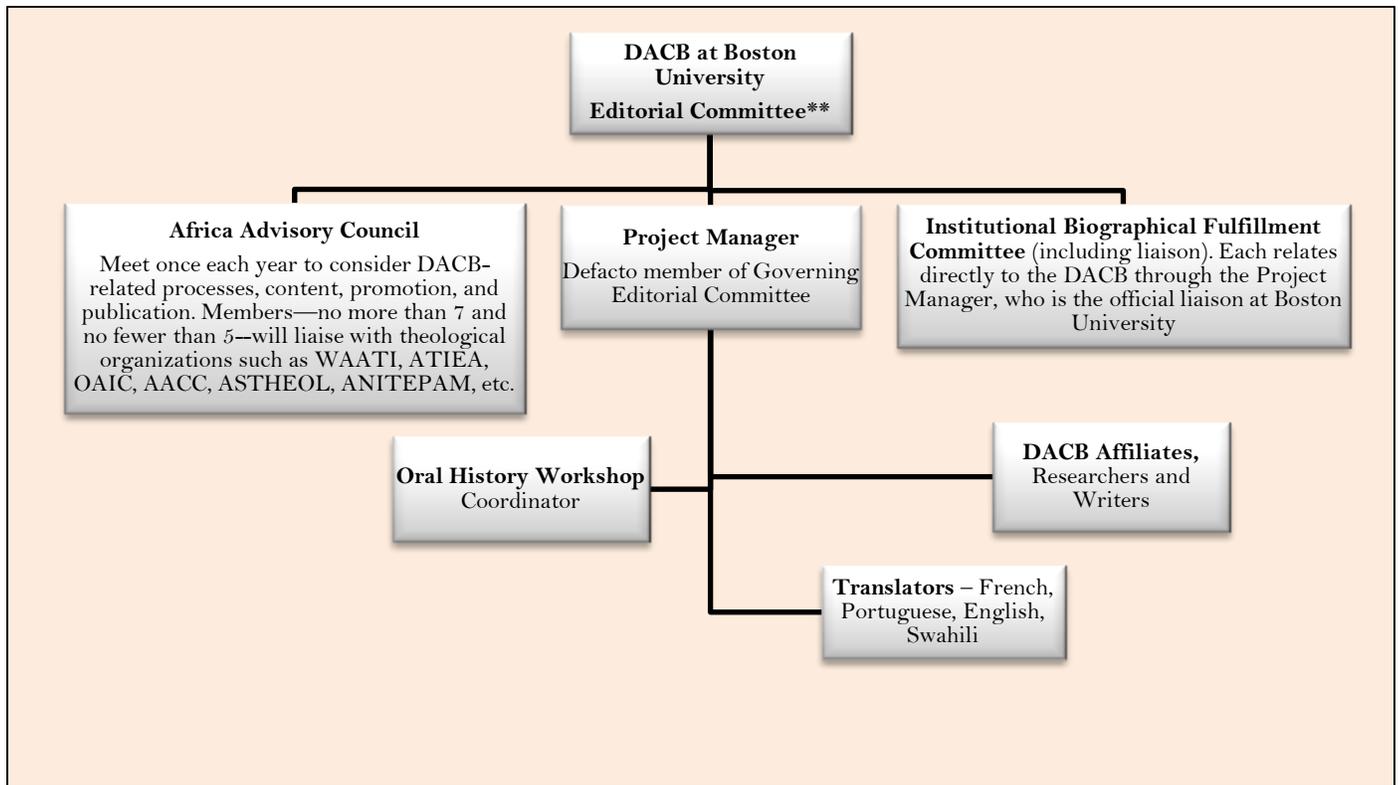


## Dictionary of African Christian Biography at Boston University



**The mission** of the *DACB* is to collect, preserve, and make freely accessible biographical stories and church histories—oral and written—integral to scholarly understanding of Christianity across that continent.

**The modus operandi of the *DACB*.** The *DACB* consists of two distinct but functionally complementary entities: (a) The *Dictionary of African Christian Biography* database operational center at Boston University, and (b) African collaborating institutions (research centers, academic departments, graduate schools) committed to biographical and historical research integral to understanding local, regional, national, or denominational expressions of Christianity, and to the dissemination of this research through the online *Dictionary of African Christian Biography*.

**Boston University** assures the technical integrity of the database itself. The **Project Manager** monitors and maintains the editorial standard of entries as they are prepared for inclusion in **the *Dictionary of African Christian Biography* database**.

***DACB*-affiliates in Africa** serve as academic centers for researching, writing, and verifying biographical and church histories. *DACB* affiliates also facilitate and host practical training forums in oral history. These centers research, write and contribute stories of both individuals and churches to the *DACB* electronic database for preservation and dissemination. *Stories* that comply with *DACB* content, documentation and writing guidelines are published in the database with full attribution, but may thereafter also be freely published as monographs, articles, or chapters in books.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> An example of this is George S. Mukuka, *History from the Underside: The Untold Stories of Black Catholic Clergy in South Africa (1898 to 2008)* (Baltimore, MD: PublishAmerica, 2011).

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**Africa Advisory Council.** With the transition of the *DACB* to Boston University in 2012, the original *DACB* Advisory Council formed in 1995 was formally dissolved and replaced by an Africa Advisory Council constituted to serve the purposes of the *DACB* as it moves into its second decade. The Council meets at least once each year to consider *DACB*-related processes, content, promotion, and publication. Members—no more than 9 and no fewer than 7—are drawn from umbrella theological organizations such as WAATI, ATIEA, OAIC, ANITEPAM, ASTHEOL, AACC, ATISCA, etc. In this way the membership of such organizations can be kept aware of the *DACB*.

Council members are African academics whose professional expertise, academic focus, scholarly reputations, and institutional affiliations align with the mission of the *DACB*. The Project Director is a standing member of the Council, serving as its liaison with the Editorial Committee in Boston. Chairmanship of the Council is determined by members of the Council. Member serves a maximum of three consecutive three year terms. **Africa Advisory Council** members include:

**Dr. Thomas Oduro** (President, Good News Theological College and Seminary, Ghana; active in WAATI);

**Prof. Deji Isaac Ayegboyin** (Professor and Head, Department of Religious Studies, University of Ibadan, Nigeria);

**Prof. Philomena Mwaura** (Director, Centre for Gender Equity and Empowerment, Kenyatta University);

**Prof. Paul Nchoji Nkwi** (Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Catholic University of Cameroon);

**Prof. James N. Amanze** (General Secretary of ATISCA);

**Prof. Edison Muhindo Kalengyo** (Director, Theology, Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations, AACC; active in ATIEA);

**Rév. Priscille Djomhoue** (Maître des Conférences, Université Protestante d'Afrique Centrale; Affiliated with ASTHEOL).

With the advice and assistance of the Africa Advisory Council, the Project Director promotes the *DACB* in key institutions and scholarly associations across Africa. The Editorial Committee at Boston University cooperates with these institutional and regional entities to facilitate collaborative oral history workshops, regional conferences on African Christian biography, the on-line publication of biographical or ecclesiastical histories submitted by student or faculty researchers and writers, and the publication of papers presented at African Biography conferences in the annual *Journal of African Christian Biography*.

**Editorial Committee.** The *DACB-BU* editorial committee is responsible for overseeing the day-to-day operations of the *DACB-BU*, for liaising with the Africa Advisory Council, and for providing advice to *DACB*-affiliate hubs across Africa. The Editorial Committee is an independent, self-perpetuating, entity operating within the jurisdiction of the Boston University School of Theology. Committee member serve a maximum of three consecutive four-year terms. \*The project manager is a de facto member of the committee.

## ***Dictionary of African Christian Biography at Boston University***

**Prof. Jonathan Bonk** (Chair; Director of the *Dictionary of African Christian Biography*, Research Professor of Mission, Boston University; Chair, Canadian Friends of the *DACB* at Providence University College),

**Prof. Dana Robert** (Truman Collins Professor of World Christianity and History of Mission, Director of the CGCM, Boston University):

**Prof. Lamin Sanneh** (D. Willis James Professor of Missions and World Christianity, Professor of History, Professor of International and Area Studies, Yale University);

\***Ms. Michèle Sigg** (*DACB* Project Manager; PhD student at Boston University).

**Canadian Friends of the *DACB*.** With the Project Director living in Winnipeg, a small Winnipeg Advisory Group has been established to assist him in promotion of the *DACB* in Canada. Providence University College has established a *DACB* account whereby Canadian financial support of the project is fully tax deductible. The Director provides an annual report on Canadian *DACB*-related activities to the Managing Editorial Committee in Boston.

**Relationship between *DACB*-BU and *DACB* Affiliates.** Because of their shared interest in recording, preserving, and making accessible the stories of African biographical and ecclesiastical subjects deemed essential to an understanding of local, regional, national, and denominational forms of Christianity across Africa, close cooperation between *DACB*-BU and *DACB*-Affiliates is natural. Since, however, they will be functionally, structurally and administratively independent, cooperation is voluntary and non-binding.

It is envisaged that mutually beneficial cooperative arrangements between Boston University and *DACB*-related institutions in Africa will naturally emerge around their common interest in promoting and facilitating the creation and maintenance of historical resources integral to the study of African church history. Collaboration in the implementation of oral history, research, and writing workshops at undergraduate and graduate levels is a natural outcome of their common stake in the mission of the *DACB*.

A **Quarterly Newsletter** keeps *DACB* friends, collaborators and supporters apprised of ongoing developments, and provides suggestions and examples for pastors and teachers on how to utilize the *DACB* in the context of congregation and classroom.

**Annual Journal.** As funds become available, financial co-sponsorship is provided for collaborative regional academic conferences in Africa that focus on African Christian Biography and Church History. Such conferences are typically organized, convened and hosted at select institutions in West, Central, East, and Southern Africa, usually under the auspices of WAATI, AACC, ASTHEOL, ATISCA, ATIEA, and similar umbrella organizations. The best papers presented at these conferences are featured in an annual publication, *The Journal of African Christian Biography*.

**Print Publication.** While the primary purpose of the *DACB* is to create a non-proprietary digital memory base of academically credible biographical and ecclesiastical subjects to which anyone interested in Christianity in Africa can have unobstructed access, a print volume containing 2400 representative stories and church histories will be published in 2020. The book will be made available free of charge to all affiliate institutions, and to non-affiliate institutions at an affordable price.

## ***Dictionary of African Christian Biography at Boston University***

**Financial Support.** While financial, administrative and logistical support is the responsibility of each affiliated institution, the *DACB-BU* cosponsors Africa-initiated and organized conferences related to African Biography and Church History, and facilitates forums and workshops on oral history. Such cooperative efforts are discussed as opportunities emerge and as necessity requires. Support processes and protocols of *DACB*-affiliates in Africa are independent of those at Boston University and Providence University College. Each affiliate functions in ways deemed appropriate within its peculiar administrative and academic framework.

Discrete accounts have been established for the *DACB* at both Boston University in the USA and at Providence University College in Canada. These accounts comply with the fiscal accountability and governance standards of both institutions. Contributions to both are fully tax deductible.

### **American donations should be sent to:**

Dictionary of African Christian Biography  
Attn: Mr. Kevin C. Keith  
Boston University School of Theology  
745 Commonwealth Ave  
Boston, MA 02215  
USA  
Email: [kkeith@bu.edu](mailto:kkeith@bu.edu)

Checks should be made out to Boston University School of Theology, and clearly marked as support for the *Dictionary of African Christian Biography*. Funds are administered by the Center for Global Christianity and Mission (CGCM), under the direction of Professor Dana Robert.

### **Canadian donations should be sent to:**

Dictionary of African Christian Biography  
Attn: Business Office  
Providence University College and Seminary  
Otterburne, MB R0A 1G0  
Canada  
Email: [john.laugeson@prov.ca](mailto:john.laugeson@prov.ca)

Checks should be made out to Providence University College, and clearly marked as support for the *Dictionary of African Christian Biography*. Funds are administered by Providence University College in collaboration with the *DACB* Project Director.

### **For questions relating to the history, modus operandi, or support of the *DACB*, contact:**

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## ***Dictionary of African Christian Biography at Boston University***

**For technical or content questions related to the *DACB* website, contact:**

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**For more information** visit the website: [www.dacb.org](http://www.dacb.org)