



January 13, 2021

UMC Bishops statement on the death of Professor Munashe Furusa

Africa University has lost a great visionary and The United Methodist Church has lost a great leader. In the death of Africa University Vice Chancellor Professor Munashe Furusa, a dark cloud has passed over the valley of dreams, our crown jewel of Methodist education in Africa.

Dr. Furusa helped transform AU from a UMC institution into one that addressed the needs of the world.

The bishops of The United Methodist Church give thanks to God for the gift of Dr. Furusa and for his leadership that changed an institution and the whole United Methodist Church.

When he was hired in 2014, Professor Furusa faced challenges such as growth, fundraising, creation of new degree programs and restructuring the institution. During his tenure, he led this great institution to greater heights on the continent and throughout the world.

In the years Professor Furusa led AU, God continued to bless this institution. Professor Furusa made difficult decisions, but he made them with grace as he continued to listen to the words of staff, students, supporters, and other leadership. He exemplified true leadership.

Bishop Marcus Matthews, the former executive secretary of the Council of Bishops and former chair of the AU, praised Professor Furusa.

“We are fortunate that a scholar of Dr. Furusa’s eminence and wide experience in Africa and the United States agreed to serve as the vice chancellor of Africa University. His extensive contacts in the international business and education communities helped raise the profile of Africa University around the world.”

Even as we mourn the passing of Professor Furusa, the Council of Bishops is giving thanks for the past, for those who had vision, who planted and watered so dreams could come true.

Even as we mourn the passing of Professor Furusa, the Council of Bishops is giving thanks for today, for study, for worship, for mission that bids us turn our prayers into deeds.

Even as we mourn the passing of Professor Furusa, the Council of Bishops is giving thanks for tomorrow, full of surprises, for knowing whatever tomorrow may bring, our God promises always and forever to be with us on this journey.

We rest in God’s keeping and we live in God’s love.

We believe that our brother has run a good race and God is saying to him, “Well Done, Good and faithful servant.”

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