

Concept note
The 7th International Ecumenical Fellowship Africa Chapter (IEF-A) Conference In partnership with Bishop Stuart University Mbarara-Uganda (7th - 9th July 2027)

Theme: Religion and Health

Background

International Ecumenical Fellowship (IEF) is an inter-religious community-based organization that brings together all Christians across the world to share knowledge and experience on how to deal with community problems affecting the global economy. IEF brings Christians across the divides of language, ethnicity, nationality, political structures, spirituality and Church traditions. The fellowship holds conferences aiming at bridging, building and forging collaborations that make the world a better place to live in. In Africa, IEF activities are run by Africa Chapter Secretariat currently housed at Bishop Stuart University-Mbarara, Uganda.

This conference is slated for **7th - 9th July 2027**. The theme of the conferences is: **Religion and Health**. It follows six IEF conferences. The first one was held at Uganda Christian University-Mukono from 13th-14th February 2010 under the theme “**Religion, Peace and Development**”. The second one was held at Bishop Stuart University Mbarara Uganda from 10th-11th January 2013 under the theme “**Healing wounded history**”. The third one was held at Tangaza in Nairobi Kenya from 26th– 28th May 2016. The fourth and fifth were held at Lake View Resort Hotel in Mbarara City Uganda from 8th- 9th August 2018 under the theme “**Unity in Diversity**” and from 1st-2nd September 2022 under the theme “**Reconciliation and Restoration; the how for African Refugees**” respectively. The 6th conference was held at Las Vegas Hotel in Mbarara city Uganda from 15th to 17th August 2024 under the theme “**Religion and Development**” For more details visit our website <https://ecumenicalfellowshipafrica.org>

The theme for the upcoming conference is timely and relevant because challenges relating to health are of great concern world over as per SGD 3. The conference will also be used as an opportunity to re-ignite other International Ecumenical Movements across different countries. These will spearhead national, regional and International ecumenical activities in respective countries. This conference therefore, will act as an avenue for sharing knowledge and experiences concerning Spiritual Well-being and Mental Health, Religion, diet and life style, Religious belief and Health care decisions, Religious beliefs, gender dynamics and health, HIV/AIDS and Religious beliefs, Artificial Intelligence in Religion and Health, Religion, Climate Change, and Health. As part of the conference, presentations and discussions will be made.

The purpose of the conference

The Purpose of this conference is to bring together God’s people from different Continents in a forum that discusses issues relating to Religion and Health.

Investigate how religious beliefs and practices might impact health behaviors and outcomes to foster holistic approaches towards wellness that bridge spiritual and physical health.

To Support policies and practices that reduce health inequities in African communities by drawing attention to the role of faith-based organizations in social justice and health equity.

This conference brings together Christians from all continents, focusing on the relationship between religion and health. Discussions will focus on how faith communities can contribute to improved health outcomes, mental well-being, and social determinants of health in Africa.

Output

By the end of the conference, participants will be equipped with knowledge related to the importance of religion and healthy living.

Upon completion of the conference, the papers presented will be published in a credible and peer reviewed journal.

Activities

A series of activities will be performed to ensure the conference meets its set objectives. Among the activities include; mobilization of resources, identifying focal institutions from different countries, conducting a health camp, testimonies and presentation of papers among others.

Target group

The conference targets participants from different countries across the globe.

Location/Venue

The upcoming conference will be held at Las Vegas Hotel in Mbarara City, Mbarara District in Uganda. In case any organization is willing to host the conference, it must uphold or respect IEF core values that is promoting Unity and Reconciliation among Christians; Community Outreach programs; and Research and Dissemination/Knowledge sharing. Most importantly be able to welcome all Christians irrespective of their background.

Audience and Organization

The conference will take three days and will attract God's people from different countries across the globe. The conference expects around 250 participants representing different organizations from different countries across the globe.

Coordination

A number of conference committees will be set up including the steering committee that will spearhead the activities. The steering committee will be chaired by Conference convener and will have one member from each participating country who will serve as the country focal/contact person. Due to distance related barriers meetings will be held virtually as deemed necessary. An appropriate communication channel will be used for updates and brief consultations. The identified contact personnel will help in mobilization and coordination of country members for effective participation.

Budget

The International conference and related events are estimated to cost approximately \$ 52500, Equivalent to Ug Shs 197,375,000= (One hundred ninety-seven Million, Three Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand shillings). The bulk of the funds will be mobilized from well-wishers while participants are expected to raise at least 15% of the total cost (UGX 29,600,000= or \$ 8000. **We gladly welcome any kind support towards the success of the conference.**

Key contacts: The Rt. Rev. Prof. Fred Sheldon Mwesigwa, Tel: +256787084301 Email:

smwesigwafred@gmail.com, Dr. Asiimire Donah 0774520600 iefuganda@gmail.com

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