

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



**6TH PAN-AFRICAN CONFERENCE OF THE CIRCLE OF CONCERNED AFRICAN
WOMEN THEOLOGIAN**

ADDRESS BY:

**PROFESSOR NANA ABA APPIAH AMFO
VICE - CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**

THUR. JULY 2, 2024

TRINITY THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Special Guest of Honour - Her Ladyship Justice Janapare A. Bagels Kwodwo, Justice of the Court of Appeals.

Guest of Honour- Rev. Mrs. Vivian Agyin Asare- Co-Founder of Perez Chapel International

The Very Rev Prof. J. Kwabena Asamoah-Gyadu- President of Trinity Theological Seminary Legon.

Dr. Mrs. Musimbi Kanyoro- Chairperson of the opening ceremony.

Founding Matriarchs of the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians.

Prof. Musa Dube Continental Coordinator of the Circle.

Regional and national coordinators of the Circle

Sister institutions

Friends and supporters of the Circle

Ladies and gentlemen

Good morning,

I am honored at the invitation to participate in the 2024 Sankofa Pan-African Conference of the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians. I regret that my current circumstance does not allow me to be physical present with you, as I was looking forward to this. But I am grateful to God for the power of technology, which has allowed me to be present nonetheless, even if virtually.

You have gathered here today as scholars, theologians, activists, and passionate advocates for a common purpose on the subject of theology and its impact on other facets of human life. We are particularly interested in the interaction between theology and women. Your journey together, as African women theologians, on this course of action is rooted in the belief that your voices, experiences, and insights are crucial to shaping a more inclusive discourse within our religious circles.

Since the official launch in 1989 as a Pan-African academic association, the Conference of the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians has focused on researching, publishing, and interacting with communities on issues relating to religion and theology and which affect women of African descent in the various African diasporas.

As a gender advocate and an academic myself, I align with the Circle's main agenda which has been to investigate how religions affect women's lives and how they can be analysed and interpreted for the empowerment of women and their communities. I consider the Circle's mandate as one that seeks to have transformative impact on the lives of African women and the communities they inhabit.

I am therefore excited to join you distinguished women of faith for this year's conference on the theme “***Earth, Pandemics, Gender, and Religions/Culture/Ethics/Philosophy/African Literature.***”

A platform such as this will facilitate knowledge sharing, provide inspiration, and re-kindle the drive to accomplishing our common mission for women's voices to be heard on issues concerning Christian and Islamic Theology.

As we embark on this journey, let us remember that our work goes beyond researching; it is profoundly transformative. Through this conference we will listen, learn, and be equipped to navigate the complexities of gender dynamics in religious contexts. My hope is that this conference will not only illuminate new paths of understanding but also inspire actionable change.

I am confident that this conference will be filled with thought-provoking presentations and enriching discussions. Beyond the presentations and discussions, the conference will provide an avenue for building networks that transcend our individual backgrounds and perspectives.

It is my prayer that the Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians will continue to live up to its mandate, traverse many generations and become more impactful in the coming years.

Thank you once again for the invitation.

Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo

Vice-Chancellor

July 2, 2024