

A Proclamation from the Africa and United States Delegations

of the 2019 Sacred Sisters Retreat,

Africa University,

Mutare, Zimbabwe,

July 13 – 16, 2019

Introduction

The 2019 Sacred Sisters Africa Retreat was based on a dream that was birthed in 2002, and manifested in 2019 at Africa University, *the School of Dreams in the Valley of Hope*, in Mutare, Zimbabwe. Over 20 African Annual Conferences from 3 Central Conferences, and 6 U.S. Annual Conferences from 4 Jurisdictions were represented by women and clergywomen of African descent who gathered with a purpose of developing sacred bonds centered around unity, respect, trust, and love. This was a dream birthed by African Clergywomen in 2002 at Africa University.

We gathered from diverse backgrounds recognizing our shared understandings in:

- seeking ways and being open to the Spirit to love and honor all,
- being wise and insightful to the ways that bring unity and trust amongst Black women,
- collaborating with others for meaningful justice for all (the voiceless, the hopeless, the helpless, and the under-represented), and
- appreciating the privilege and responsibility of being called, by God, to do this work "for such a time as this."

From the experience we resolve to the ongoing commitments:

- We affirm there is strength in the Connection and commit to remaining connected and communicating across the countries and continents;
- We will strive to deconstruct neo-colonialism in whatever form it presents itself, while elevating the value and worth of native African languages, histories, and traditions;

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- We are united to work toward measures that create financial sustainability for all Black women throughout Africa and in the Diaspora;
- We are compelled to create greater awareness of sexual violence against women and girls, both in Africa and the United States;
- We commit to develop and distribute resources that promote fruitful and strategic leadership for black and clergy women;
- We are united in striving to intentionally advocate for equitable rights and privileges for all women who are called by God to pastoral leadership.

We will act to:

- Educate our communities and contexts of ministry regarding gender inequality;
- Equip our communities and contexts of ministry regarding the ongoing crisis of HIV and AIDS by providing resources for greater awareness;
- Encourage for the wholeness and wellness of black women and clergywomen throughout Africa and the United States;
- Evaluate our ongoing commitments and actions that bring transformation and impact throughout Africa and the United States.

We call for all who feel the movement of God's Spirit to join these efforts of impact and transform by investing financially in this movement. More information can be found at www.sacredsistersclergywomen.org.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. J. Kabamba Kiboko, Ph.D., President of the African Clergywomen & Vision Founder
Bishop Linda Lee, Sacred Sisters Chair & Vision Founder

Rev. Dr. Martha Orphe, member, Black Clergywomen of the United Methodist Church
(BCWUMC)

Erin Hawkins, General Secretary, General Commission of Religion & Race (GCORR)
African Clergywomen Planning Team
Sacred Sisters Design Team

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