

People of the Southwest District,

The Districts of the Iowa Annual Conference are joining together to raise money to complete the kitchen at the Ubuntu Centre at Africa University. The Iowa Annual Conference has a long history of partnering with Africa University, and have been blessed by graduates who have come to serve in our state. Below is a letter from Bishop Laurie Haller describing the ministry of the Ubuntu Centre, as well as her challenge for our conference to join in this endeavor.

I am inviting each congregation to take an offering during the month of May to help complete this project. Each district is being asked to raise \$5,000.00. To begin our fundraising, Jay and I will contribute \$250.00. Any excess from the \$40,000.00 total will go for scholarships at Africa University. The districts will be bringing the gathered offerings to Annual Conference, where they will be presented during opening worship on Saturday, June 8th.

Links to Video on the Ubuntu Centre and the opportunity we have to give:

- Vimeo (for viewing): <https://vimeo.com/322516265>
- Vimeo (for downloading):
vimeo.com/iowaannualconference/download/322516265/e94e608b0e

Together, we can make a difference!

Grace and Peace,

Terra Amundson

DISTRICTS CHALLENGED TO RAISE FUNDS FOR KITCHEN AT THE UBUNTU RETREAT CENTRE AT AFRICA UNIVERSITY

In October, a group of eleven clergy and laity from Iowa visited Africa University in Old Mutare, Zimbabwe. Africa University (AU) was founded in 1992 as a United Methodist-related university and draws students from countries all over the African continent. Several of our Iowa clergy are graduates of AU.

We stayed at the Ubuntu Retreat Centre, which was completed several years ago and was funded by United Methodists in the West Michigan (now Michigan) Conference. The Ubuntu Centre houses visiting professors, mission teams, AU board members, conference attendees, and other visitors.

Upon our arrival, our team noticed that the room designated as the kitchen in the Ubuntu Centre was not finished, which means that all meals have to be transported from the main university kitchen to the Ubuntu Centre. We were so impressed and blessed by our time at Africa University and the hospitality

of the Ubuntu Centre that we decided to challenge our eight districts in Iowa to help raise money to furnish the kitchen at an estimated cost of \$40,000. We are inviting each district to raise \$5,000 by the time of the Iowa Annual Conference in June. We will then offer our gifts together at one of our worship services.

Please feel free to be creative in your fundraising! To begin our challenge, Gary and I have donated \$1,000, which will be split across the eight districts. Thank you for your continuing support for AU.

Bishop Laurie and Rev. Gary Haller

Rev. Darline Balm-Demmel

Rev. Ron and Beth Carlson

Rev. Lilian Gallo-Seagren

Rev. Kiboko Kiboko

Rev. Carol Kress

Rev. Ben Wedeking

Rev. Paul and Rev. Gayle Wilcox