



The African Pulse

April - June 2026

Issue 18



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

The African Pulse

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The Editorial Team

Ann Kioi
Brian Muyunga
Tinashe Gumbo
Evelyne Okunda

Distribution

All Africa Conference Churches

Design & Layout

Stephen Mbote

Contacts

All Africa Conference of Churches

General Secretariat, Waiyaki Way
Bishop Josiah Kibira House,
P.O. Box 14205-00800 Westlands,
Nairobi, Kenya.

Tel: **+254 724 253 354**
+254 113 507 868

Email: secretariat@aacc-ceta.org
Website: www.aacc-ceta.org

 All Africa Conference of Churches
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 @AaccCeta
 @aacceta

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.

Contents

01 Governance, Membership
Development and Networking

02 Theology and
Interfaith Relations

03 Gender and Women

04 Youth

05 Ecological Justice

06 Economic Justice

07 AACC Regional
Office in Lomé

08 Health and Healing

09 Advocacy at the
African Union

10 Peace in Africa

Message from the General Secretary



Dear Reader,

Ecumenical greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

It is my joy to welcome you to this edition of ***The African Pulse***, a reflection of the vibrant witness of the Church across our continent in the second quarter of the year 2026.

During this quarter, our continent has experienced moments that have both inspired hope and called for deep reflection. We remain deeply concerned by the resurgence of xenophobic violence in South Africa. Such acts diminish our shared humanity and contradict the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which calls us to love our neighbour and to recognize the image of God in every person. As the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) recently affirmed in the AACC Call for Protection and Upholding Human Dignity in the Wake of Xenophobic Threats and Attacks in South Africa published on 29th June 2026, there is no place for Afrophobia or any form of hatred within the African family. We continue to pray for healing, reconciliation, and a renewed commitment to the values of Ubuntu, justice, and

peaceful coexistence. We also extend our heartfelt prayers and solidarity to the people of Ghana following the devastating floods that have claimed lives, displaced families, and destroyed livelihoods. May God comfort those who mourn, strengthen those responding to the crisis, and inspire greater collective action to build resilient communities in the face of increasing environmental challenges.

The stories captured in this issue remind us that even amid uncertainty, the Church continues to be a beacon of hope. Across Africa, our member churches are nurturing ethical leadership, promoting peace and reconciliation, advancing health and human dignity, championing ecological and economic justice, and engaging emerging issues such as artificial intelligence with wisdom and moral responsibility. These are not merely programmes but tangible expressions of the Gospel lived out in service to God's people.

As the AACC, we remain committed to walking alongside our member churches and partners as together we seek to proclaim Christ through faithful witness and transformative action. It is through our unity, our shared calling, and our unwavering hope in God that we continue to contribute to an Africa where peace prevails, justice flourishes, and every person can live with dignity.

I invite you to journey through these pages with thanksgiving for what God is doing across our continent and with renewed resolve to participate in His mission of reconciliation, justice, and abundant life for all.

May the Lord bless you richly.

Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki,
General Secretary
All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC)

Governance, Membership Development & Networking

Ms. Faith Muthithi &
Ms. Evelyne Okunda

01 ►



An overview of the AACC General Secretary's Official Visits and Engagements

In this quarter, the office of the a-General Secretary held several engagements with partners, including the following:

Visit to the United Evangelical Mission Africa Regional office

On the 8th of April 2026, the General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki, visited the United Evangelical Mission Africa Regional office in Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania. The main aim of the visit was to reflect on opportunities for increased partnerships between the institution and the AACC.

The General Secretary with the staff of United Evangelical Mission, Africa Region in Dar es Salaam on 8th April.



Participation in the WCC's Commission for World Mission and Evangelism Meeting

From the 14th to the 23rd of April 2026, the General Secretary participated in the World Council of Churches (WCC)'s Commission for World Mission and Evangelism Meeting held in Jamaica. The meeting deliberated on the preparation of the upcoming International World Mission Conference scheduled to take place ahead of the next WCC General Assembly. Rev. Dr. Mwombeki also had the opportunity to interact with different commissioners on the African perspectives on issues of reparations and reparative justice.

He strongly advocated for the inclusion of the marginalized sections of society in the discussions and further challenged the currently held view on African's being marginalized. Rev. Dr. Mwombeki firmly stating that Africa is not in the margins and neither do Africans want to be in the margins nor



The General Secretary with Angeline Okola and the President of WCC in the Carribean and Central America, Rev. Michael Blair, The Moderator of The Session.

want to feel or be told that they are in the margins. Finally, he called upon the commissioners to reflect on their core mission ***“assisting churches to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ so that people can believe in Him.”***

The General Secretary at the Devastation Site of Hurricane Melissa in the Town of Black River, Jamaica.



The AACC General Secretary at the Safe Space Dialogue with other participants.

Safe Space Dialogue for Bread for the World Partners

From 25th to 29th of April 2026, Rev. Dr. Mwombeki participated in a Safe Space Dialogue on Exploring Approaches to LGBTQIA+ in Ecumenical Partnerships organized by Bread for the World. The consultation reflected on ***“the role the topic of LGBTQIA+ plays in the work and partnership process with other churches.”*** With an aim to ground shared commitment to human dignity, the conversation also explored the understanding of the topic in the theological, human rights, pastoral, or relational space.

Courtesy Visit to the Vice President of Malawi

On 8th May 2026, the General Secretary paid a courtesy visit to the Vice President of Malawi, Dr. Jane Ansah, together with the leadership of the Malawi Council of Churches. During the visit, the AACC was highly commended for its peacekeeping initiatives in Malawi and on the continent of Africa. The Vice President encouraged the continued collaboration between the church and the government.



Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki with Dr. Jane Ansah together with the AACC and Malawi Christian Council delegation.

The Visit of the Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavalia (ELCB)

The Bishop of Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavalia ELCB, Christian Kopp, paid a courtesy visit to the AACC secretariat on the 30th of April

2026. He was accompanied by a delegation from Evangelische Mission Weltweit (EMW) and Kenya Evangelical Lutheran Church (KELC), among others. The meeting gave a platform to the AACC program staff members to share their work in each of their dockets.



The General Secretary, Gifting Bishop Kopp.



The group photo for both AACC program staff and the Bishop's delegation.

ELCB Partners Consultation in Dar es Salaam

From 6th to 10th of May 2026, the General Secretary attended the ELCB Partners' consultation held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The consultation was centred on the theme drawn from **Luke 2:52; "Let's grow together...in wisdom, in stature and in favour with God and Man."** During the meeting, Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki presented a comprehensive report on the relationship between African Churches and Churches outside Africa.

churches in Togo, where the members had an opportunity to know the church leadership and location of the church offices as well as interact with the church's history.

AACC Presidium and Executive Committee Meets in Lomé, Togo

From the 26th to the 29th of May 2026, the AACC Presidium and Executive committees met in Lomé, Togo. During the meeting, the General Secretary and the Directors shared the reports of the activities carried out from November 2025 to April 2026.

The General Secretary was greatly commended for his outstanding leadership in spearheading the success of the organization. On the 28th of May 2026, the members of the Executive Committee paid a courtesy visit to the four AACC member



The General Secretary with the members of the presidium in Lomé, Togo.



Group Photo of member of the AACC Executive Committee.

AACC Showcases Impact and Strengthens Collaboration During its 2026 Partners Consultation

Ms. Ann Kioi

On 3rd June 2026, the AACC convened its annual partners consultation to reflect on achievements, share updates, and strengthen their collaboration and mutual accompaniment. Presenting the AACC Annual Report, the General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki, highlighted key milestones across governance, membership development, theological education, peacebuilding, youth engagement, health and healing, climate justice, and economic justice. He noted the fellowship's growing efforts to accompany churches and communities through localized capacity-building initiatives and advocacy programmes across the continent.

Among the major developments shared was the renovation of the Desmond Tutu Conference Centre in Nairobi, which is being developed under the Best Western hotel franchise while remaining fully owned and managed by AACC. The project is expected to contribute significantly to the fellowship's long-term financial sustainability.

Participants also received updates on the Master of Theology and Ecumenical Leadership programme, which is transitioning to St. Paul's University in Kenya, as well as ongoing work on climate justice, youth empowerment, peacebuilding, reparations, decolonization, and artificial intelligence.

Partners commended AACC's commitment to implementing programmes beyond Nairobi and praised its proactive approach to peacebuilding and community engagement. Discussions further explored opportunities for stronger collaboration in disability inclusion, diaspora engagement, youth programmes, and resource mobilization.

The consultation concluded with renewed commitments to partnership and a shared vision of advancing peace, justice, dignity, and sustainable development across Africa through the collective witness and action of churches.



Screenshot of some of the participants.

Leadership Transitions Mark a New Chapter for three AACC Member Churches

Rev. Angele Dogbe

The AACC celebrates a season of renewal as several member churches across Africa welcome new leaders, reaffirming their commitment to faithful witness, servant leadership and the mission of the Church.

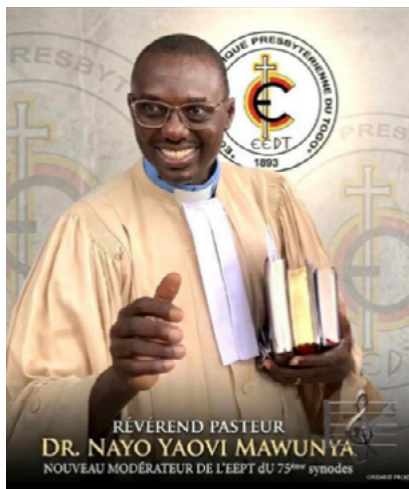
During its 2026 Annual Conference, The Methodist Church in The Gambia designated Most Rev. Bannie E. F. Manga as Presiding Bishop, Very Rev. Thomas Pierre Bass as Secretary of Conference and Sir Ernest Aubee as Lay President. The Church described the appointments as the beginning of a new season of ministry and called on members to uphold the new leadership in prayer.

In Cameroon, the Union of Baptist Churches of Cameroon (UEBC) elected a new Executive Bureau during its Extraordinary Elective General Conference in Douala. Rev. Ziloua Zoumvouta Raphaël was elected President General, while Rev. Dr. Ngando Mbende Paul assumed the office of Secretary General, leading a team entrusted with guiding the Church into a new chapter of service and renewal.

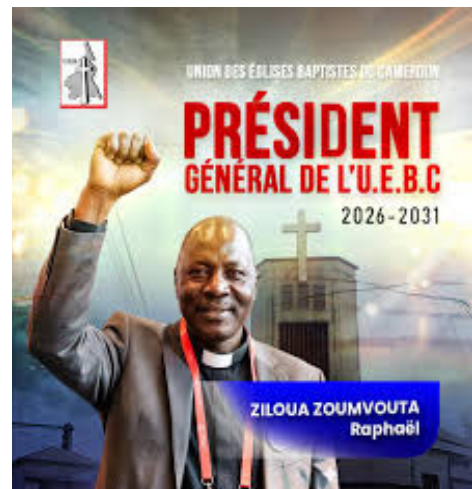
Meanwhile, the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Togo (EEPT), meeting in Synod at Afégamé Parish in Kpalimé, elected Rev. Dr. Nayo Yaovi Mawunya as Moderator, bringing to conclusion a significant

period of dialogue and institutional renewal. In his inaugural address, he called on members to walk together in unity, faith and love as the Church embraces its future with hope.

These leadership transitions reflect the vitality of African churches and the importance of smooth succession in strengthening the Church's witness across the continent. The AACC congratulates the newly elected leaders and assures them of its continued prayers and partnership as they guide their churches in advancing God's mission.



The newly elected Moderator of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Togo (EEPT)



Rev. Ziloua Zoumvouta Raphaël, General President of the Union of Baptist Church in Cameroon (UEBC)



Rev. Dr. NGANDO MBENDE Paul, General Secretary of UEBC

Theology and Interfaith Relations

Rev. Fr. John Njoroge

02 ►



AACC Decamps the 2nd Cohort of Students Pursuing **Master of Theology in Ecumenical Leadership Programme**

On 22nd April 2026, a vibrant atmosphere of celebration and reflection filled the Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation (MEF) in Kitwe, Zambia, as the AACC, in collaboration with St. Paul's University, decamped the second cohort of students pursuing the Master of Theology in Ecumenical Leadership (MTEL) programme.

The ceremony marked the culmination of 11 months of rigorous academic study, shared worship, and ecumenical living for 10 students drawn from nine African countries. As they now look ahead to graduation in November 2026, the moment symbolized both an ending and a new beginning.

The day opened on a spiritual note, with a devotion led by Rev. Julius Hiire of Uganda and Rev. Odie Adjoa Djifa of Togo, who called on their fellow students to carry forward the mantle of transformative leadership. Soon after, the grounds came alive with the sounds of a brass band, leading a colorful procession of students,

faculty, and guests in a celebration that reflected the unity and diversity of the African church.

In his address, Rev. Dr. John Njoroge, representing the AACC General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki, reminded the cohort of their calling. Drawing from **Deuteronomy 1:6–7**, he urged them to **"break camp and advance,"** leading with integrity, reverence for God, and a commitment to justice in their respective contexts.

Echoing this, MEF Executive Director Prof. Hoyce Lyimo-Mbowe praised the cohort as a gift to Africa—leaders of purpose, action, and integrity. Rev. Dr. Julius Kithinji of St. Paul's University challenged them to transcend denominational boundaries and become champions of unity.

Speaking on behalf of the group, Miss Favor Oladapo of Nigeria expressed gratitude for a transformative journey that has shaped them into thoughtful and faithful leaders.



MTEL Cohort 2 students showing off their certificates on 22nd April 2026.

Gender and Women

Ms. Faustina Nillan

03 ►



Commemorating the 70th Anniversary of the Fellowship of the Least Coin



Population, traced the movement's origins to the 1950s. She honored the vision of Shanti Solomon, who encouraged Christian women to pray for the world and set aside their **"least coin"** as a tangible act of faith, reconciliation, and collective responsibility to support the church's missional work. Participants shared impactful stories of how FLC grants have transformed their local communities.

The webinar concluded with prayers for peace, justice and healing, and a formal call to action, encouraging participants, churches, and individuals to join the movement and sustain its spirit of generosity as a sign of faith, unity, and hope.

On 21st May 2026, the AACC convened women and youth from its member churches for a call-to-prayer webinar to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the Fellowship of the Least Coin (FLC), emphasizing the movement's enduring legacy of prayer, solidarity, and women's empowerment. The virtual celebration was hosted by Ms. Faustina Nillan, AACC Programme Executive for Gender and Women. The program featured a rich tapestry of prayers, historical reflections, and testimonies, highlighting success stories from women church leaders whose work has been instrumental in shaping Christian mission across the continent through FLC initiatives.

In her opening remarks, Ms. Ann Kioi, AACC Director for Gender, Women, Youth, and Sustainable

*She honored the vision of Shanti Solomon, who encouraged Christian women to pray for the world and set aside their **"least coin"** as a tangible act of faith, reconciliation, and collective responsibility to support the church's missional work.*

AACC Strengthens Women's Leadership Through **Mentorship and Intergenerational Dialogue**

From 24th to 26th June 2026, the AACC convened a Women's Leadership Forum in Mtumba, Dodoma, Tanzania, bringing together women and men from member churches across the region to strengthen transformative leadership, mentorship and gender-responsive ministry. The forum sought to nurture visionary, values-driven, enterprising, reflective and resilient women leaders equipped to respond to the evolving needs of the church and society.

Participants gained practical knowledge and leadership skills to promote meaningful participation of women in ecclesial and public life, moving beyond symbolic representation toward genuine influence in decision-making. Through mentorship and the sharing of experiences by seasoned leaders, the forum fostered stronger intergenerational collaboration, creating pathways for emerging women leaders to grow in confidence and purpose.

The forum also introduced participants to the African Union's Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) frameworks, exploring how faith communities can advance gender equality, ethical leadership and women's participation at all levels of society.

Interactive panel discussions and plenary sessions examined opportunities and challenges for women's leadership in the Church

and society. Coordinated by AACC Programme Executive for Gender and Women, Faustina Nillan, the conversations featured Rev. Fr. Dr. Daniel Musiitwa, Rev. Frank Mexon Mng'ong'o, Bishop-Elect Catherine Ngina Musau, Rayan Wenceslaus, Ms. Carolyn Kandusi, Ms. Priscilla Mangar, Ms. Faith Njenga and Archbishop Maimbo William Mndolwa. Their reflections underscored the importance of intentional mentorship, shared leadership and intergenerational partnerships in advancing gender justice.

The forum concluded with a renewed commitment to strengthening ethical and inclusive leadership within African churches and empowering women and men to serve together as equal partners in God's mission.



Ms. Faustina Nillan, moderating the session

AACC Calls for Greater Inclusion of African Women in Global Decision-Making at Post-CSW70 Reflective Dialogue

On 4th May 2026, the AACC participated in a hybrid United Nations (UN) Commission on the Status of Women (CSW70) Reflective Dialogue that brought together representatives from UN Women, faith-based organizations, civil society, gender advocates and policy leaders to assess the outcomes of the 70th Session of the UN CSW70 and explore ways to strengthen the participation of African women in global decision-making.

The dialogue recognized CSW70 as an important platform for advancing gender equality but noted that African women, particularly those from grassroots communities, continue to face significant barriers to meaningful participation. High travel costs, restrictive visa requirements, limited funding, accreditation challenges and digital access constraints were identified as major obstacles that prevent many women from contributing to global policy discussions.

Despite these challenges, participants celebrated the resilience of African women and organizations that have continued to amplify their voices through regional collaboration, pre-CSW consultations and digital advocacy initiatives.

The AACC was recognized among the leading faith-based organizations for bringing a faith perspective to discussions on power, money and justice, emphasizing ethical stewardship, accountability and care for vulnerable communities.



ACCESS FOR ALL

Advancing Equitable Inclusion of Women in Global UN Mechanisms

Post CSW70 Reflective Dialogue | Hybrid (In-person & Online)

Women from the Global South, migrant and diasporic communities, faith-based groups, and civil society continue to face systemic barriers to participating in global UN decision-making spaces—particularly the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). Visa restrictions, financial exclusion, unequal delegation practices, and geopolitical power imbalances limit whose voices are heard and whose priorities shape global gender policies.

Access is not just about being present. It is about power, voice, and influence.

Speakers:

- Women's rights advocates and defenders
- Civil society and faith-based organizations
- Leaders from the Global South and migrant communities
- UN entities and Member State representatives
- Researchers, policymakers, and gender justice allies

4 May | 14:30
JURA, Kyoto Building – Geneva
Hybrid participation available via ZOOM

Zoom link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82328688296?pwd=ayBzRk4Vb0cKpxx5Z384SVY5eUkAB.1>
Meeting ID: 823 2868 8296
Passcode: 679324

 
actalliance

CSW70 Reflective Dialogue Poster

The dialogue concluded with a call for stronger investment in grassroots women's participation, more inclusive accreditation processes, improved digital access, and closer collaboration among African organizations to strengthen collective advocacy. Participants also urged United Nations mechanisms to translate commitments to inclusion into practical reforms that ensure African women's voices are represented in shaping global gender policies.

AACC Commemorates the International Widows Day and Calls for Justice and Dignity for Widows

Ms. Ann Kioi

On 23rd June 2026, the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) hosted a webinar commemorating International Widows Day, drawing clergy, women's fellowships, widows' associations, and ecumenical partners from across Africa under the theme: ***"The Love of Christ Compels Us to Empower Widows for Justice, Dignity, and Sustainable Livelihoods."***

Opening the session, Ms. Ann Kioi, AACC's Director of Gender, Women, Youth and Sustainable Population, reminded participants that the love of Christ demands active protection for widows—not passive sympathy.

AACC President Very Rev. Lydia C. Neshangwe set the scene with sobering figures: by age 80, four in five African women are widowed, including an estimated 8 million in Kenya and 15 million in Nigeria. She described the "shock of widowhood" as a sudden loss of security that leaves women financially and emotionally devastated, often compounded by stigma and false accusations of witchcraft.

To respond, she proposed the **Head, Heart, and Hand Model**, grounded in James 1:27: education to dismantle bias, accompaniment through healing and mentorship, and economic action. Financial support means little, she noted, if a widow isn't also mentally and emotionally restored.

Speakers at the webinar included the Rev. Dr. Lydia Mwaniki, drawing on her own 22 years as a widow, offered a theological reframing rooted in Genesis 2:15 and the Parable of the Talents. Widows retain their God-given gifts and purpose, she said, citing Ruth, the widow of Zarephath, and Tabitha as biblical examples of resilience and provision. On the other hand the Very Rev. Comfort Ruth Papafio of the Methodist Church

of Ghana named social, self, and institutional stigma as forces that isolate widows. Recounting a relative's ordeal with degrading funeral rites disguised as tradition, she declared: ***"This is not culture. This is structural injustice."***

Participants raised urgent concerns—from the absence of formal widow ministries in Burundi's grassroots churches to the persistence of widow inheritance practices in South Sudan, sometimes defended through misapplied levirate marriage texts. Presenters acknowledged the custom's historical protective intent while affirming that today it often exposes women to exploitation, underscoring the need for genuine economic empowerment.

The webinar launched a month-long **#Justice-ForWidows** advocacy campaign and reaffirmed AACC's commitment to its Advocacy Toolkit and targeted grants to help member churches build sustainable support for widows across the continent.

As AACC affirmed in closing, the call now is to move from empathy to action—transforming widows from vulnerability into pillars of resilience, justice, and leadership.



screenshot from the webinar commemorating the International widows day.

AACC Empowers Widows to Build Dignified and Sustainable Lives



Group photo of the participants

The AACC marked International Widows' Day by bringing together widows, church leaders, ecumenical partners and development practitioners from the Moravian Church of Tanzania, the Anglican Church of Tanzania, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania, and the Christian Council of Tanzania. Held under the theme, **"Empowering Widows for Justice, Dignity and Sustainable Livelihoods,"** the gathering affirmed the Church's commitment to moving beyond charity toward sustainable empowerment.

A keynote address by Bishop Philip Baji of the Anglican Church of Tanzania inspired by **Luke 5:4, "Launch out into the deep,"** challenged widows to embrace new opportunities with courage and faith. A contextual Bible study on **Matthew 25:14–30 (The Parable of the Talents)** led by Rev. Canon Dr. George Otieno, General Secretary of the Anglican Church of Tanzania, underscored that every person is entrusted by God with gifts to be nurtured for personal growth and community transformation.

Participants reflected on the theology of work, emphasizing that economic empowerment restores dignity, hope and self-worth.

The AACC Programme Executive for Gender and Women, Faustina Nillan, highlighted the organization's interventions in women's leadership, gender justice, economic empowerment, advocacy and peacebuilding. Discussions also focused on advancing widows' rights, including legal protection, inheritance and property rights, social inclusion and the elimination of harmful cultural practices.

The commemoration concluded with a renewed call for churches and partners to champion policies and programmes that protect widows' rights and strengthen sustainable livelihoods. The event was complemented by a regional webinar marking International Widows' Day and was followed by practical training on entrepreneurship, business management and agribusiness to translate reflection into lasting economic empowerment.

Youth

Brian Muyunga

04 ►



Mozambican Youth Leaders Translate Learning into **Action to Advance SRHR and Sustainable Population Growth**

Young faith leaders in Mozambique are taking forward the outcomes of a recent training on promoting Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and Sustainable Population Growth (SPG) for quality life in Africa, held in Maputo in March 2026. The training equipped youth leaders from AACC member churches and Christian organizations with Contextual Bible Study (CBS) manuals to support faith-based engagement on SRHR and SPG.

Between 16th and 19th April 2026, trained youth conducted a follow-up engagement in the rural Chiboene Parish of the Zion Union Apostolic Christian Church, located in Moamba District. They facilitated discussions with over 70 young people on addressing teenage pregnancies, promoting menstrual health, family planning, and improving access to reproductive health services. They also

printed and distributed photocopies of the CBS manuals to church and youth leaders to support continued learning and wider dissemination within the community.

In addition, youth leaders from the United Methodist Church in Mozambique have initiated regular online conversations on the importance of planning in a Christian's life, creating space for learning and exchange on family planning and responsible decision-making. In Gaza Province, the Presbyterian Church in Mozambique also launched a series of Contextual Bible Studies on intergenerational relationships. The first session, held on 18th April 2026 at Magul Parish, brought together youth and elders to address issues of power, abuse, and manipulation, fostering meaningful dialogue on sensitive but critical issues affecting community wellbeing.



Youth leaders in Mozambique showing off their training manuals after a community engagement in Mozambique in May 2026.

Liberian Church Leaders Launch AACC Youth Training manuals on SRHR and SPG

Church leaders in Liberia expressed renewed hope for a healthier and more sustainable future as they opened the AACC young faith leaders training on Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and Sustainable Population Growth (SPG) on 26th May 2026. Hosted at the Trinity Cathedral of the Episcopal Church of Liberia, the training opened with an intergenerational session graced by Bishop James Jelle of the Episcopal Church of Liberia and Rev. Dr. Christopher Wleh, Toe I, General Secretary of the Liberia Council of Churches, among other religious leaders.

In his welcome remarks, Bishop James Selle expressed deep appreciation to the AACC for choosing Liberia as one of the countries to benefit from the intervention. He warmly welcomed participants and encouraged them to maximize the opportunity presented by the training, describing it as a timely platform for learning, transformation, and action. Bishop Selle emphasized the important role of the church in responding to the realities facing young people today, noting that faith

communities must remain active agents of hope, healing, and social transformation.

While describing the local context on faith, SRHR, sustainable population growth, and development in Liberia, Margret Mulbah, a Catholic youth leader from the Liberia Council of Churches, highlighted how the lack of accurate knowledge and information on SRHR continues to destroy the lives and future of many young people in Liberia. Ms. Williams Denise underscored the important role of culture and religion in promoting SRHR and SPG in Liberia. She also stressed that faith leaders and cultural institutions remain highly influential in shaping attitudes, values, and behaviors within communities. While opening the training, Dr. Christopher Wleh I stressed that despite the SRHR challenges facing Liberia, young people possess the energy, creativity, vitality, and talents necessary to transform society. He expressed that initiatives such as this training provide renewed hope for Liberia and the continent at large. The training ended on 30th May 2026.



AACC Executive Secretary, Brian Muyunga, facilitating a session during the training.

AACC Youth Entrepreneurship Exchange Forum **Kicks off with a Series of Virtual Engagements**

On 4th June 2026, AACC, through its All Africa Youth Network (AAYN), kicked off a series of online entrepreneurship exchange forums aimed at accompanying young entrepreneurs across Africa. The webinars precede the nomination phase of the AAYN Entrepreneurship Awards, scheduled to commence in August 2026.

The initiative, launched during the 2nd All Africa Youth Congress in Nairobi, Kenya, seeks to inspire life-flourishing entrepreneurship, innovation, and creativity among African youth while contributing to the continent's holistic development.

Opening the forum, AACC Executive Secretary for Youth, Brian Muyunga, emphasized the role of entrepreneurship in addressing youth unemployment across Africa.

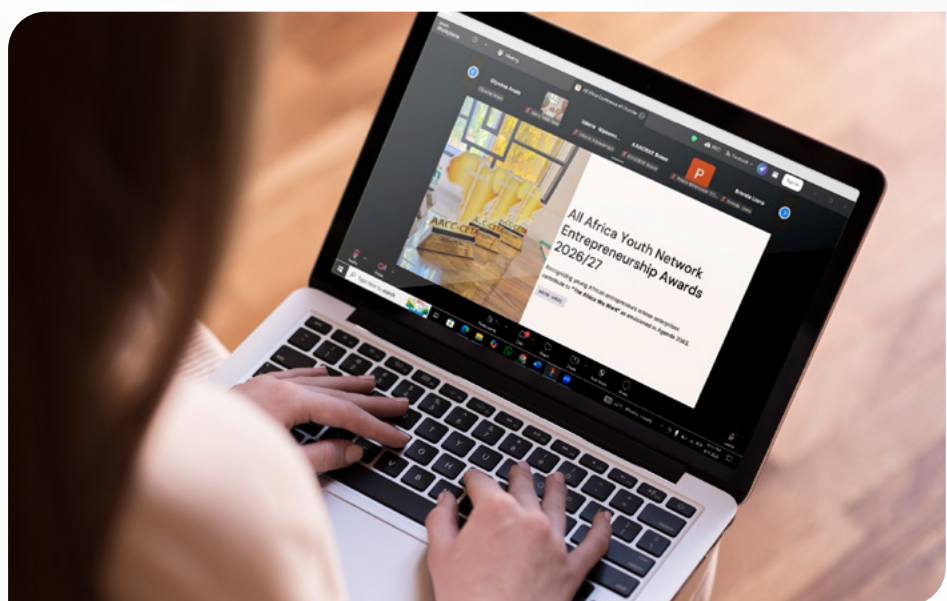
"Through this initiative, we seek to celebrate and support young entrepreneurs who are creating solutions, generating opportunities, and transforming lives across our continent," he said. Participants were introduced to the AAYN Entrepreneurship Awards, which will recognize outstanding youth-led enterprises in three categories: the Life Flourishing Digital and Tech-Driven Enterprises Award, the Stewards of Creation Award, and the Builders of African Unity Award. Each award carries a prize of USD 2,000.

The webinar featured contributions from entrepreneurs and facilitators, including Brenda Liona, founder of Delegator a Task in Nairobi, who highlighted the importance of networking and mentorship for young innovators.

"Many young entrepreneurs have great ideas but lack access to networks and support systems. This programme creates a valuable space for learning, connection, and growth," she noted.

Sharing his experience, Shadrack from Tanzania encouraged participants to pursue opportunities with confidence. ***"Do it afraid. Believe in yourself and show up. Opportunities come when you take the first step," he said.***

The second and third virtual exchanges took place on 17th and 25th June respectively, exploring topics such as leveraging technology for entrepreneurship and scaling up businesses across borders.



Screenshot of slide presentation during the first webinar.

Youth Faith Actors Stir Theological Conversations on SRHR



■ Youth leaders of the Sierra Leone Council of Churches engaging in a Contextual Bible Study on SRHR in June 2026.

Across Africa, young people are creating new spaces for open and informed conversations on SRHR, challenging stigma and building healthier futures for themselves and their communities.

In May and June 2026, young people from AACC member churches across several African countries led community-based initiatives that reached thousands of fellow youth through schools, churches, and community dialogues. The engagements applied the young people's resource pack on faith, love and life, a contextual bible study manual on SRHR. They equipped young people with knowledge, values, and practical

Facilitators reported strong participation, with students openly asking questions and expressing interest in continued engagement.

skills to make informed decisions that promote sexual and reproductive health, human dignity and responsible living, wellbeing, and sustainable futures.

In Sierra Leone, one of the largest outreach efforts engaged more than 1,500 students and community members through school campaigns and church-based awareness sessions. Young people explored topics including reproductive health, menstrual hygiene, bodily rights, family planning, prevention of sexually transmitted infections, and responsible decision-making. Facilitators reported strong participation, with students openly asking questions and expressing interest in continued engagement.

In The Gambia, discussions expanded beyond traditional SRHR education to address safeguarding, consent, child protection, and digital safety. Students learned about healthy relationships, protection against online exploitation, and available reporting and support systems. The programme demonstrated that youth wellbeing today requires both reproductive health knowledge and protection in increasingly digital environments.

Meanwhile, in Gabon, youth-led awareness sessions promoted a holistic understanding of

sexual health, linking healthy choices to dignity, personal responsibility, emotional wellbeing, and informed decision-making. Participants engaged in discussions on sexual rights and reflected on how social and economic realities influence life choices.

In Cameroon, innovative learning methods including role play, debates, educational games, and group reflection transformed conversations around contraception, consent, and Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) prevention into accessible and youth-friendly experiences. Participants appreciated the safe and non-judgmental environment created to discuss topics that are often difficult to address publicly.

Across these countries, a common impact emerged: increased awareness, improved confidence to discuss sensitive issues, stronger understanding of rights and responsibilities, and growing youth leadership in advancing healthier communities.

These initiatives demonstrate that when young people are trusted with knowledge and provided with safe spaces for dialogue, they become active contributors to building informed, healthy, and resilient societies.



Youth leaders participating in the opening devotion of Presbyterian Church of Cameroon Youth Conference on SRHR held in Yaoundé in May 2026.

Youth leaders Mobilize Faith Communities for Sustainable Population Growth for Quality life in Africa

Across the continent, African youth are increasingly connecting personal choices with broader questions of faith, sustainable development, and population dividends. Under the AACC Programme on Sustainable Population Growth (SPG) for Quality Life in Africa, youth leaders are championing peer-to-peer and intergenerational theological conversations on how responsible decision-making, family planning, and social responsibility contribute to Christ's promise of abundant life for all (**John 10:10**).

Central to these engagements has been the use of AACC's Faith, Fertility and the Future manuals as tools for contextual Bible study and theological reflection. Youth leaders reproduced and disseminated the manuals to remote communities and local congregations, enabling church leaders and youth fellowships to continue conversations on faith, family, and sustainable futures beyond the initial engagements.

Across these discussions, young people revisited biblical teachings often associated with fertility and family life. Reflecting on **Genesis 1:28 "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth,"** participants explored how multiplication can also mean nurturing healthy families, developing human potential, and creating flourishing communities rather than focusing solely on numerical population growth.

They also reflected on biblical affirmations that children are a blessing from God (**Psalms 127:3**), while recognizing that this blessing carries responsibility to nurture, educate, protect, and empower children to become agents of transformation.



Participants emphasized that faithful family formation requires preparation and informed decision-making to strengthen households and create opportunities for future generations.

In Lesotho, scripture-informed dialogues encouraged young people to reflect on responsible parenthood and sustainable family life. Participants emphasized that faithful family formation requires preparation and informed decision-making to strengthen households and create opportunities for future generations. In Angola, contextual Bible studies centered on parental responsibility and social protection. Guided by reflections on **1 Timothy 5:8**, youth explored the Christian responsibility to care for one's family and discussed how responsible family planning can support human dignity and quality of life.

In Mozambique, youth combined presentations, poetry, group discussions, and biblical reflection to deepen conversations on planning for family life. Participants interpreted family planning as an expression of stewardship, using wisely the

human, social, and environmental resources entrusted by God while promoting wellbeing across generations. In Zambia, dialogue sessions moved from awareness to action as young people challenged myths and reflected on stewardship, responsibility, and care for creation. Participants developed commitments to promote healthier choices and strengthen community resilience.

Across participating countries, the programme demonstrated that sustainable population growth is not simply a demographic conversation. Through faith-based engagement and theological reflection, young people helped reimagine abundance as flourishing families, empowered communities, and responsible stewardship of God's creation.



Participants during a youth fellowship and open dialogue on family planning held at Evangelical Congregational church in Angola, Benguela- Lobito neighborhood of Santa Cruz.

All Africa Youth Network Members Mobilize Faith Communities to Promote Gender Justice



All Africa Youth Network member; Dr. Marienette Dnouchieu facilitating a training on Faith and Gender Justice at a church in Dakar, Senegal, in May 2026.

Across Africa, young people from AACC member churches are emerging as powerful advocates for dignity, justice, and safer communities through faith-led action against Gender-Based Violence (GBV). During May and June 2026, youth-led campaigns in South Sudan, Senegal, Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Burundi, and Ethiopia reached schools, churches, and digital platforms with a clear message: **Let Love Lead – End GBV Now.**

Grounded in scripture and Christian values, the initiatives challenged silence, strengthened

awareness, and equipped young people with practical tools to prevent violence and support survivors.

In Senegal, Protestant youth of the Evangelical Protestant Church drew inspiration from **Hosea 4:6, "My people perish for lack of knowledge,"** to lead awareness sessions and digital advocacy campaigns. Through role play, discussions, and social media outreach reaching more than 1,000 people, participants explored empathy, emotional intelligence, healthy boundaries, and practical



Through the play *The Scars of Silence*, young people reflected on abuse, discrimination, poverty, and violence affecting schools and families. Participants shared testimonies, identified real cases requiring follow-up, and called for stronger protection systems for children and youth.

responses to abusive situations. Youth were encouraged not only to reject violence but also to become active voices for prevention.

In Botswana, youth combined school outreach with social media campaigns under the message **"Speak Up. Support. Save Lives."** Discussions focused on consent, relationship red flags, and creating safe spaces for children and young people. The campaign promoted a culture where survivors are believed, communities take responsibility, and violence is no longer normalized.

One of the largest gathering was in Côte d'Ivoire, where approximately 2,000 young people gathered for prayer, dialogue, and public reflection on gender justice. Participants challenged harmful power dynamics, confronted silence around abuse, and called on church leaders to take greater responsibility. Testimonies shared during the event created space for healing and opened conversations often left unspoken within faith communities.

In Burundi, theatre became a tool for transformation. Through the play ***The Scars of Silence***, young people reflected on abuse, discrimination, poverty, and violence affecting schools and families. Participants shared testimonies, identified real cases requiring follow-up, and called for stronger protection systems for children and youth.

In South Sudan and Ethiopia, church and youth leaders emphasized that Christian witness must be reflected in relationships marked by respect, dignity, equality, and peace. Guided by Jesus' command in **Mark 12:31, "Love your neighbour as yourself,"** participants reflected on the responsibility of churches to become places of safety, advocacy, and restoration.

Across participating countries, the impact extended beyond awareness. Youth demonstrated growing confidence to speak out, support survivors, challenge harmful norms, and position faith communities as active partners in ending violence.

Ecological Justice

Dr. Tinashe Gumbo

05 ►



AACC Convenes Continental Round Table to **Advance Ecological and Economic Justice Advocacy**

By Dr. Tinashe Gumbo

From 19th to 21st May 2026, the AACC, in partnership with the Christian Council of Ghana (CCG), convened a Continental Round Table on Ecological and Economic Justice Policy Advocacy in Accra, Ghana. Held under the theme, ***“Aligning Faith-Based Advocacy with the Changing Ecological and Economic Development Landscape,”*** the gathering brought together heads of AACC member churches, General Secretaries of National Councils of Churches, and women and youth representatives from 24 African countries.

The round table provided a strategic platform for faith leaders to examine Africa’s ecological and economic challenges and strengthen the role of churches in shaping policies that promote environmental stewardship, equitable resource governance and sustainable development.

Welcoming participants, the Chairman of the Christian Council of Ghana and the Africa Faith Actors Network for Climate Justice (AFAN-CJ), Rt. Rev. Lt. Col. Dr. Bliss Agbeko, described the meeting as both timely and necessary. While acknowledging Africa’s abundant natural resources, he challenged faith communities to play a more active role in promoting responsible stewardship and ensuring that these re-

sources contribute to the well-being of African people.

Speaking on behalf of the AACC, Rev. Dr. Lesmore Gibson Ezekiel, Director for Peace, Ecclesial Leadership, Development, Interfaith and Theology, called for ***“local solutions to local problems in Africa.”*** He reaffirmed the AACC’s commitment to equipping member churches to influence public policy and advocate for ecological sustainability and economic justice across the continent.

The meeting concluded with renewed resolve among participants to strengthen faith-based advocacy, foster continental collaboration and amplify the Church’s prophetic voice in advancing ecological integrity, economic justice and sustainable development in Africa.



Bishop G. Abraham Powell, Liberia Council of Churches, delivering Liberia state of public debt.

AFAN-CJ Commemorates World Environment Day 2026

Africa Faith Actors Network for Climate Justice (AFAN-CJ), under the AACC, joined the global community in commemorating World Environment Day (WED). Commemorated annually on 5th June, this year's theme for WED, 'Inspired by Nature, for Climate, for Our Future', resonates with the AFAN-CJ's theme, **'The Welfare of the Earth is Our Welfare'**.

The AACC regards the day as a special moment for faith actors to reflect deeply on humanity's stewardship role in protecting the environment. During such critical moments, AACC supports locally-led initiatives for AFAN-CJ members to commemorate the WED in their own unique ways based on local contexts.

Members of the AFAN-CJ launched a two-week campaign on environmental protection running from 5th to 20th June 20226 in the context of commemorating WED. The campaign was launched through a virtual meeting held on 5th June 2026, attended by over ninety members from different countries. The meeting was characterised by technical presentations on climate justice, updates



AFAN-CJ members in Uganda and other stakeholders collaboratively held a Church Service and tree planting session to mark the 2026 WED commemorations. Photo courtesy of Betty Mutunda and Paul Kagga, AFAN-CJ members.

from AFAN-CJ members and a demonstration of recommitment to the fight for climate justice. Officially launching the campaign, the AFAN-CJ Chairperson, Rt. Rev. Dr. Lt. Col. Bliss Agbeko expressed his gratitude for the growth of the network. He welcomed new members of AFAN-CJ and urged them to actively participate in the network through their national chapters. He also congratulated the AFAN-CJ for the initiatives implemented on the continent over the past year. He further urged the members to utilise the WED commemoration period to amplify the AFAN-CJ's voice on climate justice issues and influence relevant policies in their spaces. This was echoed

by Evelyne Chirwa, the AFAN-CJ Secretary, who was the moderator of the meeting.

Members of AFAN-CJ implemented various activities, including policy engagement, sermons, awareness through clean-up campaigns, tree planting and media engagement, among others. Most importantly, members of AFAN-CJ used the opportunity to document their national stories covering the period from when the network was launched.



AFAN-CJ members commemorating WED 2026 at the Bronnum Lutheran Seminary, Mbamba, Nigeria, Photo courtesy of Christian Oche, AFAN-CJ.

New AFAN-CJ Members Inducted



Newly inducted AFAN-CJ members in Malawi. Photo courtesy of M'theto Lungu, Malawi Council of Churches.

The AFAN-CJ continues to grow in numbers and visibility across the continent. New members were inducted into the network through two key processes in May 2026 alone. A national-level AFAN-CJ chapter was commissioned in Malawi, while a continental meeting held in Ghana inducted new members from 26 countries into the network.

Firstly, the Country-level engagement on deepening the culture of peace, social cohesion and creation care, held in Lilongwe, Malawi, from 5th to 7th May 2026, saw more than 35 new AFAN-CJ members being recruited. This marked the official launch of the Malawi National AFAN-CJ Chapter, presided over by Rev. Dr. Lesmore Gibson Ezekiel, the AACC Director for Peace, Ecclesial Leadership, Development, Interfaith and Theology. The commissioning of the AFAN-CJ was also characterized by a courtesy visit to the Church of Nazarene, Ufulu Congregation and the Lilongwe Wildlife Centre, where trees were planted as a demonstration of commitment to environmental care.

The AACC convened as a continental round table on ecological and economic justice advocacy in Accra, Ghana, from 10th to 22nd May 2026. Delegates were drawn from 26 African countries to deeply reflect on the ecological crisis in their respective countries. The major highlight of the meeting was the subsequent induction of over 40 new AFAN-CJ. The new members were welcomed by the AFAN-CJ leadership, including the Chairperson, Rt. Rev. Dr. Lt. Col. Bliss Agbeko, who was part of the round table.

Established by the AACC in June 2022, the AFAN-CJ has emerged as a key actor within the continental and partly global climate justice advocacy networks. It is an interfaith initiative that brings together faith leaders in Africa to collectively work at the local, continental and global levels to respond to the impact of climate change in particular and the environment in general. Currently, the network is present in 41 countries.

AACC Contributes to National Dialogue on Climate Change and Social Protection in Kenya

The AACC, through the African Faith Actors Network on Climate Justice (AFAN-CJ), participated in the National Conference on Climate Change and Social Protection in Kenya, convened by GreenFaith Africa.

Representing AACC, Rev. Dr. Lesmore Ezekiel joined AFAN-CJ members from Kenya in engaging with national conversations on building resilient communities in the face of climate change and growing social vulnerability.

The conference brought together a broad range of stakeholders including national and county government ministries, faith communities from different religious traditions, civil society organizations, academia, development partners, media, farmers, and pastoralist communities. The gathering provided an important platform for dialogue on strengthening the links between climate action and social protection systems.

During the conference, AACC contributed to policy discussions by highlighting the intersection between climate change and social protection and emphasizing the importance of integrated approaches that protect vulnerable populations while strengthening community resilience.

Drawing from experiences across countries where AACC works through AFAN-CJ, the delegation shared lessons on the growing role of faith communities in advancing climate justice, supporting adaptation efforts, and influencing policy conversations through locally grounded action.

The engagement reaffirmed the importance of partnerships between governments, faith actors, and communities in responding to climate challenges and ensuring that social protection systems remain responsive to the realities faced by vulnerable populations across Africa.



 Group photo of the participants.

ACK Archbishop Calls for Stewardship and Climate Justice at GreenFaith Africa National Conference

Rev. Dr. Lesmore G. Ezekiel

The Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Kenya (ACK), the Most Rev. Dr. Jackson Ole Sapit, delivered a compelling call for faith-centred climate action during the GreenFaith Africa National Conference on Climate Change and Social Protection, 24th June 2026 in Nairobi, Kenya.

Speaking on behalf of faith actors, the Archbishop emphasized that the climate crisis is not merely an environmental challenge but also a moral, developmental and justice issue requiring collective action. Drawing on the wisdom of the late Professor Wangari Maathai, who likened society to a three-legged stool supported by good governance, sustainable management of natural resources and peace, Archbishop Ole Sapit warned that weakening any one of these pillars threatens the stability of society. He observed that although Africa contributes the least to global greenhouse gas emissions, it continues to bear a disproportionate share of the impacts of climate change, reinforcing

the continent's call for climate justice rather than charity.

"The environmental crisis is ultimately a stewardship crisis. The earth belongs to God. We are stewards," Archbishop Ole Sapit said, calling on faith communities to reclaim their biblical responsibility to care for creation.

Reflecting on ***Psalms 24:1***, he highlighted the Anglican Church of Kenya's practical initiatives, including the Green Anglican Movement, the One Student One Tree Campaign, Eco-Theology training and the Follow Your Waste Campaign, as examples of faith translated into action.

The Archbishop concluded by urging faith communities to complement science, policy and finance with moral leadership that safeguards creation, advances climate justice and secures a sustainable future for generations to come.



Most Rev. Jackson Ole Sapit addressing the media on behalf of the faith actors during the gathering.

Economic Justice

Mr. Adrian Chikowore

06 ►



AACC Strengthens Church Advocacy on Debt and Economic Justice in East Africa

From 6th to 10th April 2026, the AACC convened an East Africa Regional Capacity Strengthening on Ecclesial and Ethical Leadership in Arusha, Tanzania, bringing together representatives of member churches and national councils from Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. The programme focused on strengthening the Church's capacity to engage in economic justice advocacy and influence public policy across the region.

Facilitated by AACC Economic Justice Programme Executive Adrian Chikowore and Dr. John Mapesa, the discussions examined Africa's changing debt landscape and its implications for sustainable development. Participants reflected on the growing public debt burden, fiscal constraints and the need for fair and progressive taxation systems that reduce overreliance on borrowing while promoting equitable economic growth.

The convening challenged churches to strengthen their prophetic role in advocating for economic

policies that protect human dignity, promote accountability and prioritize the needs of vulnerable communities. Participants developed national action plans to engage governments and policymakers on issues of debt management, fiscal responsibility and people-centered economic development.

The impact of the convening is already becoming evident. For instance, several AACC member churches contributed to the Memorandum submitted by the National Council of Churches of Kenya to the National Assembly's Finance and Planning Committee on the Finance Bill 2026. Their contribution reflected the growing role of faith communities in shaping national conversations on economic governance and fiscal justice.

The Arusha convening reaffirmed the AACC's commitment to equipping churches with the knowledge and advocacy skills needed to promote just, inclusive and accountable economic systems that contribute to the flourishing of communities across Africa.



Mr. Adrian Chikowore providing global and regional perspectives on debt and financial reforms, Arusha, Tanzania, April 2026.

World Bank Faith Desk Engages AACC to **Strengthen Faith-Based Partnerships on Economic Justice**

On 15th April 2026, the AACC held a strategic bilateral meeting with the World Bank Faith Desk to explore collaboration on advancing economic justice, climate resilience and people-centered development across Africa. The engagement brought together AACC Economic Justice Programme Executive Adrian Chikowore and the World Bank's Faith Engagement Lead, Cara Santos Pianesi.

The discussions provided an opportunity for both institutions to share their respective approaches to promoting economic justice and to identify areas of mutual collaboration. Among the issues discussed were the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA21) replenishment process, its implications for developing countries, and the role that faith communities can play in promoting equitable and accountable development.

Recognizing the extensive reach and credibility of churches across the continent, the World Bank Faith Desk expressed interest in partnering with the AACC to strengthen the monitoring of World Bank-financed programmes and policies through a faith-based lens. The dialogue highlighted the unique contribution of faith actors in amplifying community perspectives, promoting accountability and ensuring that development initiatives respond to the needs of vulnerable populations.

As an outcome of the engagement, the AACC was invited to participate in the World Bank Faith



The dialogue highlighted the unique contribution of faith actors in amplifying community perspectives, promoting accountability and ensuring that development initiatives respond to the needs of vulnerable populations.

Desk platforms, including the IDA21 Faith Round Table convened alongside the World Bank Spring Meetings. The engagement marks an important step in expanding strategic partnerships that position African churches as active contributors to global conversations on economic justice, ethical development and sustainable financing.

AACC Onboards New Economic Justice Champions in Ghana

AACC convened a Continental Round Table on Economic and Climate Policy Advocacy from 18-22 May in Accra, Ghana. With continental participation of member church and council representatives of 47 participants from 26 countries representing all African regions, the convening was aimed at conscientizing faith leaders to engage effectively on the contemporary paradigms of climate and economic policy advocacy, in alignment with Africa's development priorities. The agenda set for Ghana also aimed at enhancing faith leaders' appreciation of contemporary ecological and economic development landscape paradigm shifts whilst also acting as a strengthening initiative on policy advocacy thrusts on progressive climate and economic justice positions.

The leadership of churches and church councils challenged the AACC to accompany them in strengthening governance, transparency, and accountability systems within extractive industries through legal reforms, public oversight, beneficial

ownership disclosure, and stronger measures against illicit financial flows and corruption. On tax justice, progressive taxation systems capable of financing healthcare, education, social protection, climate resilience, and public services while addressing loopholes, tax havens, and regressive taxation practices affecting poor communities were areas of policy intervention discussed.

Lastly, member councils commended AACC's advocacy initiatives in advancing debt justice through debt audits, responsible borrowing and lending, transparency in public borrowing, debt restructuring discussions, and stronger accountability regarding the utilization of borrowed resources. One of the key outcomes of the Round Table was the recruitment of 19 new economic champions who committed to promoting structured dialogue and collaboration between faith leaders and technical institutions on economic governance in their respective countries.



Group picture of participants at Continental Round Table on Economic and Ecological Policy Advocacy, Accra City Hotel, Ghana, May 2026

Role of Faith Actors Strengthened at East Africa Business and Human Rights Dialogue



Cross-section of participants at BHR Dialogue, June 2026 Photo Credit Danish Church Aid.

The AACC was part of the convening of the East and Horn of Africa Business and Human Rights Dialogue in Nairobi from the 10th to 11th of June 2026. It was represented by its Economic Justice Programme Executive, Adrian Chikowore.

The objectives of the dialogue included assessing the progress on adopting and implementing Business and Human Rights frameworks at national and regional (EAC, AU) levels, focused on measurable and concrete action under the three United Nations Guiding Principles pillars on Business and Human Rights. The dialogue also focused on different avenues, including National Action Plans (NAPs), European Union (EU) regulation and trade deals relevant to the

region. In efforts to encourage peer-learning and multi-stakeholder dialogue amongst governments, national human rights institutions (NHRIs), businesses and civil society organisations (CSOs), human rights defenders (HRDs), trade unions and academia, the AACC presented on a panel session on Inclusive Policy Development and Concrete Implementation Mechanisms with a focus on faith actors' frameworks aimed at influencing responsible business and investment conduct.

Issues of discussion included integrity and tackling IFFs and corruption, finance and influence of capital markets on the aggressive profit-making acts by multinational companies. Adrian also delved into the nexus between international investment finance,

debt and tax and how faith actors can play a more active role in advancing the right to development agenda, including as labour rights defenders of workers who find themselves saddled in unjust transitions, especially in the extractive and agricultural sectors. As the dialogue closed, faith actors remained keen to engage meaningfully in the Business and Human Rights agenda (a space they rarely engaged in) to promote sustainable investments and subsequent development in Africa through faith-based frameworks and theological influencing.



Faith Panel Session on Inclusive Frameworks for Business and Human Rights - Credits Danish Church Aid.

AACC Contributes to SADC Trade and Industrialization Policy Agenda Ahead of Summit

At the invitation of the Southern Africa Peoples Solidarity Network, on the 18th of June 2026, the AACC contributed to an online policy discussion on Trade Regimes, Tariffs and Regional Industrialization, affirming the role of faith actors in influencing international finance and trade regimes to advance economic justice in Southern Africa. The policy discussion focused on the impacts of the current global trade architecture, including USA tariffs, EU trade agreements and the structure of commodity markets, on workers, small producers and communities in Southern Africa. A key area of contestation and opportunity was related to the assessment of the African Continental Free Trade Area and the delivery on its industrialisation promise and/or the reinforcement of existing export dependency.

Outcomes of the policy engagement dwelt on policy propositions for the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Summit scheduled for August 2026. At the core was the need to lobby SADC governments to ratify trade and investment protocols they craft-

ed, as these are the key impediments to progress trade regimes and sustainable investments.

The key takeaway for faith actors included the need for faith diplomacy to advance civic priorities to SADC governments given the moral authority and convening power institutions such as the AACC have within the continent and beyond.



SAPSN

ROAD TO DURBAN 2026
PRE - SUMMIT ENGAGEMENTS

X SPACE

Trade Regimes, Tariffs & Regional Industrialisation

Beyond Raw Exports: Trade Justice and the Fight for Southern Africa's Industrial Future

18 June 2026 | 7:00 PM CAT



MAPULE MAEMA
Senior Programmes Manager & Policy Advisor at the Economic Justice Network (EJN) of FOCCISA



JACOB MAKAMBWE
Secretary General of Southern Africa Cross Border Traders Association SACBTA-Zambia



ADRIAN CHIKOWORE
AACC Programme Lead for Economic Justice.



CHENAYI MUTAMBASERE
(Moderator)
Development Economist
Africa Centre For Economic Justice

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AACC Regional Office in Lomé

Rev. Angele Dogbe

07



AACC Rallies Faith Communities Against Child Trafficking in Guinea

The AACC, through its Regional Office in Lomé and Migration Hub, convened a three-day regional consultation in Conakry, Guinea, from 22nd to 24th June 2026 to strengthen faith-based action against irregular migration among children and adolescents as a strategy for preventing human trafficking.

Held under the theme, ***“Combating Irregular Migration Among Children and Youth to Counter Human Trafficking in Guinea,”*** the consultation brought together nearly 50 participants, including church leaders, Muslim leaders, educators, adolescents, government representatives, child protection agencies, civil society organizations and development partners. The diversity of participants reflected a shared commitment to safeguarding children and fostering coordinated action across faith communities and public institutions.

Speaking during the consultation, Rev. Angele Wilson-Dogbe, Director of the AACC Regional Office in Lomé and Migration and focal person for Children and Education, noted that the initiative responds to the growing challenge of child trafficking across West Africa, where poverty, unemployment and limited educational opportunities continue to expose children to forced labour, sexual exploitation and other forms of abuse.

Participants explored legal and policy frameworks on

child protection, community-based prevention strategies, household economic resilience and the emerging risks of online recruitment and digital exploitation. A visit to a child protection center and testimonies from survivors underscored the human cost of trafficking and inspired participants to strengthen prevention efforts within their own communities.

The consultation concluded with the development of community action plans, reaffirming the vital role of faith communities in protecting children, promoting safe migration and advocating for policies that uphold the dignity and rights of every child.



Rev. Angele Dogbe addressing the consultation.

AACC Marks Day of the African Child, Calls for Universal WASH Access

The AACC commemorated the Day of the African Child on 16th June 2026 by convening a high-level hybrid panel discussion under the theme, ***“Ensuring Universal Access to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for Every Child in Africa.”*** The event brought together representatives of member churches, faith-based organizations, government institutions, child rights advocates, development partners and civil society organizations to reaffirm their shared commitment to advancing children’s rights and well-being.

Observed annually on 16 June, the Day of the African Child commemorates the 1976 Soweto (South Africa) Uprising while highlighting the rights and welfare of children across the continent. This year’s theme, adopted by the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACERWC), focused on ensuring every African child has access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH).

Participants emphasized that access to clean water and sanitation is fundamental to children’s health, education, dignity and protection. They noted that inadequate WASH services continue to expose millions of African children to preventable diseases, school absenteeism and heightened vulnerability to abuse and exploitation.

Presentations by Compassion International Togo, PRODIDA/PROISDA and the Togolese League for Child Protection (LTPE) highlighted practical strategies for strengthening child protection through improved WASH services and closer collaboration among governments, churches, civil society and development partners. The commemoration concluded with a renewed call for faith communities to champion child-centered policies, promote healthy behaviours and advocate for universal access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene, ensuring that every African child can grow, learn and thrive in dignity.



Group photo of the participants.

Health and Healing

Ms. Ann Kioi

08 ►



African Churches Commit to Fight Antimicrobial Resistance

On 5th May 2026, faith leaders from across Africa made a historic commitment to address Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), one of the most urgent and under-recognized global health threats at the moment. This was during a continental Faith leaders webinar on Health and Healing convened by the Africa Christian Health Association Platform (ACHAP), Ecumenical Pharmaceutical Network (EPN) and ReACT Africa in collaboration with the AACC.

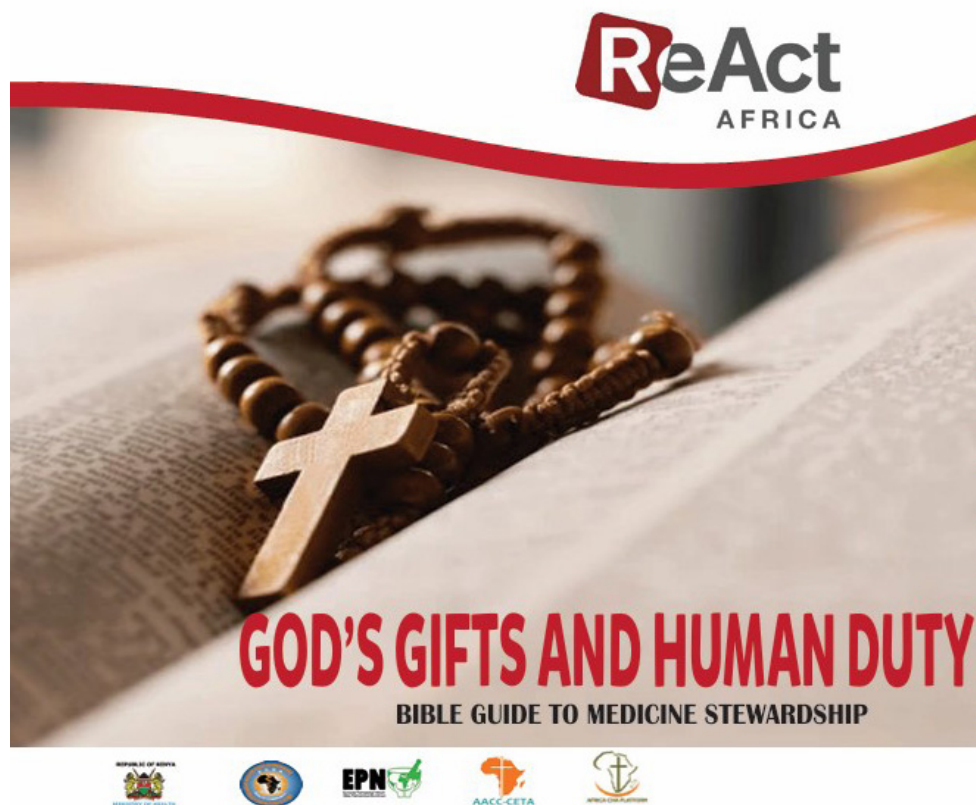
The webinar marked the official launch of two key resources for faith communities: the AMR Sermon Guide and an accompanying AMR Policy Brief, designed to strengthen the Church's response to the growing threat of drug resistance in African communities. The tools aim to help faith leaders translate complex health information into practical, scripture-based messages that promote responsible antibiotic use, infection prevention, and community awareness.

The AMR Sermon Guide provides structured sermons and theological reflections linking Christian teaching to health stewardship, while the Policy Brief offers evidence-based direction for church-led health programming and advocacy. Both resources are available for wider use across denominations.

In his keynote address, the AACC General Secretary stressed the urgency of faith-based action against AMR, noting that churches remain among the most trusted platforms for community engagement. ***"We must swing into action to promote responsible use of antibiotics and challenge harmful practices that fuel resistance," he said.***

He officially endorsed the tools on behalf of AACC and urged churches to integrate them into sermons, Bible studies, youth ministries, and community outreach programmes. Participants concluded the webinar with commitments to strengthen AMR awareness and integrate at least one AMR-focused teaching within the coming year.

The initiative positions African faith communities as critical partners in addressing one of the continent's most pressing public health threats.



Advocacy at the African Union

09 ►



Women of Faith and Civil Society Organisations

Strengthen Partnership with IGAD on Peace and Security

Ms. Mahlet Abreham

Women leaders from across the Horn of Africa convened in Addis Ababa for a landmark regional engagement aimed at strengthening collaboration on the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda. The meeting, organized by the AACC, brought together representatives from civil society organizations (CSOs), faith-based organizations (FBOs), and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD).

Held on 20th and 21st April 2026, the engagement created a vital platform for dialogue between grassroots women leaders and regional policymakers. Participants explored pathways to enhance women's leadership and participation in peacebuilding efforts across the IGAD region. In her opening remarks, the AACC president, Rt. Rev. Lydia Neshangwe, highlighted the resilience and leadership of women in conflict-affected communities. She stressed that while women are often disproportionately affected by conflict, they remain central to mediation, reconciliation, and community cohesion. **"Women are not merely victims of conflict; they are powerful agents of peace," she stated,** calling for a shift toward meaningful inclusion in policy and governance processes.

Participants engaged with IGAD's policy frameworks and interrogated existing mechanisms and opportunities for strengthening the WPS agenda. A key outcome of the meeting was the development of a joint Call to Action, reflecting the collective priorities of women leaders across the region in enhancing women's meaningful participation in peace processes, addressing climate-related security challenges, promoting digital literacy and security, strengthening early warning systems and expanding women's leadership in peace and security. The Call to Action was presented to IGAD representatives during a high-level policy dialogue. While receiving the call, Commander Abebe Muluneh reaffirmed IGAD's commitment to advancing the WPS agenda and deepening collaboration with women-led initiatives.



Rt. Rev. Lydia, President of AACC handing over the call to action to Commander Abebe, Director of IGAD Peace and Security Division. [Courtesy: IGAD]

AACC Peace Convocation Calls for Inclusive Peacebuilding in the Horn of Africa

Ms. Mahlet Abreham

The AACC, through its Liaison Office to the African Union, jointly with the United Religions Initiative (URI), convened a two-day Peace Convocation in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 17th to 18th June 2026. Bringing together faith leaders, civil society practitioners, women and youth leaders, scholars, and representatives of regional and continental institutions, the convocation formed part of the AACC Horn of Africa Peace Project.

Opening the gathering, Dr. Gorden Simango, AACC Director for the Africa Union Liaison Office and Advocacy, Ambassador Mussie Hailu of URI, Ambassador Maureen Achieng of IGAD, and Ambassador Salah Hammad of the African Union Commission underscored the urgent need for collaborative approaches to peacebuilding. In his keynote address, Dr. Yonas Adaye Adeto examined the Horn of Africa's evolving peace and conflict dynamics, highlighting the interconnected challenges of political instability, violent extremism, climate-related pressures and shrinking civic space.

Participants reaffirmed that sustainable peace requires more than the absence of conflict. It must be rooted in justice, inclusion, human dignity and accountable governance. The discussions emphasized the indispensable role of faith communities, civil society, women and young people in preventing conflict, promoting reconciliation and strengthening social cohesion.



Group photo of the participants.



Dr. Gorden Simango addressing the meeting.

The convocation called for greater investment in peace education, trauma healing, interfaith and community-led mediation, and stronger collaboration among governments, regional institutions, faith actors and civil society organizations. Participants also advocated for improved early warning systems and the integration of indigenous African values into peacebuilding initiatives.

The meeting concluded with the adoption of a Joint Call to Action and a Personal Pledge for Peace and Non-violence, reaffirming a shared commitment to dialogue, reconciliation and locally led peacebuilding across the Horn of Africa.

AACC Strengthens Electoral Accountability Through Election Observation Training

Ms. Jesse Kalepa

The AACC, in partnership with the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) and Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS), conducted a training on Election Observation, Analysis and Reporting to strengthen the capacity of ecumenical leaders, practitioners and young people to contribute to credible and accountable electoral processes in Africa.

The training was delivered through a two-phased approach, beginning with a six-week self-paced online component from March to April 2026, followed by a five-day practical session held from 27th April to 1st May 2026 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Participants gained knowledge and practical skills in election observation methodologies, electoral integrity, data analysis and reporting.

Speaking during the opening of the training, Dr. Gordon Simango, Director of the AACC Liaison Office to the African Union and Advocacy, emphasized the importance of transparent and

inclusive elections in democratic societies. He noted that elections serve as a means through which citizens' aspirations are translated into national leadership and must therefore be conducted with integrity and accountability.

The practical sessions equipped participants through simulations, group exercises and experience-sharing, preparing them to conduct objective election observation and produce credible reports that can inform governments, institutions and citizens. The training also strengthened the role of faith actors in promoting active citizenship and public engagement in democratic processes. Implemented under the AACC project ***"Strengthening Evidence-Based Advocacy for Peace, Human Rights, Migration, and Social Justice in Africa,"*** funded by Bread for the World, the initiative reflects AACC's commitment to strengthening the Church's witness for justice, peace and accountable governance across the continent.



In-person training participants in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Peace in Africa

10 ►



Faith Leaders Call for Ethical AI Use and Governance

Rev. Dr. Lesmore Ezekiel



The AACC joined other global faith-based organizations across the globe, and convened a landmark International Symposium on Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Berlin under the theme, ***"Our Common Future: Advocating for Digital Rights and AI Accountability."*** The two-day event, hosted at the headquarters of Bread for the World (BfdW), was jointly organized with the World Association for Christian Communication (WACC), Evangelical Mission in the World (EMW), and the World Council of Churches (WCC).

The symposium brought together faith leaders, communication experts, and digital rights advocates to reflect on the ethical and societal implications of artificial intelligence. Key discussions addressed AI manipulation, misinformation and disinformation, digital colonization, communication injustice, and the urgent need for inclusive regulatory frameworks. Participants also explored how AI continues to reshape global communication landscapes, often amplifying inequalities.

Lesmore G. Ezekiel from AACC and Ms. Corina Waltz from EMW presenting on possible actions to be taken after the symposium.

While acknowledging the significant contributions of AI to innovation and development, participants raised serious concerns about its misuse. Particular alarm was expressed over emerging threats such as the use of autonomous weapons in warfare, as well as the broader risks posed to human dignity and societal stability. A strong call to action emerged from the gathering, emphasizing the need for coordinated global efforts among faith-based institutions to promote digital justice.

"The symposium underscored the importance of establishing ethical standards, strengthening accountability mechanisms, and advancing AI auditing frameworks." Noted Rev. Dr. Lesmore G. Ezekiel, the AACC Director for Peace, Ecclesial Leadership, Sustainable Development and Theology.

AACC Strengthens Peacebuilding Efforts in Central Africa Region

Ms. Faith Thiong'o

The AACC, convened a Regional Capacity Strengthening Workshop on Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Reconciliation in Yaoundé, Cameroon, from 27th April to 1st May 2026, bringing together church leaders and faith actors from across Central Africa to strengthen the Church's role as an agent of peace and social transformation.

The workshop gathered 29 participants from AACC member churches in Cameroon, Central African Republic, Congo Brazzaville, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and Benin, with the participation of AACC President, Very Rev. Lydia Neshangwe, and AACC Vice President, Madam Victoire Bouba.

Against the backdrop of persistent conflict, insecurity, displacement and social fragmentation in the region, participants explored practical approaches to conflict prevention, reconciliation and sustainable peacebuilding. Through theological reflections, presentations, group discussions and action-planning sessions, they examined the root causes of conflict and the contribution of faith communities in promoting peaceful coexistence.

Discussions focused on strategic peacebuilding, mediation, religious diplomacy, non-violent communication, resource mobilization and early warning mechanisms. A key highlight was a biblical reflection the AACC President, Rt. Rev. Lydia Neshangwe, based on **John 20:19–21**, which



Group photo of the participants.

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Participants shared experiences from their respective contexts, identifying challenges including political instability, mistrust, youth involvement in violence and social divisions. The workshop concluded with the development of individual and institutional action plans aimed at strengthening local peace initiatives.

The gathering reaffirmed AACC's commitment to equipping churches across Africa to become instruments of reconciliation, justice and lasting peace.

AACC and Malawi Council of Churches **Advance Peace and Social Cohesion**

Ms. Faith Thiong'o

The AACC, in partnership with the Malawi Council of Churches (MCC), convened a Country-Level Engagement on Deepening the Culture of Peace, Social Cohesion, Trauma Healing and Creation Care in Lilongwe, Malawi, from 4th to 8th May 2026. The gathering brought together ecumenical leaders, women and youth representatives from member churches to strengthen the contribution of faith communities to peacebuilding and sustainable development.

Participants reflected on challenges affecting communities, including political polarization, social exclusion, economic inequalities, negative ethnicity and the impacts of climate change. Discussions emphasized that sustainable peace requires justice, ethical leadership, accountability and respect for human dignity.

Through presentations, group discussions and planning sessions, participants explored practical approaches to conflict prevention, mediation, reconciliation, trauma healing and advocacy. The engagement highlighted the unique role of faith leaders as trusted voices who can foster dialogue, strengthen community resilience and promote peaceful coexistence.

A significant moment was a courtesy visit by AACC General Secretary Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki, AACC Director for Peace, Ecclesial Leadership, Development, Interfaith and Theology Rev. Dr. Lesmore G. Ezekiel, and MCC

leadership to Malawi's Vice President, Rt. Hon. Dr. Jane Ansah. The visit underscored the importance of collaboration between faith institutions and public leadership in advancing national cohesion.

The engagement also integrated creation care as part of peacebuilding through environmental conservation activities, including tree planting. Participants developed personal and institutional action plans for implementation between June 2026 and May 2027, alongside establishing a coordinating team to support continued efforts toward peace, social cohesion and environmental stewardship.



Group photo of the participants.



Rev. Dr. Fidon Mwombeki opening the engagement in Malawi.

AACC Highlights Ethical and Servant Leadership at United Church of Zambia General Synod

Rev. Dr. Lesmore Ezekiel

AACC participated in the 33rd General Synod of the United Church of Zambia (UCZ), held in Kabwe, Zambia, from 5th to 10th June 2026, reaffirming its commitment to accompanying member churches in strengthening ethical leadership and ecclesial transformation. The Synod brought together 146 delegates, ecumenical partners and church leaders under the theme, ***"Changing the Narrative," inspired by Isaiah 43:19.***

A key highlight was a presentation by Rev. Dr. Lesmore G. Ezekiel, AACC Director for Peace, Ecclesial Leadership, Development, Interfaith and Theology, on ***"Ethical Leadership for Ecclesial Transformation."*** Drawing on ***John 10:1-14***, he challenged church leaders to embrace leadership rooted in integrity, accountability and service, reminding participants that authentic Christian leadership nurtures life, builds trust and advances God's mission.

The Synod also celebrated the ordination of 29 ministers, including nine women, in a service that underscored the Church's commitment to servant ministry. Each ordinand received a Bible and a towel—symbols of the ministry of the Word and the call to humble service. The accompanying charge, ***"You are called to serve and not to be served,"*** resonated deeply with participants and captured the essence of Christ-centred leadership.

During the Synod, the AACC conveyed fraternal greetings and reaffirmed its partnership with the



Rev. Dr. Lesmore G. Ezekiel addressing the synod meeting.



UCZ congregation during the ordination service.

UCZ. The visit also included a courtesy call to the Council of Churches in Zambia, where discussions focused on strengthening ecumenical collaboration and advancing shared priorities.

The gathering reaffirmed that ethical and servant leadership remains essential for a vibrant Church that faithfully serves God, transforms communities and offers a credible public witness across Africa.



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