

THE GLOBAL SOUTH INSTITUTE

of Christian Mission, Leadership and Public Policy

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Introduction

Just prior to the Second Graduation Ceremony at Uganda Christian University in October 2001, Prof. Watson Omulokoli of Kenyatta University spoke on the topic “The Challenge of Quality Leadership in Africa: A Christian Perspective.” Professor Omulokoli concluded thus:

It is clear that to grapple successfully with the problems which plague Africa will require the enlisting of an enlightened cadre of leaders who have a high sense of integrity. The challenge which we face in this sphere is an African problem whose solution should engage the minds and resources of all Christians in Africa. But the Church in Africa cannot work out the required answers in isolation. These must be sought for in the context of collaboration, partnership, and co-operation with Churches in other parts of the world.

The Global South Institute of Christian Mission, Leadership and Public Policy is a response to this critical need of “an enlightened cadre of leaders who have a high sense of integrity”. Its purpose is to provide programmes committed to nurturing and educating leaders who will “make a difference” in the coming century.

Description of Global South Institute

The Global South Institute of Christian Mission, Leadership and Public Policy is:

- *A Global South Institute* – It is based in the Global South, ‘the center of gravity of Christianity in the twenty first century’, in Uganda, at the heart of the African continent.
- *A Global Institute* – a fruit of Global collaboration, committed to a Global mission from the Global South; as an Institute based at a historic campus of the Uganda Christian University, an institution of the Church of Uganda, a member of the Anglican Communion, a particular track will be available for training and research in areas related to global Anglicanism and Anglican Ministry.
- *An Institute of Christian Mission, Leadership and Public Policy* – committed to bringing Christian worldview to bear on the opportunities and challenges of Mission, Leadership, and witness in the public arena, in the global environment; providing training for indigenous evangelists and missionaries who are preparing to serve Christ inside and outside Uganda. The Institute will hold workshops and conferences on important issues of the day, including a wide spectrum of scholars and leaders from developed and developing worlds. As part of its public policy emphasis, the Institute will seek to place interns in strategic public institutions so that they may learn the workings of government and civil society from the inside
- *An Institute of Advanced Studies* - a post-graduate think-tank and study programme, provide a forum for Master’s level research students, pursuing

particular topics in leadership, mission and public policy. Students will consult with resident faculty as well as visiting lecturers.

Uganda Christian University – the home of Global South Institute

Uganda Christian University will provide a befitting home for this strategic Institute. With a long history within Uganda, the University has grown from Bishop Tucker Theological College, the earliest and premier theological training school for Anglican clergy in Uganda (1919). In 1997, the Church of Uganda boldly transformed the theological college into a University, which has grown exponentially, from 120 theological students in 1997 to almost 1500 in 2001, studying theology, education, social work, business, communication, and law. UCU is applying for a charter from the Government of Uganda and hopes to be the first chartered private university in the country.

Moreover, while owned by the Anglican Church in Uganda, the University also represents a broad Protestant community in the country. With its worldwide contacts with the Anglican Communion, it also has access to a network of vibrant Third World churches. As an overtly Christian university, UCU is dedicated to the goal of integrating faith and learning at the highest standard. The University already offers the Master of Arts degree in Theology and is looking to offer other selected Master's degrees.

Uganda Christian University is the first private university in Uganda to offer a law degree (LL.B.). In this regard it is well placed to consider and address issues of public policy within Uganda and more widely. The idea of "faith-based" perspectives on public policy is now accepted in the West, but in Africa, an intensely religious continent, churches have seldom had a direct voice in political deliberations and have sometimes been excluded from participation in programmes by governmental and non-governmental aid agencies. The need for such influence, at a time when radical Islam and Western secularism are moving into the public square, is urgent.

Uganda Christian University is growing as a regional institution, with 50 "international students" from the countries neighbouring on Uganda. In addition to its historic ties with UK, it has mission partners from Germany, Australia, New Zealand, and the USA. In 2000, a new society, Uganda Christian University Partners, was formed in the United States to build up support for the University. UCU was admitted in the same year as the first African affiliate of the Council of Christian Colleges and Universities, a network of about 100 Christian colleges in the States plus about 50 international affiliates

Global South Institute will bring visiting scholars and occasional speakers to the campus to enrich the learning experience for undergraduate and post-graduate scholars alike. The Institute will also provide short- and mid-term sabbatical housing for church leaders and missionaries on leave. Large conferences can be hosted in cooperation with the Ankrah Foundation, which has constructed a large modern conference facility near the University.

Master's Degree Study

With its University status, UCU is now able to offer its own Master's degree to students from within Uganda and from outside as well. Its first Master's programme, begun in 1999, is in theology, and its first M.A. recipient (from Congo) graduated in 2001. The M.A. is a two-year degree including course work and a dissertation.

Global South Institute will provide academic staff, library resources and special conferences to the University so that students may do specialized study in the areas of leadership, mission and evangelism, and public policy from a Christian and theological perspective. It is hoped that many of the Master's graduates will go out to be leaders and educators in the Church in Africa.

Training for Missionaries and Evangelists

Global South Institute will be not only a centre for thought and theory but will offer practical programmes for evangelists and missionaries on the field. It will sponsor conferences to equip those who go out in Christ's name. It will also provide facilities for missionaries on furlough. Its emphasis will be on South to South mission, although it will bring in Western mission partners as well.

Public Policy Emphasis

In Africa, many voices are competing, coming from the West through government and NGO sources, and even from the Western churches. Often African Christians have been expected to "welcome" all such offers uncritically. Global South Institute will operate on the principle that there are particular non-Western perspectives that can be brought to the issues of the day. At the same time, Westerners have learned the value of "think-tanks" to bring together thoughtful scholars and practitioners to learn from each other. Thus Global South Institute will be an "African Christian think-tank."

There has been a tendency for evangelical Christians (and most non-Western Anglicans are evangelical) to separate conversion of the heart from conversion of the society. In recent years, evangelical leaders like John Stott and Vinay Samuel have called their colleagues to address the public issues of the day and to see the Church as an agent of transformation.

The public policy emphasis of Global South Institute will also raise the awareness of undergraduate students at Uganda Christian University, particularly those studying law and social work, as to their responsibilities as citizens and change agents in society. It will work to arrange internships for students to experience and reflect on the various organs of civil society.

Global South Anglicanism

It has been frequently noted that the typical 21st century Anglican lives on or below the equator. In the run-up to the 1998 Lambeth Conference, Anglican leaders set up a "South to South dialogue"; however, it has languished since then for lack of a venue. Global South Institute will provide a place for groups of Anglicans to meet and discuss issues of mission and theology. It will provide a place where bishops and other leaders can rest and reflect, with access to good academic resources in the developing world.

Global South Institute will host events sponsored by the Council for Anglican Provinces of Africa (CAPA), including on occasion the New Bishops Training Programme, and providing both residential and extension courses.

Global South Institute will develop partnerships with Theological Institutions in Europe and North America, providing exchange programmes for ordinands and research students;

Global South Institute will seek to develop a Master of Arts track focusing on an Anglican theology for the 21st which is distinctively missional.

The Way Forward

In order to move forward with the vision for Global South Institute, Uganda Christian University, along with Church Mission Society, is sponsoring a Strategy Conference to be held at Uganda Christian University in Mukono on 25-26 October 2002. A select group of Global South church and academic leaders will be invited to share the vision and begin concrete planning for the establishment of Global South Institute.

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