

Conference Program

October 28, 2026 • Program information is current as of the date of printing. Speaker participation and session arrangements remain subject to change.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2

Arrival, Registration, and Welcome

12:00–6:00 pm Participant Arrival and Registration

Registration Coordinators:
Praise Weru, GFTE
John Ngige Njoroge, AACC

6:30–8:00 pm Welcome Gathering and Dinner

Opening Prayer: Wonsuk Ma, GFTE Executive Committee
Welcome: Wonsuk Ma
Welcome: Fidon Mwombeki, AACC General Secretary
Review of Conference Goals and Process: Rosalee Velloso Ewell, GFTE Executive Committee, and
Nairobi Conference Coordinator
Introductions and Table Conversations: Rosalee Velloso Ewell, Facilitator
Blessing for the Evening: Rufus Okikiola Ostelu, GFTE Executive Committee

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Theme: Reading the Signs of the Times

Purpose: To develop a shared understanding of the changing realities shaping theological education globally.

Convenor of the Day: James Moore

6:30 am	Breakfast
8:30 am	Morning Plenary: “Doing Theological Education Together: Why Bridges Matter Now” Morning Prayer: Convenor of the Day Bible Study: Laurie Brink Table Conversations: Convenor of the Day, Facilitator
10:00 am	Refreshment Break: Coffee and Conversation
10:30 am	Thematic Session 1: “Global Changes in Theological Education: What Is Shifting?” Panel Reflections Africa: Esther Mombo Asia and the Pacific: Wati Longchar Europe: Tomasz Biatokurec Latin America and the Caribbean: Ary Fernández Albán Middle East: Riad Ghobrial North America: Dorcas Gordon Plenary Discussion: Convenor of the Day, Facilitator

12:30 pm	Lunch
2:00 pm	Thematic Session 2: “Listening for the Questions—Prospective and Retrospective” Facilitated Table Conversations Group Facilitators and Rapporteurs
4:00 pm	Refreshment Break: Coffee and Conversation
4:30 pm	Thematic Session 3: “African Voices in Theological Education: From Misleading Theologies to Life-Giving Faith—Theological Education and the Common Good” Co-Presenters: David Tarus and Danson Ottawa Respondents: Barnabe Anzuruni Opoku Onyinah Plenary Discussion: Convenor of the Day, Facilitator
6:30 pm	Dinner GFTE Executive Committee Dinner Meeting (6:30 pm-8:30 pm, via Zoom)
7:30 pm	Open Evening Refreshments will be provided

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Theme: Learning Across Borders

Purpose: To learn from innovative practices, contextual experiences, and global perspectives.

Convenor of the Day: Tatiana Gorbacheva

6:30 am	Breakfast
8:30 am	Morning Plenary: “Pentecost and the Gift of Difference” Morning Prayer: Convenor of the Day Bible Study: Jiri Moskala Table Conversation: Convenor of the Day, Facilitator
10:00 am	Refreshment Break: Coffee and Conversation
10:30 am	Thematic Session 4: “Decentering the West: Reimagining Theological Education Globally” Interviewer: Tite Tienou Interviewees: Asia and Pacific: Limuel Equina Europe: Pavol Bargar Latin America and the Caribbean: César Marques Lopes
12:30 pm	Lunch

1:30 pm	Conference Group Photo
2:00 pm	Thematic Session 5: “Practices that Give Life” Concurrent Group Conversations Group 1: Doreen Benavidez, Resource Person and Facilitator Group 2: Tatiana Gorbacheva, Resource Person and Facilitator Group 3: Riad Ghobrial, Resource Person and Facilitator Plenary Discussion and Summative Comments: Convenor of the Day, Facilitator
4:00 pm	Refreshment Break: Coffee and Conversation
4:30 pm	Thematic Session 6: “Building Bridges that Last” Presenter: Malkaz Songulashvili Respondents: Clayton Coombs Anathea Portier-Young Evangelos Thiani Plenary Discussion and Summative Comments: Convenor of the Day, Facilitator
6:30 pm	Dinner GFTE Executive Committee (Dinner) Meeting (6:30 pm-7:30 pm) (via Zoom)
7:30 pm	Regional Networking Conversations Refreshments will be provided Regional Group Convenors: Africa: David Fabusoro and Rufus Okikiola Ostelu Asia and the Pacific: Daniel Lim Europe: Arngeir Langås Latin America and the Caribbean: Convenor to be confirmed North America: John Ragsdale

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Theme: Forming for Bridge-Building

Purpose: To consider how theological education can respond faithfully and creatively to the realities shaping contemporary societies.

Convenor of the Day: Stephen Bevans

6:30 am	Breakfast
8:30 am	Morning Plenary: “Forming for Bridge-Building” Morning Prayer: Convenor of the Day Bible Study: Andrew Sterling Table Conversations, Convenor of the Day, Facilitator
10:00 am	Refreshment Break: Coffee and Conversation
10:30 am	Thematic Session 7: “The World Theological Education Is Called to Serve” Introduction: Convenor of the Day

Theme Presentation 1: “A World in Conflict – marked by war, violence, migration, displacement, trauma, and humanitarian crises,” Wojciech Szczerba
Plenary Q&A, Convenor of the Day, Facilitator

Theme Presentation 2: “A World in Fragments – characterized by polarization, nationalism, social division, and declining trust,” Esther Acolatse
Plenary Q&A, Convenor of the Day, Facilitator

Theme Presentation 3: “A World in Transformation – shaped by artificial intelligence, technological innovation, demographic change, and rapid societal transformation,” Anatheia Portier-Young
Plenary Q&A, Convenor of the Day, Facilitator

Summative Reflections: Convenor of the Day

12:30 pm Lunch

2:00 pm Thematic Session 8: “Formative Theological Education for Bridge-Building”

Panel Conversation
Rosalee Velloso Ewell
Michael Ortiz
Evangelos Thiani
David Wang
Plenary Discussion: Rosalee Velloso Ewell, Convenor and Lead Discussant

4:00 pm Refreshment Break: Coffee and Conversation

4:30 pm Closing Plenary: “Building Bridges Forward”

Facilitated Plenary Discussion
Co-facilitators:
Stephen Bevans, Chair, GFTE Listening/Writing Committee
Rosalee Velloso Ewell, GFTE Nairobi Conference Coordinator

**6:30 pm Closing Dinner, Celebration, and Worship:
“The Body of Christ—Many Members, One Fellowship”**

Dinner
Words of Thanks: Rosalee Velloso Ewell, GFTE
Words of Thanks: John Ngige Njoroge, AACC
Presentation and Affirmation: “What We Are Hearing—Emerging Themes and a Mandate from Nairobi,” Rufus Okikiola Ostelu
Closing Worship: Rosalee Velloso Ewell

8:00 pm Cultural Celebration and Refreshments

John Ngige Njoroge, AACC, Host for the evening
RAPALA Dance Ensemble

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Departures

7:00 am –

8:30 am Breakfast and Departures