

Ruth R. Handy: She Believes in the Future of Africa University



Ruth Odessa Robinson Handy and Bishop William Talbot "W.T." Handy Jr.

Dillard was not initially a good fit for W. T. because of his young age. His parents sent him to Tuskegee Institute, now Tuskegee University, for a year to help him focus. While at Tuskegee, he was drafted into the U.S. Army and served with distinction during World War II.

Following his military service, W. T. returned to Dillard to complete his education. It was while he was enrolled at Dillard for the second time that he met Ruth and they were married. Upon graduation from Dillard in 1948, W. T. enrolled at Gammon Theological Seminary in Atlanta, leaving Ruth behind to complete her final year at Dillard. Ruth joined him in Atlanta upon graduation.

During her marriage to W. T., Ruth worked outside the home as an elementary school teacher as well as partnered with him in his ministry. She also reared three of their four children to adulthood. W. T. served churches in the Louisiana Conference for 16 years before accepting the invitation to join the staff of The United Methodist Publishing House in Nashville, Tenn., in 1968. The Handys returned to

Louisiana in 1978 when W. T. was appointed superintendent of the Lafayette-Baton Rouge District. Two years later, he was elected to the episcopacy and was assigned to the Missouri Episcopal Area until his retirement 12 years later in 1992.

On Easter Sunday 1998, W. T. suffered a massive heart attack. Since W. T.'s death, Ruth has remained actively involved with a number of projects that W. T. supported during his lifetime, including Africa University.

Ruth has donated to Africa University a number of books from W. T.'s extensive library, she makes an annual contribution to Africa University in memory of her late husband, and she has made the ultimate gift to Africa University—she has included the university in her will. "Bishop Handy devoted much of his life to helping young people who had set high goals for themselves and were committed to a life of Christian service. I am committed to carrying forward that legacy and his love of and support for Africa University," Ruth said.

—Elaine Jenkins, AU Development Office

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Ruth R. Handy Believes in the Future of AU

Elaine Jenkins

Ruth Handy, though retired, has remained actively involved with a number of projects, including Africa University.

- Africa University is located in Old Mutare, Zimbabwe, and is the first fully accredited United Methodist-related educational institution on the African continent, established by action of the General Conference.
- Africa University offers bachelor's and master's degree programs in six faculties of learning: agriculture and natural resources, education, health sciences, humanities and social sciences, management and administration and theology. The Institute of Peace, Leadership and Governance offers postgraduate diplomas and master's programs.



In 2010, Africa University celebrated 18 years of realized dreams, and we look forward to your full support in 2011.

Western Jurisdiction		
Alaska Missionary	100%	100%

Southeastern Jurisdiction		
North Carolina	100%	100%
Red Bird Missionary	110.87%	100.24%

South Central Jurisdiction		
Louisiana	100.04%	100%
North Texas	100%	100%
Oklahoma Indian Missionary	100%	100%

Northeastern Jurisdiction		
Baltimore-Washington	100%	100%
Central Pennsylvania	100%	100%
Greater New Jersey	100%	100%
New England	100%	100%
New York	100%	100.02%
Peninsula-Delaware	100%	100%
Upper New York	133%	
West Virginia	110.34%	102.01%

Jurisdiction Total Support and Annual Conferences with 100 percent or More in 2010 (includes 2009 performance)

North Central Jurisdiction		
Dakotas	102%	
East Ohio	100%	100%
Illinois Great Rivers	100%	100%
Iowa	118.36%	100%
Minnesota	99.29%	
Northern Illinois	100%	
West Michigan	100%	
Wisconsin	110.50%	104.53%

100 Percent Support
Thank you for supporting Africa University through your 100 percent remittance of the Africa University Fund apportionment in 2010.



Ken Plummer

Stephen Drachler

Ken Plummer is finally sharing Africa University's biggest secret. The retired Chambersburg, Pa., contractor solicited Africa University's largest gift—land that sold for more than \$10.2 million nearly a decade ago. However, the arrangement required confidentiality until the donors died.

Jean C. Curtis's death May 9 freed Plummer to discuss the gift from Curtis and her late husband, Robert. The gift represented proceeds from the sale of a farm Jean Curtis inherited in DeKalb, Ill.

One sees evidence of the Curtises' largesse in the buildings constructed since Africa University opened in 1992 and in the scholarship endowment that enables students from across Africa to receive an excellent education.

"Jean was a very private person," Plummer said. "She believed in Africa University, and wanted to do something to help, but she wanted no

credit for it. So we never said where the gift came from."

Robert and Jean became friends with Plummer after joining St. Paul United Methodist Church in Chambersburg. Plummer was on the board at Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, D.C., when the late Bishop James Mathews approached him about raising start-up funds for Africa University.

As Plummer shared stories about Africa University and its mission, the Curtises became deeply interested in how they could empower African students through giving to AU. Jean Mathews approached him about raising start-up funds for Africa University. As Plummer shared stories about Africa University and its mission, the Curtises became deeply interested in how they could empower African students through giving to AU.

"Bob was a professor of political science," said Plummer's wife, Ruth. "During the summer, students from Africa would come to Wilson College to study."

After Jean Curtis inherited two farms in Illinois, the couple decided to donate the proceeds from the sale of one farm to the university. That confidential gift proved successful, setting the stage for the gift of the second, larger, farm to Africa University.

As the Curtises' health deteriorated, they contacted Plummer. He brought in James Salley, the university's associate vice chancellor for institutional advancement. Together, they formulated a

plan and transferred the farm to the university.

"They thought it would be a gift of \$1.5 million to \$2 million," Plummer said, adding that it was initially appraised to be valued at a stunning \$5.2 million.

Working with investment advisors and real estate experts, the university held on to the land to allow its value to appreciate. "The appreciated value of the gift is a prime example of how Africa University works with donor

"I know Bob won't mind now. This can help inspire others to give to the university."

gifts to maximize their value," said Jim Salley. After several years, the university sold the property for \$10.2 million.

The Curtises insisted that their gift remain anonymous while they were alive, Plummer said.

"I know Bob won't mind now. This can help inspire others to give to the university."

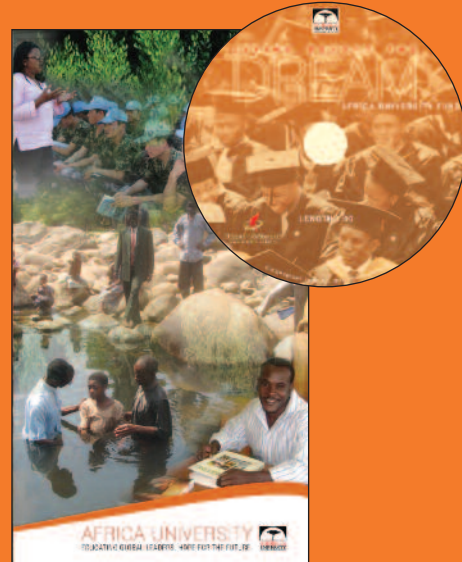
—Stephen Drachler is a freelance writer in Pennsylvania.

Celebrating the Connection between Africa University and United Methodist Congregations

At Last, The Secret is Out

Give Faithfully. Give Hope.

Order a family of resources to help tell the story of the Africa University Fund apportionment:



- Africa University Fund: Living Beyond the Dream DVD (86000508)

- Africa University Fund Brochure (86000407)

Order these and other resources from United Methodist Communications by calling toll free (888) 346-3862.

Hours: Monday - Thursday, 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m., Central Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

For more information, visit www.umcgiving.org, or www.infoserv.umc.org.

Learn more about how you can put your faith into action by contacting the Africa University Development Office at (615) 340-7438; audevoffice@gbhem.org; www.support-africauniversity.org.

Visit Africa University's Web site at www.africau.edu.

Encourage your local church to set a 100-percent apportionment-remittance goal! Sending a portion of your goal each month makes it easier to reach full remittance by year's end.

Africa University apportionment receipts from local churches provide the basics necessary to operate the university, such as utilities, equipment and faculty salaries.

Honor your friends or family by sponsoring an Africa University student in their name.



AU Board Member Mangudya Expresses Optimism About Zimbabwe's Future



Dr. John Mangudya

Stephen Drachler

When Africa University board member Dr. John Mangudya speaks, business and political leaders around the world pay close attention.

The chief executive officer of CBZ Bank, Zimbabwe's largest commercial bank, Mangudya has served as the president of the Bankers Association of Zimbabwe, and he chairs Africa University's Audit Committee.

As Zimbabwe pulls itself out of years of economic and political crises, Mangudya is bullish on both his country and

Africa University's future.

Africa University Today interviewed Mangudya. Here are excerpts:

Why are you involved with AU?

As a citizen of the country and as a way of giving back to the community, this is one way I could achieve the goal and thus my involvement in the university.

What is the economic forecast for Zimbabwe?

The economy is forecast to remain on the growth path following implementation of positive macroeconomic policies. As such, growth forecasts are estimated at 9.1 percent for 2011 and 6.5 percent in 2012. In the medium term to long term, the economy is forecast to grow on average by a minimum of 3.5 percent.

Which sectors are problematic?

While the manufacturing sector has great potential, this has not been realized due to lack of long-

term funding to reequip industry with new machinery. In addition, erratic power supply has been another fetter to improved capacity utilization by the sector.

What is your sense of the political situation, and how will that have an impact on the economy moving forward?

The formation of the Government of National Unity and the ongoing constitutional-making process have brought political stability into the country. This has been a positive for industry.

What impact do you see AU having in Zimbabwe and across Africa as they move forward?

The university is an important institution in the country and Africa as a whole. Its importance is shown by the quality of graduates coming out of the institution, and this bodes well for the development of human capital in the country.

Bishop Kelly Endowed Scholarship Fund Breaks Barriers at AU

Stephen Drachler

In June, Bright Mutingwende fulfilled his dream when he received his bachelor of arts degree in accounting from the university's School of Management.

Eleven years ago, family and friends honored Bishop Kelly on her 80th birthday with the creation of the Bishop Leontine T.C. Kelly Endowed Scholarship Fund at the United Methodist-related university in Old Mutare, Zimbabwe.

Mutingwende, the third recipient of the Kelly scholarship, said he could not have attended the university without the financial assistance the scholar-

ship provided. The partial scholarship was the final piece of financial support he needed to attend Africa University.

He had to wait three years after high school graduation before family members could raise initial funds allowing him to pursue his dream of attending the university. Going to school during the time of hyperinflation would have created an impossible burden for his financially challenged family. "I am very grateful to my sponsors for their support," said Mutingwende.

During a recent AU board meeting, Angella Current-Felder, Bishop Kelly's daughter, met with Bright to bring him greetings



Bright Mutingwende meets Angella Current-Felder, Bishop Kelly's daughter, on the Africa University campus.

from her mother and to give him a copy of her book, *Breaking Barriers: An African American Family and the Methodist Story*.

Mutingwende hopes to work in Zimbabwe before enrolling for graduate studies in management.

AU Lecturer and Champion Patricia Sithole Succumbs to Cancer

Andra Stevens

Patricia Mercy Sithole, former lecturer and teacher at Africa University, died in April after a long fight with cancer.

Appointed in 1994 as a lecturer in the Humanities and Social Sciences Department at Africa University, Patricia taught English as a second language and literature until 1998 when she received a Fulbright Scholarship to study at Michigan State University. At the time of her death, she had just completed her dissertation work and earned her PhD from the University of Maine.

Patricia's commitment and dedication to Africa University continued when she studied in the United States. She joined the university's U.S. Alumni Association chapter and represented the association on the AU Advisory Development



Patricia's two youngest children, Nothando and Mashuma Sithole accept her posthumous PhD degree.

Committee. She visited countless local churches and annual conferences, interpreting and advancing the university

programs both within The United Methodist Church and beyond. She also chaperoned the AU Touring Choir as the singers visited annual conferences.

Her resourceful cultural knowledge about Zimbabwe, the Shona people and their languages enabled the effective raising of friends and funds for the university.

Survivors include three children Shuma, Nothando and Ruvimbo and three grandchildren.

—Andra Stevens is director of information and public affairs at AU.

AU Graduate Wehnam Dabale Heads Alumni Affairs Office

Andra Stevens

An international alumni association for Africa University is taking shape, with selection of an alumni affairs director, Wehnam Peter Dabale. Dabale, of Nigeria is a 2007 graduate of AU's Faculty of Management and Administration.

The AU board of trustees formally approved the association last year. The goal of the association is to strengthen the school's capacity to make friends, raise funds and recruit students.

Nineteen years after its inception in 1992, United Methodist-related Africa University has an alumni base of more than 4,000 graduates. Most hold undergraduate degrees, and the number with



Wehnam Dabale

graduate degrees is growing steadily as well. The countries of Angola, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe account for about

half of Africa University's graduates.

The first priority, said Bishop Ernest Lyght, who chairs the development committee, "will be to bring the existing local chapters under the international umbrella organization and to provide a formal and cohesive structure for managing their work and that of (future) chapters."

"This is a very important area of work for the university," added Vice-Chancellor Fanuel Tagwira. "Our graduates are a critical asset."

The international alumni association office is located on the campus of Africa University in Old Mutare, Zimbabwe.

How You Can Help

Africa University continues to be the evidence of faith, hope and belief in the visions of dreamers. We are counting on you! Your church's 100-percent apportionment remittance means 100-percent support of Africa University's operational budget. Consider these additional ways of helping the university to educate new leaders for the nations of Africa:

Planned Gifts—Planned gifts are the foundation for the long-term survival of Africa University. For many, a bequest offers an opportunity to make a more substantial charitable gift than would be possible during one's lifetime. As you make your estate plans, consider leaving a gift to Africa University in your will. If you already have included Africa University in your estate plans, please let us know so we may welcome you to the Richard E. "Dick" Reeves Legacy Society.

Usahwira—This word in the Shona language means "a beautiful friendship." Encourage your local church to become a partner with Africa University by supporting one student at the university for four years. The cost to support one student annually is \$5,400. Local churches may provide full or partial scholarships.

Endowment Fund—Give to the Africa University Endowment Fund (World Service Special Gift #03-01-88). The interest income from the endowment is used to provide scholarships for our students.

Africa University is supported by congregations and individuals across The United Methodist Church. Let's work together to continue the transformation of lives and of Africa.

For more information, please contact:

Africa University Development Office
P.O. Box 340007
Nashville, TN 37203-0007
(615) 340-7438 (phone)
(615) 340-7290 (fax)
audevoffice@gbhem.org
www.support-africauniversity.org