



The African Christian Pulse

A Bulletin of the All Africa Conference of Churches

November - December, 2010



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**Mothers Union team from the Church of Uganda
visiting AACC headquarters.**



CONTENTS:

CORE GROUP MEETING OF THE GREAT LAKES ECUMENICAL FORUM	3
AACC THEOLOGICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE	4
CONGRATULATIONS DEAR PHILIP SANDI	6
CAMPAIGN FOR AFRICAN DIGNITY IN ANGOLA	6
SUDAN REFERENDUM	7

CORE GROUP MEETING OF THE GREAT LAKES ECUMENICAL FORUM

Between 2 - 4 November, 2010 the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) convened in Kigali, Rwanda a meeting of church leaders from the Great Lakes region. There were actually two meetings in one. First there was a meeting of the Great Lakes Ecumenical Forum (GLEF) Core Group and secondly there was a meeting of the church leaders from the same region.

The GLEF Core Group is made of:

- church leaders from Rwanda, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Uganda and Tanzania;
- representatives from the AACC, and the Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa

(FECCLAHA); and

- focal persons for the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Rwanda and Burundi.
- representatives of Ecumenical Partners and Association of Member Episcopal Conferences in Eastern Africa (AMECEA).

The Core Group meets at least once a year to examine contemporary issues including the security situation in the region and to recommend the course of action to be undertaken.

The Core Group was convened concurrently with church leaders from the Great Lakes Region because of alarming developments in Burundi and the DRC. The meeting discussed the insecurity in the region and recommended the actions to

be taken.

Participants to the meeting also visited the Gihembe Refugee camp in Northern Rwanda. The camp has been housing Congolese refugees for nearly 15 years and has a population of 19,000 people. The church leaders saw for themselves the state of the refugees who requested them to check on the security situation back home and to inform them when and whether they could return home.

The meeting enabled church leaders to appreciate the gravity of the situation in the region and the refugee camp. The meeting decided to engage church diplomacy by sending missions to the capitals of the Great Lakes countries.



Group photo of participants.

AACC THEOLOGICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

After the sub-regional theological consultations which chose the leadership of theological associations, the Advisory Committee met on 17-18 November 2010 in Nairobi and among other important things, issued the following communique which the African Christian Pulse is glad to share with you the following communique.

The AACC Theology Department Advisory committee met in Nairobi at the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) Head Quarters from 17th – 18th November, 2010. The committee was fully

constituted having received representatives from the regional associations who had been duly elected by the Associations in the various consultations held during the course of the year. Other members are Ecumenical Disability Advocates Network(EDAN), All Africa Association of Theological Education by Extension (AATEEA), Program for Christian Muslim Relations in Africa (PROCMURA), Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians, Organisation of African Instituted Churches (OAIC), Association of Evangelicals in Africa (AEA) and Catholic University. Other members were co-opted by AACC

Prof. Maake Masango was elected as Chairperson and Prof. Priscilla Djomhoue as vice Chairperson. Dr. Tharcisse Gatwa is to serve as secretary

Reports were received from the four regional associations; West Africa Association of Theological Institutions,(WAATI) Association des Institutions Theologiques d' Afrique Centrale (ASTHEOL), Association of Theological Institution in Eastern Africa, (ATIEA) and Association of Theological Institutions in Southern and Central Africa(ATISCA). They affirmed the revitalization of the



AACC Advisory Committee

Associations.

The associations expressed gratitude to the General Secretary, the Theological Department and the entire AACC for having taken the initiative to support the process of revitalizing the associations by facilitating the consultations in each sub-region.

The sub regional associations chose the following themes to do research and publication:

Inter Religious Relations;
African Theological Response to Ethnicity; Church and State;
Land and HIV&AIDS

The following decisions were made;

1. The formation of the All Africa Academy of Theology and Religious studies to serve as a forum for theological reflection.
2. The establishment of a

theological education fund for Africa to be resourced by 60% Africa sources and 40% from funding partners abroad.

3. The Publication of the Theological Handbook for Africa.

We call on the Churches and Theological Institutions to commit to the process and forward names of scholars who can contribute to the handbook. We also call for commitment to move from the dependency syndrome by intensifying resource mobilization within Africa and also employing cost saving measures e.g. requesting churches to host conferences and extend hospitality to those coming from outside the host country.

We thank God for inspiring us to engage in this process and pray that God will grant us insight to move it forward. We

thank the Association of Protestant Churches and Missions in Germany (EMW) for their particular role in this process, and the other ecumenical partners for their support.

We recognize the important role played by the WCC in coordinating the process of theological education through ETE and we implore them to take seriously the calls from Africa and all other regions to **continue this coordinating role for more years to come, for the future of theological education in Africa and beyond.**



WE INVITE YOU ALL TO SHARE YOUR STORIES AND EXPERIENCES THROUGH THE AFRICAN CHRISTIAN PULSE

To join the mailing list or comment, please write to secretariat@aacc-ceta.org

CONGRATULATIONS DEAR PHILIP SANDI: LCC General Secretary Elect



elected Philip Sandi (left) as its new General Secretary. Mr. Sandi was declared the General Secretary Elect by the president of the council A.M.E church Bishop David Daniels jr after his election by the heads of churches and Christian organizations of the LCC.

Sandi is a member of the Ebenezer Don Stewart Christ Pentecostal Church in Point Four on the Bushrod Island. **AACC takes this opportunity to welcome Mr. Philip Sandi in the Ecumenical family and thanks Dr. Benjamin Lartey for the dedicated service of the LCC and the Ecumenical Movement in Africa and in the world.**

Mr. Sandi will take over in April 2011 from the LCC current General Secretary Dr. Benjamin Lartey who has completed his two terms. Mr.

The Liberian Council of Churches (LCC) has

CAMPAIGN FOR AFRICAN DIGNITY IN ANGOLA

The Angola Council of Churches organized a conference from 23 to 25 November 2010, in Luanda, Angola, on the theme “The Church in Angola: Spiritual and Social challenges for today”. The AACC Youth Executive Secretary, Rev. Adriano Quelende, attended the conference and preached during the closing ceremony. He also used the opportunity to talk about the AACC Campaign for African Dignity. In response to that, the general secretaries of the Congregational Evangelical Church and the United Methodist Church in Angola invited him to conduct the Campaign in their churches.

On 28 November 2010, Rev. Quelende visited the Congregational Evangelical



Some of the participants at the Luanda Conference.

Church in Luanda where he delivered the sermon. Afterwards, he spoke more about the work of AACC and the need for support from its

member churches. He also visited the United Methodist Church in Angola where he was also granted an opportunity to preach and

talk about the AACC Campaign for African Dignity. In total, both churches were able to give USD 2200.

Other churches in Angola are enthusiastic about the

Campaign for African Dignity and are mobilizing Christians to be part of the Campaign. They have promised to send feedback to the AACC in January 2011.

The AACC is grateful to our

member churches in Angola and elsewhere for their support.

SUDAN REFERENDUM

The Christian Pulse (CP) interviewed Mrs. Mbari Kioni, Director of Peace Healing and Reconciliation, about the Sudan Referendum as follows:

CP: What are you doing in preparation for the upcoming Sudan Referendum?

Mrs. Mbari: At the invitation of the Sudan Council of Churches (SCC) we have been requested to accompany the council during the process of the referendum. This takes the form of:

- Enhancing the council's capacity by seconding an expert to them, and also
- Coordinating the deployment of all ecumenical international observers

CP: Are there going to be local observers as well?

Mrs Mbari: Yes there will be. At the local level SCC is also making preparations to deploy about 300 local observers, in both the North

and South Sudan. They are also working with civil society organizations.

CP: What aspects will the AACC deal with?

Mrs Mbari: In Juba and Khartoum, we are coordinating the deployment plans for all ecumenical international observers and the response has been good, with approximately 40 highly able ecumenical observers confirming availability, from over 14 ecumenical agencies. We are dealing with aspects of accreditation application, travel documentation, and other logistics. We hope to cover a good percentage of the over two thousand polling stations, and to have a visible presence in both the North and the South Sudan.

CP: Who are some of our ecumenical partners in this?

Mrs Mbari: In addition to the SCC, we are working with the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar (SECAM) and other agencies. They have



Peace, Healing and Reconciliation Director, Mrs Mbari Kioni.

appointed top leadership in the Catholic Church to attend the referendum. We are also doing this on behalf and with the support of the World Council of Churches (WCC).

CP: What challenges are you facing?

Mrs Mbari: Challenges include funding a mission of such magnitude, as well as the lack of adequate infrastructure within Sudan (communication in certain areas, transport, accommodation, etc). The two secretariats in Juba and Khartoum are therefore of great help.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sudan Referendum: 9 January 2011; Sudan

Church Leaders Course: 31 January - 4 February 2011 in Nairobi, Kenya

Interfaith Consultation for Religious Leaders, Women and Youth: 7-12 February 2011, in Nairobi, Kenya.

World Council of Churches Central Committee: 16-22 February 2011 in Geneva, Switzerland.

Partners Consultation: 7-9 March 2011 in Nairobi, Kenya.

AACC Finance & Personnel Committee: 13 April 2011 in Nairobi, Kenya.

AACC Executive Committee: 14-15 April 2011, Kenya.

AACC Finance & Personnel Committee: 12 October 2011 in Nairobi, Kenya.

AACC Executive Committee: 13-14 October 2011 in Nairobi, Kenya



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