

# **Ethical Leadership for a Sustainable Future: Africa Church Assets Management and Ethical Investment**

**Statement submitted for adoption to the Plenary of the  
12<sup>th</sup> AACC General Assembly, Abuja, Nigeria, 22 November 2023**

## **1. The Context**

African churches and church-related institutions and programmes have substantial assets in land, buildings, infrastructure, hospitals, schools, capital, as well as human resources and institutional structures. As revenue from donations decreases and is not enough, income from innovative, transparent, and accountable asset management is needed.

## **2. The ACAP Programme 2013-2023**

The African Church Assets Programme, ACAP, was initiated at the AACC General Assembly in Kampala/Uganda in 2013. ACAP was implemented during ten years by the AACC, its member churches through Globethics and supported by Bread for the World and by national implementation partners. Manifold trainings of church leaders, finance officers and administrators have been implemented along with the development of a handbook and related resources.

## **3. The Key Learnings**

- 1) Improved Governance and Stewarding of Assets is paying dividends.
- 2) Leadership Transformation is possible.
- 3) The advocacy tool kit for Ethical Leadership is a good training tool.
- 4) To celebrate short term wins pays off and should be promoted.
- 5) Discarding the poverty mentality is essential.
- 6) Moving from talking to action by Churches is urgent for credibility.
- 7) Leadership that is ready for transformative change is needed.



## 4. The Way Forward: 12 Key Resolutions

The members of the 12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC) take note of the statement and the key learnings and endorse the following resolutions put forward by those gathered at the Assembly side event on Ethical Investment and Church Assets Management on 21 November 2023. The resolutions are made in the light of the progress of the African Church Assets Programme (ACAP) in implementing the resolution of the 10<sup>th</sup> AACC General Assembly in 2013 in Kampala, Uganda to map and manage church assets in the interests of sustainability, reinforced during the Kigali, Rwanda Assembly in 2018 and in line with the achievement of the strategic goal to advance organizational leadership and sustainability, as expressed in the AACC Strategy 2024-2028.

### Resolutions:

- 1) Include stewarding of church assets in prayer, worship and the community life of our churches for the growth and mission of the church;
- 2) Continue asset mapping on all church levels paying due attention to improving methods of resource mobilisation by pro-active asset management and intentionally implement robust structures of monitoring of asset management on all levels;
- 3) Learn through exchange of best practices between churches in a country and between countries, facilitated by the AACC through regular communication with the network of members, church-related organisations and partners with news, case studies, training opportunities, etc.;
- 4) Promote innovative assets development through impact investing and inclusion of women and young people;
- 5) Include ethical leadership in all theological curricula and leadership training;
- 6) Develop, promote and disseminate a key learning tool together with partners for church assets management and ethical investment for the use of all AACC members;
- 7) Learn from and cooperate with governmental, non-governmental, private sector and interreligious bodies in a multi-stakeholder attitude to improve asset management;
- 8) Denounce corrupt practices and take actions by enforcing sanctions and by taking legal recourse;
- 9) Celebrate and award ethical leaders / managers of churches and related institutions;
- 10) Adopt and operationalize national guidelines for ethical investment and engage in lobbying activities that will promote intentional application of the guidelines;
- 11) Adopt and implement robust human resource (people management) standards and practices at all levels; and
- 12) Reject a culture of impunity in it's entirety; it impacts negatively on organizational culture with the attendant consequences of stunted growth, or worse no growth.