

Doctoral Studies Launched in ANU's 20th Year of Transforming the World

In ANU's 20th year of transforming the world, the University has launched its first doctoral programme. Nearly 31 years ago at a Regional Conference in Mbabane, Swaziland, Nazarene educators (including this writer) came together to consider education needs from across Africa. The development of a Nazarene university to prepare both lay and ministerial leaders for the Church in Africa was one of the desired outcomes. Many Kenyan and missionary church leaders were enlisted. In 1994 God enabled the founders of Africa Nazarene University to bring this dream to reality. ANU opened in August with about 60 students in a Bachelor of Business Administration, a Bachelor of Theology, a post-graduate diploma in Religious Studies and a Master of Arts in Religion. With the Charter, which was granted in 2002, ANU has full academic approval as a holiness university to develop a wide range of leaders for the Church in Africa. Hence, in its twentieth year our University joined hands with two of its partners: Nazarene Theological Seminary in USA and Nazarene Theological College in South Africa to launch the Doctor of Ministry (D Min) programme.

This first D Min cohort is offered on a modular mode of study and consists of three church ladies and 13 churchmen - all who are providing ministry leadership - in all corners of sub-Saharan Africa. In March orientation took place in Nairobi and Johannesburg, followed by two months of reading and preparation for the intensive three-week face to face session in June. The programme integrates academic abilities, research methods, and advanced ministry skills in order to develop creative forms and modes of engagement in the mission of the Church. Students are challenged to grow in self-understanding, self-evaluation, and self-direction in regard to lifelong study. They apply acquired skills through research and communicate such to the society, especially the Church. This involves assessing their social environment, particularly the spiritual aspects, and offering possible solutions. An intention is for them to exhibit increased knowledge and skills in human relationships, spiritual growth, and leadership potential in various ministry contexts. Students should display growth in understanding of and appreciation for the integration of Scripture, reason, tradition, and experience that characterizes the Wesleyan-Holiness tradition. The aim is the formation of a theology of ministry grounded in understanding of and participation in the mission of God in the world.

The University has also developed a PhD in Religion programme to be launched in 2015. Both doctoral programs require 10 units for completion plus a doctoral dissertation and are designed with a two-thirds emphasis on research. Students undertake several common doctoral units plus additional programme specific units. The University has one intake for each doctoral programme on an annual basis with a rolling application process all year round. Two modules are required each year. The full-time students should complete their course within three years while other students may complete their program in five years. While the D Min is specifically designed for religion practitioners such as senior Church leaders and lecturers in the practice of ministry, the PhD in Religion is designed to have a strong research component for educationists. Additional doctoral programmes are also being developed.

By
D G Stanton