

## THE ASSOCIATION OF THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTIONS IN SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL AFRICA (ATISCA)

### 1. Brief history and activities

The Association of Theological Institutions in Southern and Central Africa commonly known as ATISCA was formed in Harare, Zimbabwe in 1986 and it has over 23 member institutions from Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland, Mozambique, Zambia, Malawi and Zimbabwe.

In order to foster and enhance its ecumenical activities, ATISCA had a number of projects. One of these was a Church History project designed to produce historical textbooks that are relevant in independent Africa. One aspect of this project entailed the compilation of primary source texts for the study of regional church history, which could be used in theological colleges, and departments of theology and religious studies at the universities in the region.

At one point ATISCA also embarked on a Biblical Studies project with national co-ordinators in Malawi, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Mozambique, Lesotho and Swaziland. This project never reached its logical conclusion because of financial constraints.

Apart from this, ATISCA has also engaged in the production of contextual theology materials by taking into account seriously the African culture. The need to develop a relevant theology for Africa generally and Southern and Central Africa in particular dominated the discussions of the ATISCA Conference that was held in Swaziland in 1996. The papers were published in a book form titled *Theology cooked in an African pot*.

ATISCA as an ecumenical organisation fulfils a number of objectives as laid down in the constitution.

- (a) It promotes fellowship, understanding and cooperation between various institutions engaged in training for Christian ministry and university departments engaged in theological and religious studies.
- (b) Stimulates research and publications, provides a forum for theological discussion and study of current theological issues and matters of common interest and organising annual institutes for teaching staff.
- (c) It fosters and enhances the study of theology, religion and related subjects and encourages the development of theologies that are relevant to the African context and situation.
- (d) It encourages and supports graduate and post-graduate studies and joint research projects in theology and religious studies.

- (e) It co-ordinates theological education and religious studies programs in the region and identifies areas of cooperation and means of co-ordination. It also explores ways and means of upgrading theological and religious studies in the region.
- (f) Acts in advisory capacity to the member institutions and churches that they serve and where necessary assist in the planning of those concerned with theological and religious education.

## **2. Member institutions**

At present the members of ATISCA are as follows:

1. Africa University, Faculty of Theology, Mutare, Zimbabwe
2. Baptist Seminary, Gweru
3. Chishawasha Major Seminary, Harare, Zimbabwe
4. Gaul House, Harare, Zimbabwe
5. Kgolagano College, Gaborone, Botswana
6. Mindolo Ecumenical Centre, Kitwe, Zambia
7. Morija Theological Seminary, Lesotho
8. Murray Theological College Masvingo, Zimbabwe
9. Nazarene Theological College, Lilongwe, Malawi
10. Seminario Major De S. Agostinho, Maputo, Mozambique
11. St. Antony's Major Seminary, Kachebere, Malawi
12. St. Augustine Seminary, Roma, Lesotho
13. St. Dominic's Seminary, Lusaka, Zambia
14. St. Peter's Major Seminary, Zomba, Malawi
15. St. Pius X Major Seminary, Maputo, Mozambique
16. Theological College of Zimbabwe, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe
17. United Methodist Theological School, Cambine, Mozambique
18. United Seminary of Ricatla, Maputo, Mozambique
19. United Theological College, Harare, Zimbabwe
20. University of Botswana, Department of Theology and Religious Studies
21. University of Malawi, Department of Theology and Religious Studies
22. University of Swaziland, Department of Theology and Religious Studies
23. University of Zimbabwe, Department of Theology, Classics and Philosophy
24. Zomba Theological College
25. National University of Lesotho, Department of Theology & Religious Studies

## **3. Restructuring**

At present ATISCA is in the process of restructuring itself in order to inject new blood in its activities. This will include: the revision of the constitution, expansion of its membership and a new way of financing its academic activities.

## **4. Interim contact address until further notice**

For further information concerning the life and work of ATISCA, please contact the Secretary/Treasurer:

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