

ACTEA e-NEWS

January – August 2022



Greetings from the ACTEA office! This year has been very full so far and in the midst of everything we have gotten behind in sharing updates. Please accept our apologies and keep reading to learn about some of the exciting things God has been doing with and through us!

Message from ACTEA Director

Greetings to you all in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Thank you for your continued support and prayers to the ministry of ACTEA. We are because you are. We exist for each other. I hope and pray that you have continued to flourish as you serve the Lord through theological education and other ministries. The health of the church depends on what you do. So please do it well as scripture encourages us in Colossians 2:23–24, “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.” Continue to invest in quality theological education. Train your students well. Develop faculty to be the best. Serve the church. Transform society. Enjoy this detailed news from our office. We’ll be sharing some good news in the next newsletter in October about the Lord’s faithfulness through the provision of a new office for our ministry. That newsletter will only feature the exciting news of the office.



MISSION

To strengthen theological education through accreditation, scholarship, and support services in order to serve the church and society

VISION

To see a vibrant African Church transforming society

MOTTO

Serving theological education in Africa for excellence and renewal

ACTEA Strategy Meeting

Last year, the ACTEA Council appointed a team to work on a new strategic plan (2022–2026). Guided by Prof. Emmanuel Bellon, Dr. Linzay Rinquest, and Dr. Evan Hunter of [ScholarLeaders International](#), the team worked tirelessly. They conducted stake-holder and SWOT (*strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats*) analyses in order to fully understand the task ahead and to have a robust strategic plan to guide ACTEA as we move forward.

ACTEA convened a panel of experts for a one-week meeting from 21–25 March 2022 at Brackenhurst Conference Center, Limuru, Kenya. In addition to ACTEA staff and ScholarLeaders representatives, attendees included leaders in theological education from across the continent.

In line with the Strategic Planning Committee recommendations, the team recommended several innovative changes. These include a revised governance structure, a revised mission statement, a new vision statement, and restated core values. ACTEA's mission statement has stated, "To strengthen member institutions in offering quality theological programs through accreditation, networking, and support services." Our new mission statement is **"To strengthen theological education through accreditation, scholarship, and support services in order to serve the church and society."** We believe that this proposed mission statement depicts the fundamental reason ACTEA exists and what it wants to accomplish and for what reason. We exist to strengthen theological education through accreditation, scholarship, and support services. To what end? For the sake of the church and society.

We have also proposed amendment of our vision (a description of what ACTEA should look like in the future if it is fulfilling its mission). Our vision has been

"a trusted association of theological institutions in Africa."

We are proposing a bolder vision:

"to see a vibrant African Church transforming society."

We believe this vision is bold and depicts the reason for our existence. We dream of a vibrant African church capable of transforming the African society. Our ministry is therefore to work towards realizing this great vision by strengthening theological education on our continent.

The Team also devised a new articulation of our core values with a short statement accompanying each:

1) Evangelical faith

To fortify theological education in Africa and for Africa, that identifies with the evangelical faith.

2) Professional excellence

To intensify commitment to quality among theological educators and their respective institutions, especially through accreditation services.

3) Church orientation

To unite theological educators and their institutions in service of the church in Africa and among Africans globally.

4) Contextual relevance

To engage theological educators and church leaders in addressing relevant issues facing the church and society in Africa through consultations, research, and publications.

5) Strategic collaboration

To collaborate with continental and global partners in providing support services for institutions running theological programmes

including Christian universities.

Strategic Initiatives:

ACTEA has framed eight strategic initiatives implemented with clear objectives and action steps. These eight strategic initiatives will structure and propel ACTEA ministry of strengthening theological education and the Church during the next five years in Africa:

1) Organization, Leadership and Governance

Objective: *reorganize ACTEA leadership and governance structure to serve its mission.*

2) Accreditation and Evaluation

Objective: *Enhance ACTEA's accreditation and recognition standards to serve theological education and the church in Africa.*

3) Consultation, Research and Publications

Objective: *Expand the influence of ACTEA by establishing Consultations, Research and Publications (CRP) division to serve theological education and the church in Africa.*

4) Financial and Administrative Infrastructure

Objective: *Develop a financial model to facilitate the vitality and sustainability of ACTEA ministry.*

5) Capacity Strengthening Services

Objective: *Enhance the capacity of member institutions, churches, and partners to equip the people of God for holistic mission.*

6) Inclusion of all African Regions

Objective: *Reposition ACTEA to serve theological education and the church among English, French, and Portuguese speakers in Africa.*

7) Partnerships and Networks

Objective: *Enhance partnerships and networks to leverage global resources for effective ministry.*

8) Technology

Objective: *Develop technology infrastructure for effective ministry.*

Revision of ACTEA Standards

In line with our new strategic plan (initiative #2), ACTEA is in the process of updating its Standards and Guidelines, as these were last revised in 2011. A committee of five theological educators has been constituted for this purpose. The team will review the current standards in the light of the [globalized ICETE standards](#) and in the light of other factors we have identified in response to ongoing digitization and progressing technology, contextual issues, and concerns about outcomes of theological education (both academically and in terms of spiritual and character formation). How can ACTEA schools adapt to new ways of doing theological education? What are the intersections between formal and non-formal training? The Standards and Guidelines team has

worked virtually before meeting in Nairobi from June 27 to July 1, 2022. We hope to have a fair draft ready for circulation among ACTEA-related schools for their input later this month (August 2022). If feedback from stakeholders involves minor changes, the project editor can just adjust the document. If there are major issues, the project editor may need to go back to the committee for further input. Our plan is to submit the new standards to the Council in November for adoption.

Accreditation Visits

ACTEA staff have visited many schools since last year.

Africa College of Theology

Kigali, Rwanda

The assessment took place in response to [ACT](#)'s application for accreditation of an additional programme (Post Graduate Diploma in Theology); this programme is already accredited by the Higher Education Commission of Rwanda. Dr. David Tarus, ACTEA Executive Director, undertook the assessment from 6–8 December 2021. The Accreditation Committee approved the accreditation of the programme.

Bible Institute of South Africa

Cape Town, South Africa

[BISA](#) applied for accreditation of an additional programme (MA in Linguistics and Translation). Dr. Ray Motsi, President of the Theological College of Zimbabwe (in Bulawayo), assessed the programme from 19th to 22nd January 2022. Having reviewed the assessor's report, the Accreditation Committee has approved the programme for accreditation..

Baptist Theological Seminary Kaduna

Kaduna, Nigeria

[BTSK](#) applied for ACTEA Affiliate accreditation on 7 December 2021. This visit was undertaken by Dr. David Tarus, Executive Director of ACTEA on 2–3 February 2022. The Accreditation Committee approved the accreditation of the following programmes: Residential Diploma in Theology (Dip.Th.); Regular and part-time Bachelor of Theology (B.Th.); Residential Bachelor of Religious Education (BRE); Regular and part-time Master of Divinity (MDIV); and Residential Master of Theology (M.Th.). Note well that their Master of Arts in Theological Studies (MATS) is **not** ACTEA-accredited.

Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

A team of 6 theological educators together with the ACTEA Administrator visited [EGST](#) for re-accreditation assessment from 3–10 April 2022. The re-accreditation report is in progress

Ethiopian Kale Heywet School of Mission and Theology

Durame-Teza, Ethiopia

EKSMT-Durame-Teza applied for ACTEA Affiliate accreditation on 8 December 2021. This visit was undertaken by Dr. David Tarus, Executive Director of ACTEA, Mrs. Florence Kagwamba, ACTEA Administrator, and Dr. Endale Sebsebe, President of [Shiloh International Theological Seminary](#), Hawassa,



Ethiopia on 24–25 February 2022. The Accreditation Committee (AC) approved accreditation of their Diploma in Theology, Diploma in Missions, Bachelor of Theology and Bachelor of Missions, offered in English at three campuses: EKSMT-Durame-Teza, Shinshicho, and Halaba.

Ethiopian Kale Heywet Ministers Training College–Hosana Hosana, Ethiopia

EKMTC-Hosanna applied for ACTEA Affiliate accreditation on 8 December 2021. This visit was

undertaken by Dr. David Tarus, Executive Director of ACTEA, Mrs. Florence Kagwamba, ACTEA Administrator, and Dr. Endale Sebsebe, President of Shiloh International Theological Seminary, Hawassa, Ethiopia, on 22–23 February 2022. The Accreditation Committee approved accreditation of at the affiliate level of their residential Diploma in Theology offered at the main campus, Hosanna, Ethiopia, and residential and evening Bachelor of Theology programme offered at the main campus, Hosanna, Ethiopia, and at the KHC-Hosanna church compound respectively.

Ethiopian Kale Heywet Church Ministry Training College Dilla, Ethiopia

The reassessment of EKMTC-Dilla was conducted by Dr. David Tarus, Executive Director of ACTEA, Mrs. Florence Kagwamba, ACTEA Administrator, and Dr. Endale Sebsebe, President of Shiloh International Theological Seminary, Hawassa, on 28 February 28 – 1 March 1 2022. The Accreditation Committee deferred the award of Affiliate Status Accreditation on EKMTC-Dilla pending submission of the College's written response to the Report and achievement of greater compliance with ACTEA Standards.



Jos ECWA Theological Seminary

Jos, Nigeria

JETS applied for Affiliate Status on 25 February 2021. This visit was undertaken by Rev. Professor Emmanuel O. Oyemomi, Rev Dr Cletus C. Orgu, and Prof Samuel Peni Ango from 31 January to 4 February 2022. The Accreditation Committee is currently reviewing the report.

Kenya Baptist Theological College

Tigoni, Limuru, Kenya

KBTC applied for affiliate accreditation on 6 July 2021. The assessment was undertaken by Dr. John Jusu OCI Africa Regional Director and Florence Kagwamba Executive Administrator of ACTEA from 11–12 November 2021. The Accreditation Committee *deferred the accreditation* until such a time that KBTC administration addresses the significant issues raised in the assessment report.

Leadstar Theological College**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

LTC applied for ACTEA Affiliate accreditation on 1 October 2021. The visit was undertaken by Dr. David Tarus, Executive Director of ACTEA, Mrs. Florence Kagwamba, ACTEA Administrator, and Dr. Alemseged Ketema, Head of Graduate Studies, **Evangelical Theological College**, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The assessment took place on 3–4 March 2022. LTC is seeking ACTEA accreditation for the following programmes: Bachelor of Theology (B.Th.) and Master of Arts with different specializations (Theological and Biblical Studies, World Mission, Pastoral Counselling, Christian Leadership, and Community Development). The Accreditation Committee voted to defer the award of Affiliate Status Accreditation on LTC until written response to the Report is submitted and greater compliance with ACTEA Standards is achieved.

Reuben George Theological Seminary**Ibadan, Nigeria**

REGETS applied for Affiliate accreditation on 5 June 2019. The assessment was conducted by Rev. Professor Emmanuel Oyemomi, on behalf of ACTEA Executive Director, Dr David Tarus in Nairobi, Kenya on 22–24 September 2021. The Accreditation Committee (AC) posed several questions to REGETS administration, which they have addressed. The AC is reviewing the report and shall make a decision in the coming weeks.

Pending Applications for Accreditation**Presbyterian Theological Seminary****Kumba, Cameroon**

Application submitted on 26 March 2022.

Baptist College of Theology Obinze-Owerri**Obinze, Nigeria**

Application process begun on 1 December 2021.

Gindiri Theological Seminary**Gindiri, Nigeria**

Initial stages of application process.

Institutions Almost Ready for Assessment Visits**Baptist College of Theology****Lagos, Nigeria****Baptist Theological College****Lusaka, Zambia****Cameroon Baptist Theological Seminary****Cameroon****Ethiopian Full Gospel Theological Seminary****Addis Ababa, Ethiopia****Instituto Superior de Teologia Evangélica no Lubango****Lubango, Angola****Maserete Kristos College****Bishoftu, Ethiopia**

ACTEA Director's Travels

In addition to accreditation visits, Dr Tarus been kept busy on one safari after another. In May he visited the United States for fundraising promotions and for a Vital Sustainability Initiative meeting. In July, the executive director attended strategy meetings in Nigeria with [Baptist](#)



a joyous meeting in the CITAF offices in Ivory Coast

[College of Theology](#) (Benin City) and Baptist Theological Seminary (Eku). Departing from Nigeria, the executive director travelled to Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast), making courtesy visits to the offices of [Conseil des Institutions Théologiques d'Afrique Francophone](#) (CITAF) and to [Université de l'Alliance Chrétienne in Abidjan](#) (UACA); UACA was formerly known as Faculté de Théologie Évangélique de l'Alliance Chrétienne (FATEAC). In June he attended the Lausanne Initiative in Austria before visiting with ACTEA donors in Germany.

Assessors' Training

ACTEA conducted the Assessors training on 9th April 2022, in Addis Ababa. The Training was held at Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology ([EGST](#)). This training was conducted by our Networking Officer Dr. Dwight Singer assisted by ACTEA administrator Florence Kagwamba. The training was attended by 24 Participants who represented the following institutions:

[Ethiopia Kale Hyewot Church Education Department](#),
[Maserete Kristos College \(MKC\)](#),
[Moffart Bible College \(MBC\) – Kenya](#),
[Ethiopia Full Gospel Theological Seminary \(EFGTS\)](#),
[Wolaita Evangelical Seminary \(WES\)](#),
[Mekane Yesus Seminary \(MYS\)](#),
[Evangelical Theological College \(ETC\)](#),
[Principal Shalom International Theological Seminary \(SITS\)](#),
[Ethiopia Graduate School of Theology \(EGST\)](#),
[Association of Evangelicals in Africa \(AEA\)](#)

TheoGlobal: Theology Today

ACTEA's [TheoGlobal Conference](#) (TG) for Eastern Africa, formerly know as Global Theological Initiative (GTI), took place from 30 June – 2 July 2022 in Nairobi. This event for post-doctoral scholars was co-hosted by ACTEA and by Sola Media, based in the USA. The 2022 TheoGlobal Conference brought together 37 post-doctoral theologians from countries throughout the East Africa and Horn of Africa regions

(Burundi, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda) along with Malawi, India, and the United State. The theme for 2022's conference was "Between Two Ages: Christ's Reign and Our Future Hope." The conference included theological presentations from and dialogue with African and American scholars.

Pray for next TG East Africa event which is scheduled to take place in July 2023.

"ICETE Consulting" Launches New Service

The International Council for Evangelical Theological Education (**ICETE**) is now offering a consulting service to help seminary and Bible college leaders address different needs at their institutions. A group of Senior Consultants has completed ICETE's training program to prepare them for this new service and many of them also help us with equipping newer consultants. If your school could use consulting help on some particular issues, you can use the form available [at this link](#) to discuss your needs and request assistance; more details are in the form. We pray this new service will provide practical help to many of the schools associated with ACTEA. To learn more about ICETE, [visit this page on ACTEA's website](#).

Global Digital Library Theology

ACTEA-accredited schools can purchase a subscription to Global DTL, which allows both faculty and students of subscribing institutions access to a large array of digital books and articles. Contact the ACTEA office at info@ACTEAweb.org if you are interested in this service. If your institution has subscribed to Global DTL but you are having technical difficulties, contact Joshua Robert Barron at research@ACTEAweb.org for assistance. Earlier this month Joshua rendered this aid to Africa College of Theology in Kigali, Rwanda, meeting with President Manese Ogola (*pictured*) and Librarian Immaculate Ingabire via Zoom.



ANNUAL FEES AND REPORTS 2021/2022:



If your institution has not submitted reports and applicable fees for year 2021/2022 please remember to do so as soon as possible. (Note well: All ACTEA institutions should have received their annual notices by now!!) This is one way of keeping institutions accountable to the ACTEA Standards we have mutually agreed to maintain. You can do this by, completing and sending your institution's Annual Report and Annual

applicable Fees for 2021/2022, a requirement for ACTEA institutions, and ensure that you make this report a high priority and send it to: adm.ass@acteaweb.org, with a copy to: adm.ass.actea@gmail.com.



Further, if your institution has any pending annual reports ensure that you send this Report as soon as possible.

Please also note that **you can now download and submit online the Annual reports and Fee Notice** from our website (www.ACTEAweb.org).

Finally, for the institutions with debts or arrears, kindly plan to clear it soon and communicate the same or your intended action plan to ACTEA office.

As you prepare to send your institutional payments, here are a few important guidelines to ensure successful payment transactions without problems:

First, it is important to notify ACTEA office by email when funds are sent because it can be difficult to tell the source of a fund wire transfer that appears on the bank account statement. **Please note that you will need to first send a scanned copy of the Fee Notice that is filled, signed, and has a date. This will be the only way we will validate the payments made to ACTEA.**

Secondly, you can make payments via wire transfer, payable to, “ACTEA” to the following ACTEA account in Kenya using the following details:

Kenyan ACTEA Bank Account Details:

Account Name: Association for Christian Theological Education in Africa (ACTEA)

Bank Name: I&M Bank

Account Number: 00801801891510 (USD)

Branch: Karen

Swift Code: IMBLKENA

Bank Address: KAREN OFFICE PARK,
LANGATA ROAD,
P.O. BOX 30238-00100
NAIROBI, KENYA

NB: Please remember to factor in the *transfer charges* as you wire in the money. Any amount that is less than the Annual fees will be debited into your account for the following year. Kindly note that all the Kenyan banks have been advised by the Government not to accept any foreign cheques. Therefore, please don't send/post any cheques.

Our Institutions' Prayer Concerns



Thanksgiving: Thanksgiving for God's faithfulness and provision to us and our institutions.

Accreditation and Re-accreditation: Join us in praying for ACTEA institutions currently engaging in the process of getting their study programmes accredited or re-accredited. Pray for wisdom, renewal of strength and good health for the leadership teams involved in writing the Self Evaluation Reports (SER).

Financial Stability: Pray for financial stability of our theological institutions and the ACTEA organization. Many institutions are also putting up physical development which needs to be completed on time to support various programmes. May our Lord provide resources immeasurably for the continuity of the gospel and theological education in Africa.

Peace and stability: A good number of African countries are facing political instability. Let us all pray that our Lord grants Africa peace and an end to wars and conflicts. May we be instruments of peace in Africa, and let us continue to love each other as Christ has loved us and maintain peace with each other.

Upcoming ACTEA Events

Note and pray for the success of the following upcoming and held meetings:

- ❖ **Global Associates for Transformational Education (GATE) Nigeria:** 23–26 October 2022.



- ❖ **ICETE C22:** Global Consultation will be held in Izmir, Turkey, from 14–18 November 2022. All encouraged to plan early to attend in order to reduce flight costs. Find out more and register [here](#).

Or scan this QR code:



grace and peace,

The ACTEA Staff