



AFRICAN THEOLOGICAL ADVANCE

Painting by Charles Nkomo: guruve.com/Gallery/Artists/charles-nkomo/W019

AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT

The Nagel Institute, with generous support from the Templeton Religion Trust, invites project proposals for the “African Theological Advance” initiative. Its aim is to support African Christian scholars, in theology and other disciplines, to engage in fresh research, thinking and teaching about Christianity’s engagement with contemporary African society.

This initiative will make 16 grants of between \$35,000 and \$50,000 USD for two-year research and curricular development projects. These grants, which will be awarded in two rounds of eight grants each, are for postgraduate African theological seminaries or university-based postgraduate theology programs. The awards will be limited to research and curricular development projects in African Christian theology, drawing on interdisciplinary methods and insights to address one of four topical areas:

1. African spirituality and values
2. science and religion—particularly health and healing
3. religious innovation and competition
4. forgiveness, peacemaking and reconciliation

Winning projects will feature both fresh research into contemporary African realities and the incorporation of this new knowledge into Christian thought and curricular renewal.

PROJECT FOCUS

The focus of this project is to encourage African scholars to a fresh understanding of how Christianity engages contemporary African realities in these four topical areas.

The project also focuses on African theological institutions and programs. It aims to help them strengthen their role as conveners of research and scholarship and to embed the fresh insights they gain from research within their teaching and community outreach.

Theological schools and programs are invited to propose projects that draw on African scholars from outside their campuses and even across the continent. They are especially encouraged to enlist African-diaspora scholars now serving on other continents. They also may draw on non-African experts as well.

Grant funding is for convening research teams, conducting new research, and then developing teaching modules, courses, publications, media pieces and continuing education events that would disseminate the new discoveries and embed them into the ongoing program of education.

PROJECT DIRECTOR

Tite Tiéno, professor and former vice president, Trinity International University, USA; also the founding dean of Faculté de Théologie Evangélique de l’Alliance Chrétienne, in Côte d’Ivoire.

KEY QUESTIONS

African Values

Are they unique, or do they resemble values deemed to be universal? If African values are different, what difference do they make? African spirituality: How has African spirituality been modulated within Christianity? What can the church gain from understanding African spirituality's interaction with contemporary life?

Science & Faith / Health & Healing

How might African Christians reconcile the claims of traditional healers, Christian faith healers, and medical health workers? How do the forces of nature and the supernatural interact in African health and healing? Do spiritual beliefs and practices promote or detract from health? How do these beliefs affect willingness to seek healing? How do the spiritual beliefs of medical practitioners affect the way they practice medicine? What is the role of pastoral counseling and prayer in healing?

Religious Innovation & Competition

Is religious competition a destructive force? Does it enable innovation and foster creativity? Do religious innovation and competition enhance or impede secularization? How does religious innovation relate to commercial entrepreneurship? How do local religious initiatives relate to global trends and movements? Might these new religious developments suggest a more positive pastoral approach to African religious agency and initiative?

Forgiveness & Reconciliation

How have Africans learned to work with the interaction of justice and mercy, restitution and reconciliation, forgiveness and accountability? Are there lessons to be learned from some African experiences in post-trauma counseling and reconciliation that can be applied more broadly?

PROPOSALS

Proposals for the first round are due **October 2, 2017**.
Proposals for the second round are due **May 1, 2018**.

Visit calvin.edu/centers-institutes/nagel-institute/projects/african-advance/ for complete instructions and templates.

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NAGEL INSTITUTE
FOR THE STUDY OF
WORLD CHRISTIANITY

AFRICAN THEOLOGICAL ADVANCE



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

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