

Africa's First Woman Bishop

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Bishop Joaquina Filipe Nhanala

Connected: Bishop Joaquina Filipe Nhanala, Mozambique Episcopal Area, made history when she was elected to the position in 2008 and became the first woman bishop in Africa. And she's still making history as the needs of women rise to the fore of The United Methodist Church in Mozambique's mission outreach under her administration.

The church is rallying its resources to address illiteracy in the nation where nearly 60 percent of women cannot read or write. United Methodist theology school graduates also are being trained as literacy coordinators as are pastors and church members. The church is also providing health care and addressing domestic violence—basic social problems of Mozambican society that affect women even more than men.

United Methodist Women scholarships helped Bishop Nhanala follow her call to ordained ministry and prepare for the leadership she is now providing to the church.

"I am a product of United Methodist Women," Bishop Nhanala said, adding that she's not alone. "A lot of women are now in a position to have a say because of the efforts of United Methodist Women."

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