



The WV Annual Conference: The United Methodist Church
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Africa University Choir to Tour WV in June 2009

A choir of students from Africa University, located in Old Mutare, Zimbabwe, will tour West Virginia June 14-22. The tour is sponsored West Virginia Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. Africa University is a United Methodist-related Institution that opened in March of 1992 as the first private, international University in Zimbabwe.

“The choir has an outstanding reputation for giving quality performances,” said resident Bishop of the West Virginia Conference of the United Methodist Church Ernest S. Lyght, who also serves on the University’s Board of Trustees. “This is a great opportunity for the people of West Virginia to connect with young people from several African nations.”

The choir will give a total of ten performances around the state, including a June 18 concert at the Clay Center for the Arts and Sciences in Charleston, W.Va. The 7:30p.m. program will take place on the eve of ‘FESTIVALL’, the city’s ten day celebration of the arts. Other concerts will take place at United Methodist Churches around the state, including the communities of Beckley, Lewisburg, Morgantown, Bridgeport, Parkersburg, Wheeling, Huntington, and at Potomac State College in Keyser, W.Va. Complete tour details are online at wvumc.org.

More on Africa University, reason for the tour

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. The school is committed to developing strong leaders and engaging with the poor.

The United Methodist Church in West Virginia has been a strong supporter of Africa University since its inception. “It’s important to continue our tradition of support for the University,” said Lyght. Through the tour, the WV Annual Conference of the UMC wants to raise \$150,000.00 to benefit the school. “We hope to provide an endowed scholarship for Africa University with these funds,” said Bishop Lyght. “We would also like to help provide more housing for faculty at the University,” he added.

More information on the tour is available on the WV Annual Conference website: www.wvumc.org. Interviews with Bishop Lyght may be arranged by contacting Laura Harbert Allen, Conference Director of Communications at 304--344-8331, ext. 22 or via e-mail to: lallen@wvumc.org.