



## Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians

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Dear Sisters

I send Lenten greetings to you all. In the Christian calendar this is the season where we reflect on the suffering and death of Jesus who was sent by God to bring healing and wholeness to a broken world. It is a season of reflection on pain and suffering, prayer of repentance and healing, which take different expressions especially fasting, intercessory praying and solitude. I am starting with this introduction so as to locate the reflection and pain that the Circle coordination team is going through regarding the adverse financial realities that we are faced with regarding the planned Pan-African Gathering that was scheduled for April 17-21 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Most of you have submitted abstracts and even papers in preparation for this long awaited gathering. Some of you have also already started the process of visa application in readiness for this gathering. As the General Coordinator of the Circle, I want to ask for your merciful understanding. We have not raised enough funds to cover even 25 participants. At this point in time, it would not be possible to convene this gathering. We however are in the process of securing more funds. We are therefore proposing the postponement of this gathering to tentatively 7-11 August, 2013.

With this postponement, we therefore inform you of three developments:

1. The extension of the article submission date to April 30, 2013.
2. From 15 May the regional peer review process will start so that the process towards the publication of the articles starts earlier than the Pan-African gathering;
3. Regional liaison towards the democratic identification of the next coordination team;
4. Regional process of gathering feedback on the Circle constitution with the hope that it can be adopted by the time we meet together.

Once again, I apologize for the immense inconveniences caused by this last minute postponement. I pray and hope that you will find in your heart to forgive me and the whole coordination team. Together with us, let us hope that even in this, God will work things together for good.

Blessings

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Circle General Coordinator.

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