



Africa University

Ubuntu Gathering Center
www.AfricaUniversity.org

Africa University is a United Methodist Church sponsored and supported university located in Old Mutare, Zimbabwe. The university has a long history, beginning in 1898 when Methodist Bishop, Joseph Crane Hartzell, stood on Chiremba Mountain above Old Mutare Zimbabwe and envisioned a school for young people.

The vision of Africa University is improved quality of life, peace, and prosperity for the peoples of Africa through quality higher education that includes teaching, research, community service, and leadership development.

Africa University has a compelling need for a Gathering Center that can provide space and facilities for advanced training, on-site conferences and Volunteers in Missions (VIM) teams.

Because the university provides substantial contributions to the peace and prosperity of the African continent, its ability to promote conferences and hands-on programs and projects to nurture that work is essential to the welfare of the African people.

Construction of the *Ubuntu* Gathering Center on the campus of Africa University would benefit



students and faculty alike. *Ubuntu* is an African word, which loosely translated, means the spirit of kinship which unites mankind to a common purpose. The proposed gathering center will provide both meeting space and residential facilities that can be used for conferences on specific subjects, offer advanced training where required, and provide space for Volunteer In Missions teams who come to the university. The facility will permit the university to expand academic opportunities and broaden its local and national outreach of service.

For the past 2 years the **AU Task Force** has developed this Gathering Center project. Last November a six person mission team journeyed to AU. During that trip extensive meetings were held with AU officials to develop plans for the *Ubuntu* Gathering Center. Every church in the Grand Rapids District will be taking an offering this spring toward the \$500,000 goal for the Ubuntu Gathering Center.

To learn more, please contact the GR District Office at 616.459.4503, grdistrict@wmcumc.org or www.AfricaUniversity.org.



*Site on AU campus where the *Ubuntu* Gathering Center will be built.*