



# APTEA

ASSOCIATION FOR PENTECOSTAL THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION IN AFRICA

**2023 SYMPOSIUM TO BE HELD AT THE 2023 APTEA TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE IN NAIROBI, KENYA**

## **CALL FOR PAPERS**

### **Symposium Theme: Renewal for Fruitfulness in Training, Polity, and Ecclesiology**

The 2023 APTEA Triennial Conference theme arises out of John 15:16 and addresses the issue of *Regeneration for Enhanced Fruitfulness*. Emanating out of this, the theme for the 2023 symposium to be held at the start of the triennial meeting is “**Renewal for Fruitfulness in Training, Polity, and Ecclesiology.**” It seeks to focus the discourse on renewal around three significant issues in Africa: 1) ministry training, 2) denominational polity, and 3) ecclesiology of the local church. The consideration of these sub-themes is undergirded by a common framework that holds that regeneration for the accomplishment of mission (fruitfulness) is an ongoing necessity in every national and local context and in every time period. Academic papers are therefore invited that address the issue of what renewal in these areas might look like from a theological and praxis-oriented perspective and how such renewal might be attained. Suggested points of consideration in these three areas are outlined below.

#### **1) Renewing Our Ministry Training Systems**

Africa has a huge deficit of trained church ministers. There is a pressing need to scale up the quantity and quality of training of all kinds including both non-formal and formal training. Papers are invited that address the question: At this juncture in the life of the church, what do renewed training systems look like, and how do they relate to issues of curriculum, accreditation, formal and non-formal education, bi-vocational ministry, online and distance education, addressing gender disparities, Africa’s youth population, etc.?

#### **2) Renewing Our Polity**

Much of Classical Pentecostalism is associated in its origins with the concept of voluntary cooperative fellowship. However, over time, many Pentecostal movements have become centralized and hierarchical and, in effect, are denominations. Papers are invited that address the question of denominational structures that serve to advance the mission of God, what that might look like, and how they relate to issues such as leadership planning and succession, national legal demands, administrative justice, and fairness.

### **3) Renewing Our Ecclesiology**

There are many contemporary challenges to the health of the local church in the African Church. In addition, the blurring of the lines between various strands of Pentecostalism has brought both benefits and deficits, yet the local church remains the key community unit for participation in the mission of God. As such, papers in this sub-theme are invited to explore what a renewed ecclesiology of the local church might look like and how that may relate to all aspects of its discipleship and its role in mission.

#### **Proposal Submission Instructions**

To propose a paper, submit a 500-word abstract by 18<sup>th</sup> November 2022 by clicking on the link below:

[Click HERE to Submit Paper Proposal](#)

Notification of accepted abstracts will be given by 31<sup>st</sup> November 2022. Paper submissions should be 5,000-8,000 words and will be required to be submitted by 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023.