



Proposal for the Degree of

Master of Theology (M.Th.)
in African Christianity

To be offered under the
Faculty of Postgraduate Studies

COMMISSION FOR HIGHER
EDUCATION
DOCUMENTATION CENTRE

Submitted to the
Commission for Higher Education
The Republic of Kenya

This Proposal was approved
by the Commission for
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AUTHORISED SIGNATURE

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- 1.3.5 To guide students to understand and accept themselves, their individual needs and talents, and to develop their potential for a productive life and service;
- 1.3.6 To provide students with a balanced educational programme that helps them to develop and to broaden their perception of the inherent inter-relationship between their physical and spiritual needs, and to develop a holistic approach to life;
- 1.3.7 To equip students to personally commit themselves to evangelism, church planting and leadership;
- 1.3.8 To develop in students a deeper understanding of traditional and modern Africa, and to equip them to effectively provide a Christian approach to socio-economic and political development of the African continent;
- 1.3.9 To play an effective role in the development and expansion of Christian university education in Africa.

2. Purpose Statement

In line with the mission of Daystar University, the purpose of the M.Th. program is to provide theological formation and to promote research for the expansion of God's kingdom in the pluralistic world, especially in Africa. This program focuses on African Christianity in view of the prominent place it holds in world Christianity today. In keeping with African epistemology and ontology, the program will endeavour to take a holistic approach to theology; that is, it aims to nurture and equip students for ongoing personal formation, ecclesial reformation, and social transformation. Given the need to consider both the local and the global, or the contextual and the universalizing dimensions of theology, the program will examine African Christianity in relation to the worldwide development of Christian tradition, both past and present.

3. Rationale

The 20th century witnessed the unprecedented growth and spread of Christianity across Africa south of the Sahara, due to many factors that warrant examination throughout the program: for example, the intensification of African initiatives in evangelism and church-planting, often accompanying national independence movements; Africans' increased receptivity to the gospel when it is communicated effectively in relation to traditional worldviews and cultures; the rise of theological associations across the continent, often stimulated by the ecumenical movement; the expansion of evangelicalism, Pentecostalism, and charismatic renewal movements globally, including in Africa; advances in travel, technology and communications which enhance opportunities for evangelism and discipleship, and the perceived relevance of the Christian faith to life in modern Africa. As a result, Africa is now acknowledged to be a heartland of the gospel and a central zone of theological activity in the world. Therefore, serious study of African Christianity is imperative for the ongoing development of Christian thought worldwide.

The M.Th. program will endeavour to concentrate on this new phenomenon in world Christianity. It will seek to assist students in identifying and articulating significant elements of this religious development in Africa, and in relation to theological developments globally. The aim will be to foster within students an increased sense of African Christian identity, an enhanced ability to engage rigorously with theological issues in African contexts, and a deeper commitment to accountability for authentic Christian witness. The encounter with divinity is not only an intellectual activity; it

requires intense participation or involvement. The program will accordingly encourage theological reflection and praxis within the life of communities of faith.

4. Objectives of the M.Th. Program

The objectives of the M.Th. in African Christianity are to enable students:

- 4.1. To understand and express the substance of contemporary African Christianity in relation to the historical and theological development of Christian tradition worldwide
- 4.2. To become thoroughly grounded in the history of Christianity in Africa, including missionary proclamations of the gospel and African initiatives in evangelism and church growth.
- 4.3. To identify, and discuss leading theologians in Africa (both ancient and modern)
- 4.4. To identify and evaluate major theological trends across the continent.
- 4.5. To discern and critique various theological methodologies employed in African theologies
- 4.6. To demonstrate serious engagement in contextual theology through one of the following means:
 - 4.6.1. Researching and writing a thesis of publishable quality, or
 - 4.6.2. Completing a practicum and writing a ministry project

5. Clientele

This program is designed for all parties interested in engaging in various dimensions of contemporary African Christianity as specified above. Types of students might include those training for:

- 5.1. Pastoral ministries within churches and para-church organisations
- 5.2. Christian NGO and development agencies
- 5.3. Theological education in various settings: Bible schools, TEE programs, theological colleges and seminaries
- 5.4. Other M.Th students not specializing in African Christianity

6. Regulations

6.1 Admission Requirements

All applicants must meet the entry requirements of the Faculty of Postgraduate Studies, Daystar University. Specifically, the students wishing to enter the M.Th. in African Christianity program must hold a first degree in theology, or equivalent. This degree must be from an accredited institution of higher learning, with a cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale), or the degree awarded with first class or upper second-class honours.

Applicants with a first degree other than in theology will be considered for admission on the basis of their academic transcript, Christian ministry experience, and the submission of an integrative, personal reflection paper on an assigned topic. These applicants may be admitted to the program on probation for the first two semesters. The applications forms may be obtained either from the office of the University Registrar or from the website (www.daystaruniversity.net). The duly filled application forms must be returned for processing with an application fees of Kshs 2000 or its equivalent in US\$ latest by the second Friday of July.