

# ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN INSTITUTED CHURCHES

Organization of African Instituted Churches (OAIC) is the representative body that brings together African Independent and Instituted Churches (AICs). OAIC offers them a forum for sharing their concerns and hopes, and enables churches to minister effectively to the needs of their members and their communities.

AIC's are home-grown African churches, founded originally during the colonial period, that have developed indigenous forms of worship, theology and social organization, all deeply inspired by a vision that is both Christian and African. As followers of Jesus Christ, AIC responds with conviction to the challenges such as entrenched poverty, ill health and the breakdown of African cultural and social systems, that require groups to organize themselves in order to confront these obstacles. Its membership is spread over several denominations across Sub-Saharan Africa and the African Diaspora.

The International Headquarters of the OAIC is located in Nairobi, Kenya.

## HISTORY

The OAIC was founded in 1978 when a number of AIC leaders from across the continent were invited by Pope Shenouda III of the Coptic Church for a meeting in Cairo. The Organization's original objectives were to provide a forum for AIC leaders to fellowship and share their concerns. The Organization also sought ways to provide better theological and biblical education for its members, including the promotion of Sunday Schools. The OAIC is thus an institutional expression of the movement, visions and aspirations of the AICs.

The first AICs emerged during the colonial period as grassroots Christian movements. AIC leaders and prophets spread the gospel of Jesus Christ over wide areas of Africa, confronting spiritual, social and political evil in the community, and founding churches along the way. The majority of these leaders had little formal education and, more often than not, came from the ranks of the poorest and most vulnerable in society. Since political independence, AICs have continued to be founded, most of them describing themselves as Pentecostal.

At a continental level, OAIC's chapters and regions have well-established partnerships with their national ecumenical bodies. For example, OAIC Nigeria Chapter is an active member of the Christian Association of Nigeria

More information on OAIC can be obtained from [www.oaic.org](http://www.oaic.org)

The Cherubim & Seraphim Movement Church (comprising of Dakibiyu District & Abuja District) is a member of the OAIC Federal Capital Territory Chapter of OAIC Nigeria