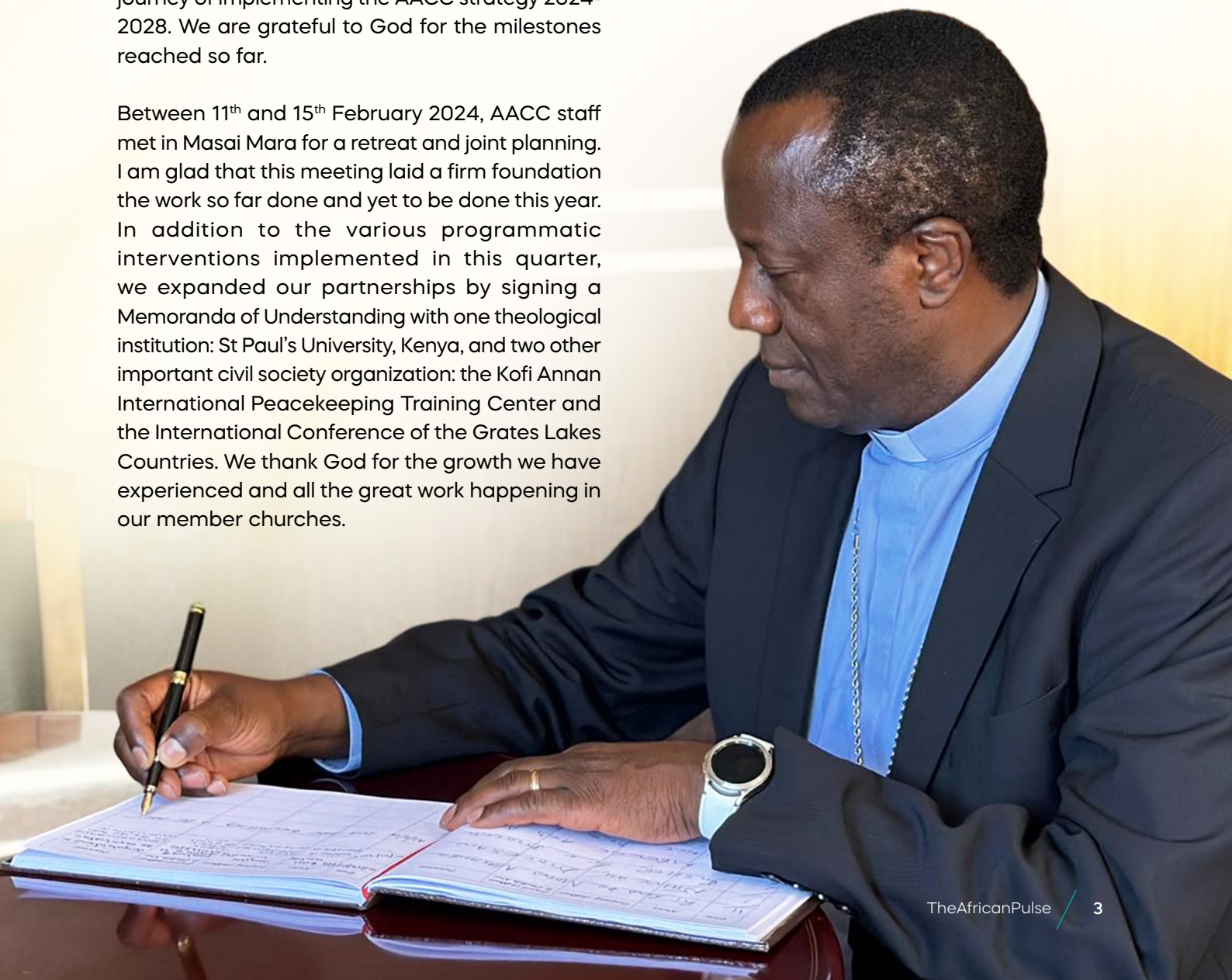
Between 11th and 15th February 2024, AACC staff met in Masai Mara for a retreat and joint planning. I am glad that this meeting laid a firm foundation the work so far done and yet to be done this year. In addition to the various programmatic interventions implemented in this quarter, we expanded our partnerships by signing a Memoranda of Understanding with one theological institution: St Paul's University, Kenya, and two other important civil society organization: the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Center and the International Conference of the Grates Lakes Countries. We thank God for the growth we have experienced and all the great work happening in our member churches.

I had a tremendous experience visiting the churches in China, at the invitation of the Amity Foundation. It is the first step in building mutual relations with Chinese Churches which are growing fast.

I sincerely appreciate the staff with whom we work to ensure that the AACC fulfills its mission in Africa and I pray that you will be blessed as you read this issue.

I invite you to have a glimpse of the very commendable work done by the AACC.

Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki, AACC General Secretary



01 ►



General Secretariat

Ms. Ann Kioi and
Ms. Evelyne Okunda

AACC Staff Meet for Self-evaluation and Joint Planning

All AACC Staff gathered at the Masai Lodge in Nairobi Kenya from 12th - 16th February 2024 for their annual planning retreat. During this time, the staff took a moment off from their normal routines and duties to spend time together as they evaluate their work and performance throughout the year 2023, celebrate the achievements realized, and also plan for the future. While leading the opening devotion, Brian Muyunga, AACC's Executive Youth Secretary encouraged the staff to consider the retreat as a time for them to know each other better such that they could love one another more deeply to serve a team determined to grow and excel together.

The retreat was facilitated by the AACC General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki. In his opening remarks, he appreciated the staff for their teamwork

and professionalism, and congratulated them for all the milestones reached in 2023, including the successful 12th General Assembly. In a special way, he appreciated Rev. Dr. Lydia Mwaniki who will be retiring from the organisation in August 2024, having successfully completed her nine years tenure at the AACC.

On the last day of the retreat, the staff participated in the inception meeting of the Churches Campaign Against Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) in Africa, and closed their meeting by launching the 2024 Activity plan that they had agreed upon.



AACC Staff Attended SIDA Training on Results Based Management



From Left to right; Anysie, Phyllis and Ann holding their certificates of participation after the training on 29th February 2024. Looking on are the Course trainers Andreas and Nora from Sida.

A ACC staff namely *Phyllis Brewah*, Director for Finance and Administration, *Ann Kioi*, Executive Secretary, Programmes Development and Fundraising Officer and *Anysie Uwimana*, Executive Secretary, Quality Assurance and Compliance attended Results Based Management (RBM) Revisited: Planning

for the Unforeseen Training organized by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) Partnership Forum from January 15th to February 29th 2024. The training was done virtually for the first six weeks and culminated with an in- person training from 27th to 29th February at the SIDA Offices in Härnösand - Sweden.

This course strengthened AACC staff capacity and improved their ability to apply results-based and adaptive management in project and programs in their work.

AACC staff joined other participants from different development organization such: UN Agencies (UNAIDS, UNFPA and UNICEF), Civil Society, Faith Based organizations and other recipient of Sida funds such as the Swedish Police and the Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute.



Group Photo of Participants at the in person training inside the training room at SIDA Offices in Härnösand - Sweden.

This course strengthened AACC staff capacity and improved their ability to apply results-based and adaptive management in project and programs in their work. The course was primarily designed as an introduction to results-based and adaptive management and looked at how to perform a problem analysis, apply adaptive management to your planning process, draft a theory of change and monitor your project.

The purpose of the course was to strengthen development actors' ability to plan, implement, monitor and follow-up programs and projects in a flexible way focusing on results and effects, rather than activities which was very timely for AACC work.

After the training participants were able to:

- **Analyze cause and effects of the problems**
- **Outline how change is expected to happen**
- **Explain how to plan for flexibility**
- **summarize key factors to consider when selecting monitoring methods.**
- **Certificates issued**

After the training in Härnösand, AACC staff took time to visit Church of Sweden Head Office in Uppsala where they held bilateral meetings with staff from Act Church of Sweden East Africa Regional Team.



From Left to Right; Anyisie Uwimana, Sofia Olsson – Act CoS, Phyllis Brewah and Ann Kioi at Act CoS office in Uppsala, Sweden.

AACC Mourns the loss of its 5th General Secretary Rev. Dr. Jose Belo Chipenda

Rev. Dr. Jose Belo Chipenda was the 5th General Secretary of the AACC serving from 1987 – 1998. His visionary leadership inspired AACC members to significantly increase their contributions to the Conference through initiatives aimed at rescuing the organization from its financial crisis then. During his time as General Secretary, AACC launched a fundraising campaign “One Member, one Dollar Initiative” that facilitated the completion of the construction of the AACC headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya in 1992.

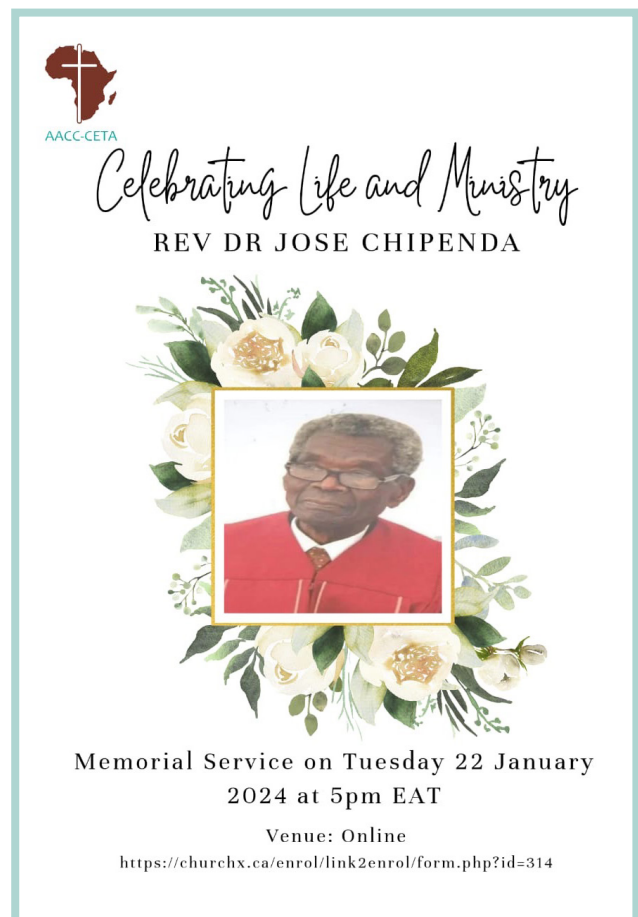
In mourning the demise of this distinguished African theologian, the AACC General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki reached out to the AACC Fraternity with a message of condolence part of which read, *“It is with a heavy heart and gratitude to God that I notify the AACC family and friends on the death of The Rev. Dr. Jose Belo Chipenda, the 5th General Secretary of the ACCC that occurred on Wednesday, 10th January 2024 in Sherbrooke, Canada at the gracious age of 95 years.”*

Rev. Dr. Mwombeki described the late Rev. Dr. Chipenda as an accomplished African Ecumenist whose legacies are indelible within the ecumenical movement globally and Africa in particular.

During a 157-minute online service held on 22nd January 2024 to memorialize Rev. Dr. Chipenda’s life and witness, ecumenical leaders from across the world celebrated the fruits of his labors for Christian unity, Freedom, and Peace. During this service, the life-touching tributes from friends; describing Rev. Dr. Chipenda’s love for humanity and commitment to justice, were punctuated with testimonies about his outstanding mentorship skills from prominent church leaders who credited their success in career and ministry to his positive touch on their lives.

“He was always concerned about the spirituality, education, and development of youth and women,” expressed Rev Deolinda Teca; former AACC vice president.

During the memorial service, AACC eulogized Rev. Dr. Chipenda as a role model whose accomplishments inspire several African young ecumenists to offer their lives, gifts, and resources for the growth of the ecumenical movement in Africa and the continent’s sustainable development under AACC’s campaign; Africa: My Home. My Future.



The image is a memorial service announcement for Rev. Dr. Jose Belo Chipenda. It features a central portrait of Rev. Dr. Chipenda, an elderly man with glasses wearing a red clerical robe, framed by a decorative wreath of white and yellow flowers. Above the portrait, the text reads "Celebrating Life and Ministry" in a cursive font, followed by "REV DR JOSE CHIPENDA" in a simple sans-serif font. In the top left corner, there is a small logo of a map of Africa with a white cross, labeled "AACC-CETA". Below the portrait, the text states: "Memorial Service on Tuesday 22 January 2024 at 5pm EAT", "Venue: Online", and provides a URL: "https://churchx.ca/enrol/link2enrol/form.php?id=314".

AACC General Secretary's Courtesy Visit to the Churches in China

The AACC General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki visited China to from 9th to 15th April 2024 to express AACC's solidarity with the Chinese Community. He was accompanied by Ms. Evelyne Okunda, AACC's Executive Officer in the office of the General Secretary. The AACC delegation was invited to China and hosted by the Amity Foundation. During their visit, the delegation paid a courtesy call to China Christian Council (CCC), the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA), the Young Women Christian Association (YWCA), and several other Church communities such as the Three-self Movement, sharing experiences and learning about the expressions of Christianity in China.

The delegation visited Nanjing Union Theological Seminary; the flagship theological seminary of Protestant Christianity in China and learned about the tremendous developments that have happened in the institution over time. "We yearn for more theological collaboration between Africa and China." Noted Rev. Dr. Mwombeki.

The General Secretary attended a worship service at St Paul Church, Nanjing, a vibrant church that normally holds 6 worship services a week with regular attendance of over 2000 believers.

"A visit to Amity Printing Company was more than inspirational. We thank God for the great work they are doing for the Kingdom of God worldwide. Thanks, Chairman Qui, General Secretary Ling, our dear friend Vivian, and the Company's General Manager for such an impressive tour and sharing. We commit to further cooperation." Expressed the General Secretary.

"The Amity Bakery in Nanjing is a marvelous diaconal ministry. It is true, every human being deserves dignity at their level, and this is a great example of enabling dignified life for people with disability." He shared. Run by Amity Foundation, the Bakery supports people with mental challenges to attend vocational training, build confidence and capacity for their families to improve their living standards and quality of life.

"I learnt a lot about the growing Chinese church, the freedom the churches have and their desire to be an authentic Fellowship of Christian believers." Noted Rev. Dr. Mwombeki. "We in Africa find similarities in our priorities and would want to develop a closer relationship with the Chinese churches" he continued, appreciating Chairman, Rev. Xu, and the other church leaders who welcomed the AACC to China.



AACC delegation With the Chairman, Mr. Qiu Zhonghui and the General Secretary, Ms. Ling Chunxiang, of Amity foundation in their office.



AACC delegation visiting the Amity Printing Press

Interview with the AACC General Secretary

Interviewer: Greetings GS and welcome back from China.

GS: Thank you very much indeed.

1. Since its foundation, AACC has never had any mission to China, what then inspired your courtesy visit there?

AACC has been having contacts with Amity Foundation, which is a humanitarian organization serving churches in China. Amity Foundation extended the invitation to us, with a goal of exploring how churches in China can work with churches in Africa. There is so much exchange between Africa and China on several areas, including political, economic, social spheres but not much between churches. We wanted to explore how this could also emerge.

2. It is widely believed that Christians form part of the minority groups in China. How was your experience coming from continental where the church is vibrant and expanding at a steady rate?

That is true; Christians are one of the minority groups in China but we were very surprised to see how this minority group is vibrant and growing so fast. We were told that there are currently twenty-two seminaries in different parts of China. There is a great need for trained theologians as there are many congregations starting in many places. Where we worshipped in Nanjing on Sunday, the congregation has six pastors who hold six services on two days (Saturday and Sunday). The attendance on the two days is more than 2,000 people! Indeed, the church is growing there, despite the fact that there can be no evangelism initiatives as we see in other countries.



The AACC GS with the Chairman of the China Christian Council Rev. Xu Xianhong

3. How is the Church in China organized?

After the cultural revolution in 1949 when missions were expelled, there are two organizations which jointly form officially recognized Protestant Church in China. The first is the National Committee of the Three-Self Patriotic Movement of the Protestant Churches in China (TSPM) meant to help the church wipe away foreign influences and make Chinese church patriotic. The second is the China Christian Council (CCC). These two oversee the Protestant church all over the country and are the ones which represent the churches globally. They are represented in provinces and even lower levels.



We did not see oppression, but we saw order and regulation which does not affect only Christians but all religious and civil institutions.

4. What was your impression of the Church and State relationship in China? Is it true that churches operate under oppressive government policies?

The church organizations are overseen by the government respective department. I think this is not only in China where government oversees religious institutions. We did not see oppression, but we saw order and regulation which does not affect only Christians but all religious and civil institutions. We were told how in several provinces the land for construction of churches is being donated by the governments in local states and even receiving some form of support. However, it is not “free-for-all” or “anything goes” as we see in African countries where sometimes one finds dozens of churches without proper regulation. The same applies when starting a business, or a professional activity: There are vetting mechanisms and one needs to follow regulations. As it relates to churches, the Three-Self Patriotic Movement of the Protestant Churches in China and the China Christian Council play a major role in vetting everything related to churches. Should Africa borrow a leaf from this, to some extent?

5. Thank you GS. In one of your Facebook posts, you noted that AACC is interested in collaborating with churches in China in theological formation and other areas. How would such cooperation look like and how would it impact on the AACC members?

We will have to see. For example, I intend to invite one person to share with us the China experience on the role of government in regulating religious institutions at our Symposium on Misleading Theologies in October 2024 which will address the same theme. I proposed to them to invite some of our best African scholars as exchange professor at the Nanjing Union Theological Seminary.

So far they have exchange speakers from America, Europe and Australia apart from other Asian countries.

6. How would a mutual accompaniment between the African Churches and the Christian communities in China look like?

Amity Foundation has already started implementing several development and diaconal services in some African countries. We as AACC also received financial support from Amity Foundation during COVID-19 pandemic. More could happen in the future through churches but we will have to ask the Chinese churches what they need from Africa.

7. GS, there is an influx of Chinese in Africa and China is now emerging as one of Africa’s key development partners. In your view, how is this impacting on Africa’s sustainable development.

That is a broader question. What is clear is that China is developing very fast in all aspects and Africa is happy to build links with China. The trend is not easy to stop and honestly, even those who are used to caution us about China, they are themselves so tied to China that their caution cannot be quite credible. Where in the world is the place where China’s economic influence is not felt?

Any further comment on the visit?

Yes. I am deeply grateful to the Amity Foundation, especially its Chairman Mr. Qui Zhonghui and our contact person Ms. Zweng Wei (Vivian) for their constant interest and commitment to Africa. The level of hospitality we experienced was remarkable. We were overwhelmed by the love and complete respect accorded to us. The numerous conversations we held, the different aspects of the life in China and the church experiences opened up our eyes to see genuine friendship. Of course, we must mention the excitement of visiting the Bible Printing Company where most of the Bibles in Africa are printed, and not only Bibles, as I also saw the hymnal of my own church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania had just come out of the press. Amazing. I look forward to continued cooperation.



Theology and Interfaith Relations

Rev. Dr. John Ngige Njoroge

AACC Launches a Master of Theology in Ecumenical Leadership

For the last 60 years AACC has accompanied its members throughout the continent. One of the key areas of accompaniment has being in Theology and Interfaith Relations. This is underpinned within its agenda for promoting inter-generational learning and mentorship of young theologians within Africa and beyond. This has been achieved through Theological Institutes and Annual Theological Symposia on Addressing Contextual Misleading Theologies among other AACC's programmes.

As AACC continues with the inspiration and enhancement of its theological contribution to the African Christianity and beyond, there is a need to produce present and future leaders who can lead African churches and institutions ecumenically. In feeling this gap AACC in collaboration with St. Paul's University (Limuru - Kenya), has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for a one-year accredited Master of Theology in Ecumenical Leadership Degree (MTEL).

In equipping God's servants for works of diakonia and ecumenical leadership (Ephesians 4:12), the Master of Theology in Ecumenical Leadership degree will deepen students' knowledge and leadership skills in national, regional and global ecumenical contexts. Objectively, the MTEL programme will ground students to expound forms of leadership in the contemporary ecumenical movement, profoundly, involve students to discuss leadership approaches in response to emerging contextual theologies in Africa, passionately, model students to practice leadership in ecumenical contexts, root students to examining roles of ecumenical organizational leadership for sustainable development in Africa and promote students to apply contemporary leadership skills in ecumenical organizations and churches in Africa and globally.

Typically, the programme has both core and elective course units designed to cover specific areas of leaders such as biblical, global and ecumenical, interfaith and organizational, ethics and contextual theologies, mission and evangelism, creation care and eco theologies, change and conflict, project management and research. Professionally aiming at producing all-round leaders within the continent and globally, the MTEL programme invites interested applicants to study at the serene, conducive and continental Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation (MEF) located in Kitwe – Zambia.

In its commitment to successful learning for the students, AACC is providing both partial and full scholarships for bright but needy students. Churches and Faith-based Organizations are invited and encouraged to also contribute to the programme by offering scholarships to prospective students.



AACC General Secretary and St. Paul University Vice Chancellor signing the MoU.

AACC Participates in CWM Symposia on Spirituality, Politics and Polities



Rev. Dr. John Njoroge in (robes) AACC- Ececutive Secretary for Theology and Interfaith Relations among other participants.

A ACC in its determination to expand its theological spectrum has reached out to other key partners through strategic collaborations. Through this collaborations and partnerships AACC contributes to the global theological conversations beneficial to the human person and the rest of God's creation. Such collaborations are with the Council of World Mission (CWM), which from 24th – 28th March 2024 organized a symposium on spirituality, politics and polities (states). The symposium was organized in partnership with the Institute for the Study of Culture and Christianity (Belgrade, Serbia).

The symposium brought together fifteen (15) theologians, political scientists, scholars, and practitioners from eight (8) countries including Bosnia, Croatia, Greece, Kenya, Montenegro, Russia, Serbia, and the USA. Among this were representatives from two ecumenical partners namely: Conference of European Churches (CEC) and AACC.

Remarkably the symposium created a platform for critical conversations on the emancipatory political theology in the context of orthodoxy in the modern times. This being the first time of such a



symposium in a predominantly orthodox country, with its rich liturgical tradition as well as political challenges like other Balkan countries, participants did self-reflection on Orthodox tradition and its political theology.

This resulted to identifying and analyzing the relevancy of orthodox spirituality and political theology in response to the contemporary issues such as the role of the laity and women in the church, the connection between various aspects of Orthodox theologies and liberation theology; and their relevancy in the ecumenical contexts. Interestingly, the symposium prompted the participants to broaden the conversation beyond the mission of the church in political debates and policy formation; to addressing sensitive questions of Christianity, politics and church-state relations. Moreover, focusing on broadening the orthodox horizons to the inclusion of orthodoxy in the diaspora and Africa that are reshaping the orthodox missions today.

Refocusing on the inclusion of the diaspora and Africa in the political and church-state relations underlined the importance of the symposium to the CWM, orthodox fraternity and ecumenical partners like AACC. Rev. Dr Graham McGeoch, CWM Mission Secretary of Discipleship and Dialogue, observed that the conversations during the symposium are ones that are not only important to the Orthodox but also for the Protestant context. He said, *“Conversations like this open up new ways of looking at Orthodox Christianity, ecumenical dialogue, and political theology.”*

Fr. Dr. John Njoroge an orthodox priest from Kenya and executive secretary for Theology and Interfaith Relations at AACC observed that; such conversation in the orthodox context are unique but mostly relevant in our modern times, where theologians need to go beyond theologizing to practicing political theology through advocacy, selfless-lobbying and diplomacy.

We are grateful to CWM for extending its missional endeavors to the orthodox, who have profound theological tradition and rich experiences in church - state relations beneficial to the world Christianity. Inviting AACC to be part of this conversation demonstrates the cognizance of the presence of orthodox voices on the continent that affirms the role of church and, moreover, the need for her active involvement in policy formulation and advocacy for just political systems that promotes justice, peace, reconciliation and human dignity.



Conversations like this open up new ways of looking at Orthodox Christianity, ecumenical dialogue, and political theology.



Peace in Africa

Rev. Charles Berahino

Deepening partnership and accompaniment for peace in South Sudan



Participants in the 2024 ENSS Annual Global Meeting Nairobi, 1 February 2024

As the convener of the Africa Hub of the Ecumenical Network of South Sudan (ENSS), the AACC participated in the annual global ENSS meeting of all partners accompanying churches of South Sudan. The gathering took place at Desmond Tutu Conference Center (DTCC) in Nairobi-Kenya from 31st January to 2nd February 2024. Thirty-six participants came together to reflect on the role of the church during the transition period in South Sudan. They deliberated on how the South Sudan Council of Churches and ENSS can be more useful to the people of South Sudan at this critical time in the history of the country.

The discussions focused on strengthening the institutional mechanisms of the church as well as the council secretariat's advocacy programs and strategies. Participants also discussed contextual socio-political challenges that continue to be an obstacle to a credible and peaceful transition. Partners and South Sudan church constituency renewed their commitment to the mission of peace and stability of South Sudan.

AACC Signs MoU with the ICGLR



Signing of the MoU by the top executives of AACC and ICGLR, Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki and Ambassador João Samuel CAHOLO, Photo by KTN

The AACC and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) signed an MoU to solidify their partnership in peace and reconciliation, democracy and good governance, sustainable population, and development, economic stewardship and accountable management, climate change and ecological stewardship and other crosscutting issues like gender, women and youth development.

This took place at the AACC headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya on 14th March 2024. As a follow up to the signing, three AACC staff travelled to Burundi and were received at the Secretariat of ICGLR. On 27th March 2024, they engaged with a team of ICGLR staff led by the Deputy Executive Secretary, Ambassador Yasir Ibrahim Ali Mohammed. The two sides exchanged on programmatic work undertaken by the two organizations to get an idea of what can be done in the implementation of the MOU signed in Nairobi. A task force was put in place to draft concrete plans.





AACC's visit to Burundi

Photo of the team, at ICGLR offices in Bujumbura-Burundi, March 27, 2024.

Photo by ICGLR Communication office

A ACC staff were led by the Director of Programmes; Rev. Dr. Lesmore Ezekiel in visit to Burundi where they held fruitful engagements with 16 church leaders and the Council of Churches in Burundi on deepening the commitment to building peace in the country and the great lakes region.

They had ample time to discuss the socio-political landscape and context of the great lakes region and the diplomatic relations between Burundi-Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).



Photo of church leaders participating in the consultation, Bujumbura, City Hill Hotel, March 26, 2024. Photo by CNEB

04 ►



Economic and Ecological Justice

Dr. Tinashe Gumbo

AACC Participates at the UNEA 6

The United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) is the world’s highest-level decision-making body for matters related to the environment which sets priorities for global environmental policies and international environmental law. Understanding these challenges and rehabilitating our environment is at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the African Union Agenda 2063. UNEA 6 ran from 26th February to 1st March 2024 at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) head offices in Nairobi, Kenya on the theme, **“effective, inclusive, and sustainable multilateral actions to tackle climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.”**

AACC participated in UNEA 6 through the Secretariat and three African Faith Actors Network for Climate Justice (AFAN-CJ) members from Kenya. The delegation attended several side events and official sessions of the Assembly. The AFAN-CJ members participated as speakers at the side event that AACC held in collaboration with the African Council of Religious Leaders - Religions for Peace (ACRL-RfP), Laudato Si’ and others. The participation allowed AACC to remain visible at key international strategic platforms and share its perspectives on creation care.

The UNEA 6 connected AACC to new partners such as the ACRL for future collaborations on climate justice initiatives. The side event that was held by AACC and partners was entitled “Harnessing the Power of Women of Faith and Interfaith Youth for Environment Multilateralism in Building Resilient Food Systems in Africa: Climate Finance, Faith-Based Solutions and Interfaith Collaboration.”



Harnessing the Power of Women of Faith and Interfaith Youth for Environment Multilateralism in Building Resilient Food Systems in Africa: Climate Finance, Faith-Based Solutions and Interfaith Collaboration.

**6TH UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SIDE EVENT**

UN environment assembly

Theme:
Harnessing the Power of Women of Faith and Interfaith Youth for Environment Multilateralism in Building Resilient Food Systems in Africa : Climate Finance, Faith-Based Solutions & Interfaith Collaboration.

JOIN US : 📅 Date: March 1st 🕒 Time: 09:30am-11:00am EAT 📍 Location: Green Room Hybrid Event

Mr. Gabriel Labbate
Head of the Climate Mitigation Unit, Global Team Leader of the UN-REDD Programme,
Panelist

Ms. Ashley Kitisiya,
Fossil Free Campaigner for Africa, Laudato Si Movement
Panelist

Dr. Sh. Hassan Kinyua
Vice Chairperson- Africa Faith Actors Network for Climate Justice
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Ms. Merylene Chitharai,
Representative, Africa Interfaith Youth Network
Panelist

Mr Benson Makusha
Co-chair, AIYN/ Pan African Coordinator- IYCS
Panelist

Ms. Patricia Mumbua
Land Champion, Africa Faith Actors Network for Climate Justice / AACC- CETA
Panelist

Ms. Lydia Ndinda
Program Officer-Environment ACRL-RfP
MCS1

Mr. Jimmy Obuya
Deputy Director of Programs Coordinator, Religions For Peace
Moderator

Religions for Peace AACC/CETA LAUDATO SI' MOVEMENT African Council of Religious Leaders Religions for Peace

AACC and Partners' Poster for Side Event at UNEA6

AACC Embarks on Climate Justice Advocacy and Missional Engagements in Addis Ababa

AACC AFAN-CJ members from Benin, Cameroon, Kenya, Christian Aid, and the AACC held productive engagement meetings in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 20th to 21st March 2024.

The AFAN-CJ met with the African Union Commission (AUC) and the Ethiopian Minister of Environment. Ethiopia currently holds the chairmanship of the African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN). The delegation also engaged the Civil Society Forum in Ethiopia to formally introduce the AFAN-CJ to key institutions and advance specific advocacy issues related to climate justice.

Proposals were made for strategic collaboration between the AFAN-CJ and the AUC within the existing AACC-AUC cooperation framework. Additionally, a similar framework between the Ethiopian Ministry of Environment and the AFAN-CJ (Ethiopia Chapter) was suggested.

The two-day mission allowed the AFAN-CJ to interact with several other stakeholders including development partners, and the faith community. The delegation also paid courtesy visits to AACC member churches in Ethiopia as well as the leaders of the Muslim community. At each site visited, the delegation planted trees as a show of commitment to creation care by the AACC.



AFAN-CJ Members After the Meeting with the African Union Commission in Addis Ababa.

Photo by AU Communications Team



Stakeholders at the Children SDG Forum. Photo by EchoChangers Official Photographer

AACC Officiates at Children's SDG Forum in Nairobi

On 23rd March 2024, AACC partnered with the EcoChangers Initiative to hold a Children's Forum on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at St Mary's School in Nairobi. The objective was to create a platform to sensitize children and share simple sustainable practices that will assist them to actively participate in the implementation of sustainable development goals.

Dr. Tinashe Gumbo, the AACC Programme Executive for Economic and Ecological Justice, officiated the installation of the children as SDG

Champions and also shared the work of the AFAN-CJ linking it to the SDG discourse. The initiative resonates well with the AACC's approach of working with schools, churches, and other institutions in the promotion of climate justice. The event was characterized by panel discussions and presentations from students, teachers, and other stakeholders from the Civil Society who also attended the event.

AFAN-CJ Amplifies Media Engagements on Climate Justice

AFAN-CJ was hosted by KTN on 2nd April 2024 during the TV show dubbed “Planet Action” where the network shared its work, vision, and the key advocacy issues it is currently pursuing. Dr. Tinashe Gumbo, the AACC Programme Executive for Economic and Ecological Justice and Dr. Sheikh Hassan Kinyua Omari, the AFAN-CJ Vice Chairperson represented the AACC. During the TV show, they elaborated on the rationale for the formation of the network, its composition, and accomplishments to date.

Dr. Tinashe described AFAN-CJ as a multifaith network made up of religious leaders from African countries who believe in climate justice. The network is driven by the zeal to influence climate justice discussions at national, continental, and global levels from a theological, moral, and ethical perspective.

They also indicated that the network is motivated by its theme “*The Welfare of the Earth is Our Welfare*”.

The poster features a large photo of Dr. Tinashe Gumbo on the left. To his right is a red graphic with the text: 'ktn News Get The Whole Story', 'PLANET ACTION with Denis Aseto', 'TONIGHT TUESDAY 2ND APRIL 8:00PM', and social media handles for #FactsFirst, KTNNewsKenya, KTNNewsKE, and KTNNews. Below this is the title 'AFRICA FAITH ACTORS NETWORK FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE'. At the bottom are two smaller photos of guests: Dr. Tinashe Gumbo (AACC PROGRAM EXECUTIVE) and Dr. Hassan Kinyua Omari (AFAN-CJ VICE CHAIRPERSON).

Marketing Poster for AFAN-CJ TV Show Capturing the Photos of Dr. Tinashe Gumbo and Dr. Hassan Kinyua Omari.



Youth

Brian Muyunga

Alternative Mining Indaba 2024



AACC delegates at AMI 2024

Created by Faith-Based and Civil Society Organisations concerned about the social injustices prevalent and perpetual in the African Mining Industry, the Alternative Mining Indaba (AMI) convenes annually in Cape Town to mobilize stake holders to address the economic injustices affecting the African continent.

Over the past two decades, AMI has successfully grown into a space for engagement with policy makers including African Union (AU) structures, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and National Governments. The platform emphasizes critical, joint, and comprehensive monitoring of extractives industries by host countries, and most importantly host communities with the support of CSOs to safeguard preservation and care for creation for future generations.

Three members of the All Africa Youth Network (AAYN) joined AACC's Champions for Economic Justice to participate in the AMI which took place between 5th and 11th February 2024 in Cape Town, South Africa. The theme was, *"Energy Transition Minerals - Putting communities first for an Inclusive feminist Future."* The participants emphasized the relationship between climate and economic justice, and challenged churches to lobby for Progressive and Pan-African economic policies in the mining sector.

"Participating at AMI has made me understand how the illicit flow of mineral resources out of Africa, tax evasion by mining companies and corruption in Africa's mining sector impede Africa's sustainable development." Said Canon Nduta Lulama, National President of the Anglican Church in South Africa.



AAYN Coordination Meeting

The All Africa Youth Network (AAYN) is a platform for the National Youth leaders of the AACC members to connect, share experiences, knowledge and resources, and support one another as they offer leadership to the young people on the African continent.

Through its Pan-African campaign on Africa: My Home. My Future, the network is playing a critical role in promoting youth participation in Church and society. The Network achieves this by empowering African youth to be transformational leaders, exercising their Christian agency in ways that transform Africa into an integrated,

prosperous and peaceful continent driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the International arena.

The AAYN held its first bi-annual coordination meeting on 6th and 7th March 2024 to: Reflect on the outcomes of the Abuja Assembly and its significance for Africa: My Home. My Future. Campaign, Imagine the future of the AAYN after the 12th General Assembly, and initiate the planning phase of the 2025 All Africa Youth Congress (AAYC). They also developed a pledge of commitment against GBV to be used in mobilizing Young people to be ambassadors for a world without SGBV.

AAYN Pledge of Commitment Against SGBV

The pledge was drafted by ten members of the Network leading in-country initiatives under the Churches Campaign against SGBV in Africa through a consultative and prayerful process. It was then discussed during the AAYN coordination meeting on 6th and 7th March 2024 and adopted for use on 7th March 2024.

The pledge reads as follows:

I (say your name) pledge to honor and safeguard the dignity of every human being by avoiding, speaking against, and acting against any act of gender-based violence. In all my relationships, I shall be loving, open, honest, transparent, and desist from any form of violence. So, help me God.

The pledge of commitment can be translated into any language without changing the meaning of the building words. All youth and church leaders are encouraged to lead people in their sphere of influence undertake the pledge but also empower, support and accompany them keep the promise.

After undertaking the pledge of commitment against SGBV, one is encouraged to download and complete the commitment card and keep it as a proof that they are ambassadors for Gender Justice and Equality.



AACC Youth leaders Utilize the International Women’s Day to Promote Gender Justice



Teenage Students undertaking the pledge of Commitment to end SGBV during a school outreach organized on the international Women’s Day in Kenya.

A ACC youth leaders in 12 countries: Tanzania, Namibia, Nigeria, Gambia, Ethiopia, Congo Brazzaville, Kenya, Ghana, Morocco, Mozambique, Democratic Republic of Congo and Gabon commemorated the International Women’s Day through activities that called for an end to GBV in Africa. The activities were organized

under the theme, ‘Invest in women: Accelerate progress’ and on the slogan: *Let Love Lead: End GBV Now*. During these activities Over 6500 young people publicly committed to do all within their means to end SGBV by undertaking the pledge of commitment to end GBV in Africa.



Mr. Stanley Toddison signing on the pledge of Commitment against SGBV in Ghana.



Ms. Laquitissa Tseco, leading the campaign against SGBV in Mozambique.

AACC Youth Leaders Training on Ethical Leadership

African young people are widely perceived as major stakeholders in the work of the Church in Africa and the continent's sustainable development. Given that they constitute over 70 percent of the continent's population, the African youth indeed have the potential to lead the continent through a socio-economic revolutionary change needed to end the injustices and inequalities ailing the continent. AACC's Pan-African Campaign on Africa: My Home. My Future., tasks youth leaders with the responsibility of mobilizing fellow young people for active citizenship, enabling them to exercise their agency to drive positive changes within their communities. The AACC recognizes this potential and has tasked youth leaders with mobilizing their peers for active citizenship.

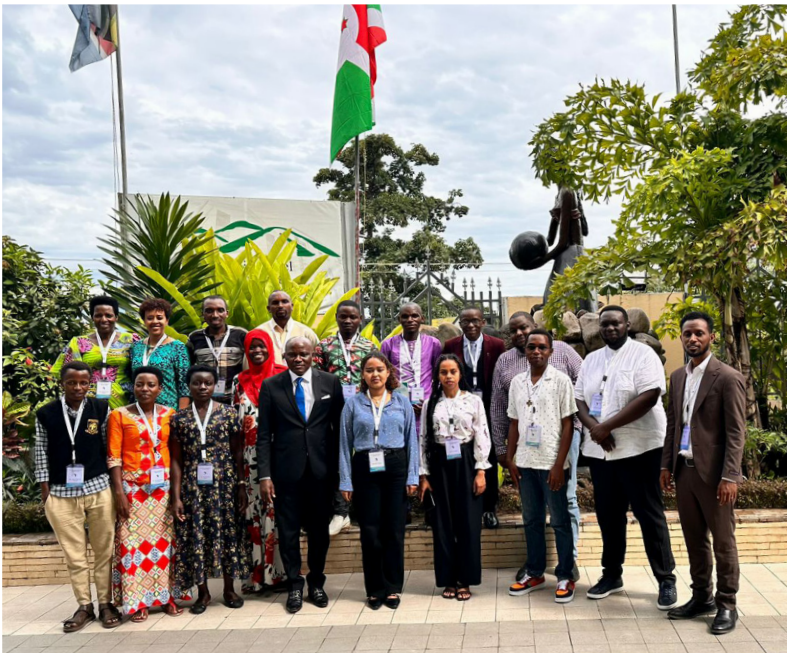
In pursuit of this goal, the AACC hosted a capacity-strengthening workshop on Ethical Leadership and Active Citizenship for All Africa Youth Leaders in Kenya. This workshop sought to empower youth leaders to serve as ethical role models, embodying the values of servant leadership and contributing to the sustainability of Africa's ecumenical movement.

Happening between 20th and 22nd March 2024 at Desmond Tutu Conference Center, the workshop convened 26 youth leaders from AACC's member churches in Kenya. During the workshop, the participants also interacted with various AACC staff on strategic leadership and means of addressing ethical challenges.



Group photo of the participants

Capacity-strengthening Workshop inspires Eastern Africa Youth to Renew their commitment to Peacebuilding



Participants and Rev. Sylvester Bizimana, General Secretary, Burundi Council of Churches after the opening the workshop.

Participants shared experiences of witnessing and addressing conflicts in their countries and had deep discussions on best practices and lessons learnt from these experiences. The facilitators helped the participants to not only understand the role of the UNSCR 2250 in deepening the culture of peace in the region, but also appreciate the importance of aligning their work promoting social cohesion with the agenda 2063.

While closing the training, Rev. Sylvester Bizimana, the General Secretary for the council of Churches in Burundi noted that such a training was very timely given that Burundi is preparing for the 2025 elections.

Following the training, the AACC will

The 'Africa We Want' envisions a peaceful, and secure Africa by 2063. However, African countries continue to face many challenges that threaten the peace, the security of their inhabitants, and the safety of the continent's resources. Addressing these challenges and realizing the Aspirations of Agenda 2063 requires the willingness of young people to change the narrative, and traverse their religious boundaries, and work together to achieve the desired change.

Through the Salama Hub Project and the Eastern Africa Regional Peace Programme, the All Africa Conference of Churches has empowered 20 interfaith youth leaders from Sudan, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Kenya to promote peacebuilding and social cohesion in the region through a capacity-strengthening workshop held between 16th and 18th April 2024, in Bujumbura.

be supporting the interfaith youth forum in Burundi to carry out community-based activities promoting social cohesion ahead of the 2025 elections.



A group of participants developing a symbol of peace

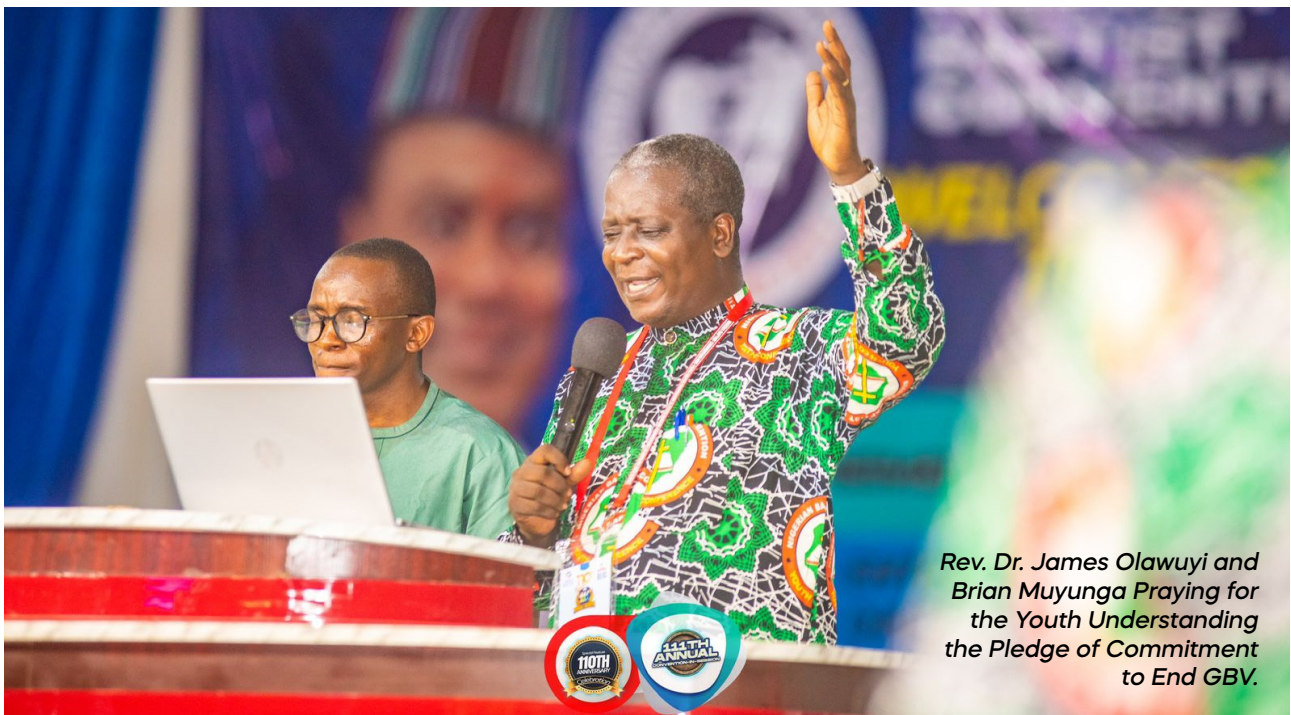
Nigerian Baptist Convention Youth Mobilized to Shun all forms Gender Based Violence

The AACC Executive Youth Secretary, Brian Muyunga Participated in the 111th Annual Session of the Nigerian Baptist Church (NBC) from 19th and 23rd April 2024. This event featured the 2024 Annual Youth Night for the Nigeria Baptist Church Youth Conference. During the youth night, attended by 3,000 youth, Brian made a keynote address on Newness through Pan-Africanism with the theme: Africa; My home. My Future, and the Churches Campaign against GBV in Africa.

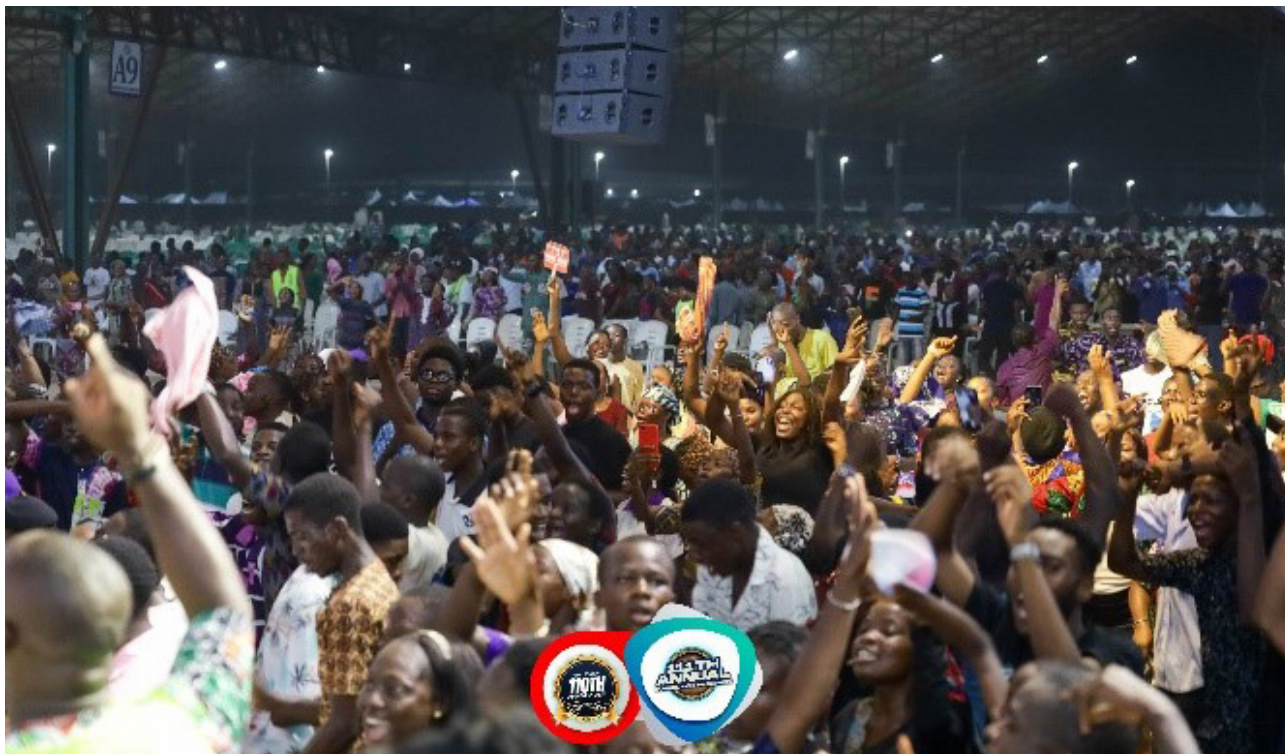
While sensitizing the youth about the Campaign on Africa: My Home. My Future., Brian stressed that God requires the African Christian Youth to summon their Christian Agenda for the holistic transformation and development of Africa into the kind of continent they want it to be as their home and live behind for their future generations to live in comfortably. ▶



Brian Muyunga, AACC Executive Secretary, Youth Speaking during the Youth Night.



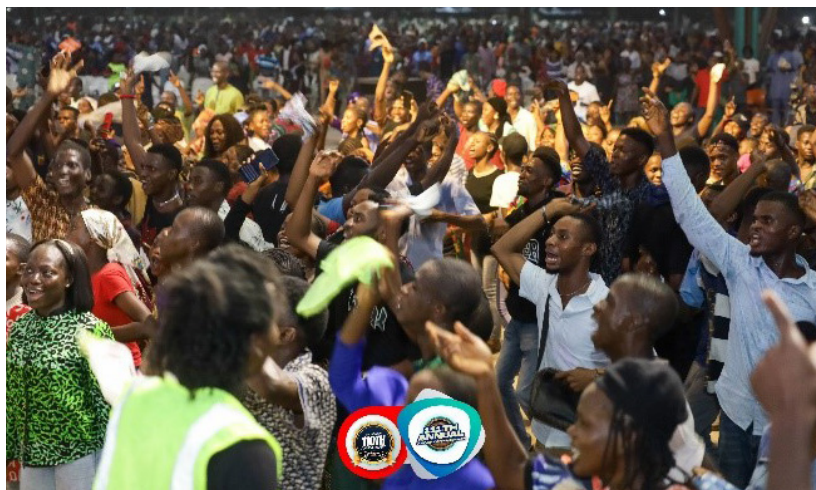
Rev. Dr. James Olawuyi and Brian Muyunga Praying for the Youth Understanding the Pledge of Commitment to End GBV.



He discouraged them from aiming at running away from the continent in search of 'greener pastures' beyond the African borders. He warned them of the dangers of irregular migration and human trafficking and assured them of the potential youth have to thrive in Africa given its great potential, and steadily progressing development.

His address urged the youth to recognize the negative impacts of GBV on the development of Nigeria and Africa and the aspects of religion and culture in which GBV is rooted, recondition themselves to find discomfort in those religious values, norms, teachings and practices and take a bold step to transform them in such a way that can bring acts of GBV to an end.

Describing the Youth as a generation that has been chosen by God to live as God's instruments of Change, Brian assured the participants of God's help and power as they work for a peaceful, prosperous and secure Africa that is free of GBV through AACC's Campaign on Africa: My Home. My Future.



Participants of the Nigeria Baptist Church during the Youth Night.

At the climax of his presentation, Brian led the crowd of youth and their leaders in undertaking the Pledge of Commitment against Gender-Based Violence, which was developed by the All Africa youth Network in their coordination meetings held on 6th and 7th March 2024.

Following this transformative initiative, Rev. Dr. James Olawuyi, the Director for Youth and Children at the NBC made a prayer, dedicating the 3,000 youth who had undertaken the pledge to God, and commissioning them as Ambassadors for Gender Justice and Human dignity.

Nigerian Baptist Convention 111th Annual Session Features a side event on Transformative Ecumenism, peacebuilding and development



AACC Executive Youth Secretary, facilitating the side event.

The side event was attended by over 50 religious and cultural leaders of the Nigeria Baptist Convention and was facilitated by the Executive Secretary and the NBC directorate of Ecumenism. The event took place on 21st April 2024.

During this facilitation, Brian led the participants in interrogating the role of Gender Justice in peacebuilding and the relationship between human dignity, Peacebuilding and development in Africa. He encouraged the cultural and religious leaders to support the youth in transforming toxic gender ideologies, that perpetuate Gender-Based Violence, Conflicts and other realities that undermine human dignity and, in the process, impede development in Africa. He campaigned for ecumenical solidarity in peacebuilding and development efforts in Nigeria.



AACC Executive Youth Secretary, and the Leaders of the NBC President and leaders of the NBC Directorate of Ecumenism.



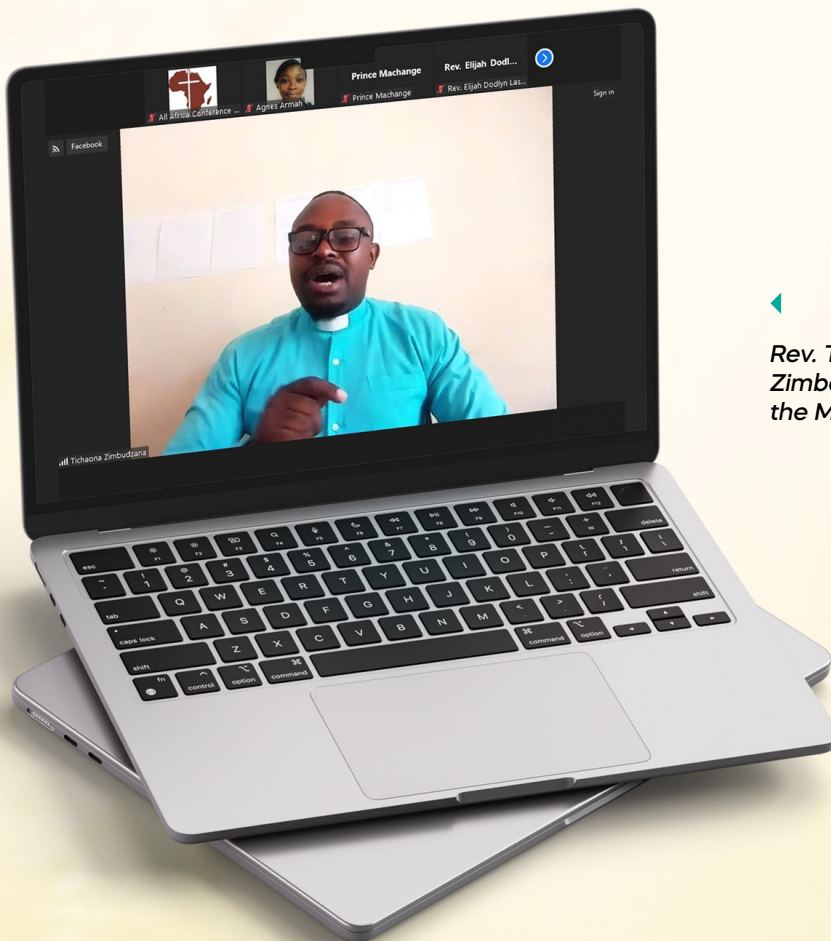
A group photo with the participants.

Monthly Devotions

From February 2024, the AAYN members have been meeting for monthly devotions during which they engage in theological discussions on various developmental agendas as they worship together. The devotion takes place on every first Friday of the month. In February and March, the devotions focused on enabling the youth understand how the Love of Christ Compels Us to end SGBV in Africa. In April, the fellowship interrogated the theme, 'The Love of Christ Compels Us to fight drug and substance abuse.'



The Love of Christ Compels Us to fight drug and substance abuse.



Rev. Tichaona, A youth Leader from Zimbabwe delivering a sermon during the Monthly devotion

Gender and Women

Rev. Dr. Lydia Mwaniki

AACC Convenes an Interfaith Roundtable Dialogue on Ending Femicide



AACC in collaboration with Christian Aid convened a roundtable dialogue on ending femicide in Kenya on 5th February 2024 at the DTCC. This was as a result of the rising cases of Femicide in Kenya in the past few months. In January 2024 alone, reported cases amounted to 14 which sent shockwaves throughout the African Continent. This meeting was attended by 58 Religious Leaders, Leaders from Faith-Based and Civil Society Organizations.

The dialogue inspired religious leaders to deepen their collaboration in addressing femicide and other forms of GBV. Participants issued a statement that called upon all African governments to work with all stakeholders in ensuring that perpetrators of femicides and other forms of GBV face the law.

Group photo of participants at the Interfaith Roundtable Dialogue on Ending Femicide



World Day of Prayer

AACC joined the world in marking the World Day of Prayer (WDP) on 1st March 2024. The prayer meeting brought together 17 Church Leaders, who included the AACC first female President, Rt. Rev. Lydia Neshangwe, the Chairperson of the World Day of Prayer International Committee (WDPIC) Ms Joyce Steiner, members of the AACC General Committee amongst others.



International Women's Day



In Collaboration with the World Council of Churches (WCC), Christian Aid, Church Women United (CWU) and International Committee for the Fellowship of the Least Coin (ICFLC), the AACC Commemorated the International Women's Day through a two hours virtual event held on 8th March 2024.

The event was attended by 110 participants from every corner of the globe who explored comprehensive approaches to combatting femicide across various domains including religious, cultural, socio-economic, and legal-political spheres. Moreover, the key speakers shed light on systemic injustices fostering misogyny and femicide, particularly within faith communities. They also tackled the issue of femicide from various perspectives on the theme: "Invest in Women: End Femicide." There was a strong emphasis on strengthening religious collaboration in addressing femicide and GBV in general.



Group photo of participants at the Consultation in Addis Ababa

AACC Convenes a Consultation on Population Dynamics and Demographic Dividends

AACC hosted a High-Level Dialogue titled, *“Understanding Population Dynamics and Demographic Dividends: Sociological and Theological Reflections”* from 15th-19th April 2024 in Addis-Ababa. The consultation brought together fifty high-level Church Leaders and youth from across Africa.

The consultation interlinked theology and sociology for a better understanding of the topic, as well as to strengthen collaboration between science

and theology in the achievement of sustainable families for sustainable population growth in the continent. The strategic programmatic goal was to promote sustainable families for sustainable population growth in Africa.

The key outcomes were that common regional actions were agreed upon to demonstrate participants’ commitment to advocate for life-flourishing population growth going forward.



AACC Regional Office in Lomé

AACC's Platform for Male Champions for Gender Justice Established in Benin



Rev. Angele Dogbe with some of the Male Champions for Gender Justice in Benin.

Headed by the President of the Protestant Methodist Church of Benin, His Eminence Rev. Prof Kponjesu Amos Hounsa, the platform brings together only men from various religious communities, including Muslims and Africa traditional communities. While setting up the platform, Rev. Angèle Wilson-Dogbe noted that advocacy for gender justice particularly in Africa has been primarily

The AACC has continued to establish national platforms for male champions for gender justice. From 19th to 21st March 2024, the AACC regional office in Lomé had a three-day consultation on strengthening resilience against the rise of GBV in Benin. During this consultation, an AACC platform for male champions for gender justice was set up to promote the fight against GBV in the country alongside their female allies.

driven by women and even seen as a women's issue. However, the AACC recognizes that men are essential allies for gender equality and are often powerful drivers of change, particularly in patriarchal societies.

They can contribute to the transformation of toxic masculinities into transformative masculinities among men and boys.



Group photo of participants.

AACC participates at the General Assembly of the Evangelical Literature Center

On March 6-8, 2024, Rev. Angele Dogbe, Director of the Regional Office in Lome represented AACC at the General Assembly of Editions CLÉ (Evangelical Literature Center) as a founding member.

Major decisions taken during this AGM include the appointment of a new director of Editions CLÉ, Rev. Dr. LOCKO Serge Patrick of the Evangelical Church of Congo (EEC), and planning the celebration of the 60th anniversary of Editions CLE.

Editions CLE was created in 1963 by the Protestant Churches of several French-speaking African countries, including AACC. It is the first French-speaking publishing house in Africa; and the first Pan-African publisher oriented towards theology, youth literature, school literature and general literature.



The New Director of Editions CLÉ, Rev. Dr. LOCKO Serge Patrick



Founding members with the staff of Editions



Group photo of the founding members

AACC at WCC Consultation on strategic engagement of the religious sector in migration and health



From left to right, Rev. Dr. Kenneth Mtata, WCC director of Public Witness and Diaconia; Rev. Msgr Robert J. Vitillo, general secretary of the International Catholic Migration Commission (ICMC) and Christine Stegling, Deputy Executive Director, Policy, Advocacy and Knowledge Branch, UNAIDS., bring their remarks.

The phenomenon of migration continues to progress with its complexities and dehumanizing consequences.

sector with migrants and refugees for health and HIV services in the fight against stigma and discrimination.

From 12-14 March 2024, AACC participated in the consultation on strategic engagement of the religious sector in migration and health.

At the end of the consultation, it was recognized that religious actors (organizations, institutions and churches/mosques/temples) have always been very present and active in assisting people on the move, even when everyone leaves for one reason or another.

The consultation was organized by the International Catholic Migration Commission, PEPFAR and UNAIDS Faith Initiative, in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the World Health Organization (WHO).

The workshop highlighted the right to health and dignified access to it, as well as the engagement of the religious



A group photo of all participants



African Union Liaison Office and Advocacy

Dr. Gorden Simango, Ms. Mahlet Abreham
and Mr. Justice Oman

AACC facilitated a meeting of Women leaders from CSOs and FBOs with EAC and EALA

AACC facilitated a meeting of Women leaders from Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and Faith Based Organisations (FBOs) with East Africa Community (EAC) Secretariat and East Africa Legislative Assembly (EALA) on March 22nd and 23rd 2024.

The aim of this engagement was to increase women's voices in policy and decision-making, strengthen CSOs and FBOs' engagement with the EALA, increase awareness about the EALA's mandate, facilitate dialogue on key issues affecting women, advocate for increased women's representation and participation in EALA structures, and present a petition/call for action with key asks.

The delegation met with representatives from the EAC secretariat and EALA with whom they discussed gender issues affecting women in

Eastern Africa. They also explored means of advancing women participation in peacebuilding and promoting security in Africa.



AACC delegates with EALA Women Caucus Executives.



AACC delegates at the East Africa Community.

Engagement with Faith-Based Organizations and Partners

The AACC has been actively engaged in a network of FBOs engaging the African Union, especially those with physical presence in Addis Ababa.

From January – April 2024, bilateral meetings have taken place with the Baha'i International Community Addis Ababa Office (BIC AAO), the

SECAM Liaison Officer to the African Union, World Vision International - African Union Liaison Office, the Latter-day Saint Charities External and Public Affairs Office, and Open Doors International Africa Advocacy Office. The office has also hosted bilateral meetings with representatives from Bread for the World, and Act Church of Sweden.



Group Photo with SECAM Liaison Officer to the AU



Group Photo with BfTW representatives



Meeting with Peter Svensson Regional Representative at Church of Sweden

The celebration of the 2024 Golden Rule day, and commemoration of World Interfaith Harmony Week



A panel discussion on “Africa’s Challenges to Peace and Security: Interreligious Approaches and Promise”

On 15 – 16 April, the AACC joined the United Religions Initiative, the Interreligious Council of Ethiopia, and the G20 Interfaith Forum to celebrate the Golden Rule day, and World Interfaith Harmony Week under the patronage of H.E. Sahle-Work Zewde, President of the Republic of Ethiopia. The Golden Rule is “Treat others the way you want to be treated”, and is a teaching stated in different religious Holy books. The event aimed at honoring and promoting Interfaith collective action in Africa; to foster peace, human dignity, development, and preservation of the environment, and to counter hate speech, violence and xenophobia. The AACC was on a panel session on “Africa’s challenges to peace and security: interreligious approaches and promise”, with the Foundation for Peace (COFP) – Nigeria, the IGAD Centre of Excellence for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism – Kenya; and the Interreligious Council of Uganda.



AACC staff at the event celebrating the 2024 Golden Rule Day and Commemoration of World Interfaith Harmony Week

AACC Attends EECMY Partners Consultation in Addis Ababa

The Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) held its partners' consultation Meeting at the Gudina Tumsa Conference Centre in Addis Ababa from 5th and 8th March 2024. The theme of the consultation was, *'One Body, One Global Calling.'* During the meeting, EECMY partners engaged in very intriguing and empowering conversations on the mission of the church in the contemporary world.

While presenting the AACC General Secretary's greetings to the EECYM partners, Dr. Gorden Simango, the Director for AACC's Liaison office to the African Union in Addis Ababa congratulated EECYM and its partners for the great work they are doing in accompanying peace processes in Ethiopia. Dr. Gorden noted that EECMY is one of AACC's very committed member churches whose work contributes to the realization of AACC's vision and mission in Africa.



Dr. Gorden Simango, Director for the AACC Liaison Office to the African Union addressing the partners meeting.



Some of the participants in the partners meeting.

Facilitated meetings with the African Union Commission Addis Ababa office

In February 2024 the AACC facilitated a meeting of the EKD Council members with the African Union Citizens and Diaspora Directorate (CIDO) staff. It was an opportunity for the EKD Council to see and engage directly with some of the AACC partners. EKD's overall visit to Ethiopia aimed "to strengthen partnerships with sister churches, foster collaborative relationships with strategic partners, and gain insights into the advocacy, humanitarian and development efforts facilitated by the EKD". Five (5) Council Members were in attendance, three staff members from the Church office of EKD, and three staff members from Bread for the World Horn of Africa, Regional Office.

In March 2024, the AACC facilitated another meeting between the AU African Governance Architecture – African Peace and Security Architecture (AGA APSA), with two Bread for the World Berlin staff. The meeting explored the challenges of the peace and security and governance deficits on the African continent covering strong and weaker points of the African Union, and the role of faith/churches can play. The meeting also explored the long-standing cooperation between AGA APSA and the AACC.



EKD Council delegation, BftW, AACC & staff of AU Citizens and Diaspora Directorate.



AFAN-CJ, representatives & AACC staff at the African Union Commission Directorate for Sustainable Environment and Blue Economy.



The BftW, AACC staff, and the African Union, African Governance Architecture – African Peace and Security Architecture staff.



BftW, AACC, leadership of AACC partners for the Horn of Africa Peace Project, the ERCO, and the CEHRO

AACC's Webinar on South Sudan's Preparedness for the 2024 Upcoming Elections

On March 22, 2024, AACC organized a webinar to address Sudan's contemporary issues and its preparedness for elections scheduled for the end of 2024. The webinar brought together stakeholders such as the IGAD's - Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism, the African Union Peace and Security department – Panel of the Wise, CSOs and FBOs (including the South Sudan Council of Churches) to discuss challenges to be confronted to ensure peaceful, credible, and inclusive elections in South Sudan. It was a great opportunity for CSOs and FBOs to be able to speak directly to both IGAD and AU on the realities on the ground. The webinar helped AU and IGAD to deepen their understanding of pertinent issues in South Sudan – as it prepares for elections.



You are invited to a Zoom meeting

OUR SPEAKERS



Bethlehem Abebe
Data and Management Officer at
Conflict Early Warning and Response
Mechanism of IGAD



Yoal Gatkuoth (Chänge De Gatkuoth)
Founder of the Pan-African
Peacemakers Alliance (PAPA
Africa)



Ms. Netsanet Tekeda Alemu
Coordinator at the Panel of the Wise
Secretariat, African Union
Commission.



Juan Racheal
Advocacy and Peace
Coordinator at the South Sudan
Council of Churches

**Date: March 22,
2024**

**Time: 2:00 p.m.–
4:00 p.m. EAT**

MODERATOR



Dr. Gorden Simango
Director, AACC African Union
Office & Advocacy

REGISTER NOW!

https://zoom.us/join/zoom/register/LJAIf-qrqTgoH9S9ul0cdBBO_nzZ2p1DrReP#/registration

AACC consultation with young people from the ECOWAS region

The recent resurgence of Unconstitutional Changes of Government (UCG) in Africa has been met with alarm within regional and continental political institutions. This is partly out of apprehension about the potential for a contagion effect in a continent confronted by some of the gravest threats to stability and social cohesion. The upsurge in UCG incidents pose a renewed and profound challenge to the realization of the AU Agenda 2063, and to the peace, security, democracy, and prosperity, envisaged in its aspirations. On 23rd-26th April 2024, AACC brought together young people across the ECOWAS region, CSOs, and political leaders in Gambia to discuss matters relating to the implementation of the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance by AU Member States. The consultation also explored the role of the Youth in strengthening democracy.



Group photo of participants



AACC-CETA

All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC-CETA)

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