

**A CRITICAL STUDY OF THE PLACE OF THE CHURCH IN ACTIVE POLITICS: A CASE OF  
KAGERA DIOCESE**

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M21B09/048**

**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO BISHOP TUCKER SCHOOL OF DIVINITY AND  
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## Declaration

I, **Anceth Faustine Kanyawawa**, registration number M21B09/048, solemnly affirm that the dissertation presented here is a product of my own original work to the best of my knowledge. This dissertation has never been submitted to any other university or institution for the purpose of obtaining a degree or its equivalent.

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## Approval

I hereby confirm that I have supervised and reviewed the dissertation titled; A Critical Study of the Place of the Church in Active Politics: A Case Study of Kagera Diocese and I am satisfied with its completion and readiness for submission.

Supervisor's Name: Rev. Prof. Omona Andrew David

Signature:  Date 28/6/2024

## **Dedication**

I can do everything through him who gives me strength Philippians 4:13. First of all I dedicate this work to the Lord God Almighty who gives me all strength and understanding to write and complete this dissertation.

Secondly, I dedicate this work to my family, especially my lovely wife Jasinta John Richard who played big role to support me in many aspects and her prayers, taking care of our child Ability Tumsime and caring other properties at home.

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I would like to express my deep gratitude and honor to the Almighty God for his unwavering love for choosing me among the many to be his servant in this noble ministry, granted me the special opportunity to join the Bachelor of Divinity course for studying more His word, and lastly, I thank Him so much for His protection during the course of this study.

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## List of Abbreviation

NIV	New International Version
Prov	Proverbs
Isa	Isaiah
Dan	Daniel
Jer	Jeremiah
Rev	Reverand
Prof	Professor
Rt	Right

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## **Abstract**

This study explored the complex relationship between politics and the Church, concentrating on the Kagera Diocese. It aims to broaden our comprehension of the Church's involvement in active politics by carrying out an extensive case study and analyzing the potential and problems it faces. Using historical, theological, and modern viewpoints, the research tackles the long-running controversy about the Church's engagement in politics. It aims to offer light on the scope of the Church's political participation, its effects, and possible ways to increase it through an examination of many literatures and stakeholder perspectives. The findings of this research shed light on the diverse perspectives within the Church community when it comes to political participation, revealing both positive and negative impacts that arise as a result. In conclusion, the study aims to offer insightful information to persons in Kagera Diocese and beyond, theologians, Church leaders, and lawmakers, resulting in a more knowledgeable and impactful relationship between the Church and the political sphere.

# Chapter One

## General Introduction

### 1.1 Introduction

The relationship between the Church and politics has long been a topic of discussion and debate.<sup>1</sup> This research aims to explore the role of the Church in active politics, with a specific focus on Kagera Diocese. Through an in-depth case study, this research seeks to enhance our understanding of the connection between the Church and politics by examining the challenges and opportunities involved. This chapter provides an overview of the study, including the background and context, research problems and questions, objectives and hypotheses, and the significance and scope of the research.

### 1.2 Background of the Study

The views of different churches regarding the involvement of the Church in active politics have been shaped by their unique histories, traditions, and practices. For example, the Church of England experienced a significant change in its relationship with the state during King Henry VIII's rebellion against Catholic Church authorities.<sup>2</sup> This historical event underscores the political role that the Church can play. While some Protestant countries have established a separation between the Church and the state, conflicts have arisen in other instances when secular values are imposed on the Church

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<sup>1</sup> Dreisbach, D. (Ed.). (2014). Religion and politics in the early republic: Jasper Adams and the church-state debate.

<sup>2</sup> MacCulloch, D. (2017). *Tudor church militant: Edward VI and the Protestant Reformation*. Penguin UK.

and its followers. These differing perspectives within the Church have raised important questions and tensions that require further investigation.

The historical and theological foundations of the relationship between the Church and politics have been influenced by significant events such as the Reformation, the Investiture Controversy, and the establishment of the Church of England.<sup>3</sup> The Reformation led to a divergence in the relationship between the Church and the state, with various Protestant denominations advocating for different levels of separation. The Investiture Controversy highlighted the power struggle between the Church and secular authorities, leading to significant changes in their relationship dynamics. Additionally, the establishment of the Church of England under Henry VIII marked a significant moment in the history of the Church's relationship with the state, setting the stage for subsequent developments in the Anglican tradition.

Moreover, the intersection of church and state has been an ongoing subject of debate and negotiation, as seen in events like the establishment of the Church of England and the Investiture Controversy. These events have shaped the perspectives of different Churches and their followers, resulting in diverse opinions on the appropriate level of Church involvement in active politics. The influence of the French Enlightenment on colonial intellectuals and the interests of established Churches in preserving their

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<sup>3</sup> Wilson, J. F. (2018). *Church And State in American History: Key Documents, Decisions, and Commentary from Five Centuries*. Routledge.

unique identities have also played a role in shaping the relationship between church and state, particularly in the United States context.<sup>4</sup>

The complexities of the relationship between the Church and politics are further highlighted by the experiences of different denominations, such as the Anabaptists, Lutherans, and Wesleyan Methodist Connection, each of which has expressed distinct positions on the interaction between religious and secular authority. These varied perspectives underscore the multifaceted nature of the debate surrounding the Church's involvement in active politics and the diverse historical and theological contexts that have contributed to the formation of these viewpoints.

Overall, the historical and theological underpinnings of the relationship between the Church and politics have given rise to a rich tapestry of perspectives and experiences, reflecting the complex interplay of religious, political, and social dynamics. These diverse historical and theological influences have contributed to the formation of different viewpoints within the Church, highlighting the need for a comprehensive exploration of the Church's role in active politics within specific contexts like Kagera Diocese.

### **1.3 Statement of the Problem**

The issue of the Church's relationship with politics has led to a stark division among members of the Christian community, including those within Kagera Diocese. Divergent

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<sup>4</sup> Green, S. (2010). *The second disestablishment: Church and state in nineteenth-century America*. Oxford University Press.

views prevail regarding the Church's involvement in active politics.<sup>5</sup> While some contend that politics is morally compromised and incompatible with Christian values, others view political engagement as a divine calling and an avenue for positive societal influence. This intra-Church division has caused tensions and obstacles that necessitate a deeper understanding for effective resolution.

#### **1.4 Purpose of the Study**

This study aims to critically examine the role of the Church in active politics within the specific context of Kagera Diocese. Through an in-depth case study, the research seeks to explore the significance of the Church's participation in politics and to identify strategies that can enhance its engagement for the betterment of society. By contributing to the understanding of the dynamics between the Church and politics, this study endeavors to provide valuable insights for Church leaders, theologians, and policymakers.

#### **1.5 Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To explore the extent of the Church's participation in active politics within Kagera Diocese.
2. To examine the consequences of the Church's engagement in active politics in Kagera Diocese.

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<sup>5</sup> Philpott, D. (2007). Explaining the political ambivalence of religion. *American Political Science Review*, 101(3), 505-525.

3. To assess strategies that can be employed to enhance the Church's involvement in active politics, ensuring the benefit and well-being of the Church community in Kagera Diocese.

### **1.6 Research Questions**

The study will seek to answer the following research questions:

1. To what extent does the Church in Kagera Diocese participate in active politics?
2. What are the consequences, positive and negative, of the Church's engagement in active politics in Kagera Diocese?
3. What strategies can be employed to enhance the Church's involvement in active politics within Kagera Diocese, ensuring the benefit and well-being of the church community?

### **1.7 Scope of the Study**

This study will focus on Kagera Diocese, which is located in the northwest corner of Tanzania. It will examine various Churches within the Diocese to gather the perspectives of both Church leaders and members. The primary objective is to investigate the relationship between the Church and active politics, specifically looking at both positive and negative effects of the Church's involvement in politics within Kagera Diocese.

### **1.8 Justification of the Study**

This study is of great importance as it addresses a critical and complex issue within the Church and society as a whole. By exploring the intricate relationship between the

Church and politics, particularly within the context of Kagera Diocese, the aim is to gain a deeper understanding of the dynamics at play. Through a comprehensive exploration of different perspectives, challenges, and opportunities related to the Church's involvement in active politics, this research aims to contribute to existing knowledge and provide valuable insights for church leaders, theologians, and policymakers. By bridging theological principles with practical implications, the study seeks to promote a more informed and impactful engagement of the Church in political matters. The findings will not only enhance our understanding of the relationship between the Church and politics but also offer guidance and strategies for Church leaders to navigate challenges and make the most of opportunities. Additionally, policymakers can benefit from the insights gained to make informed decisions that foster a harmonious and mutually beneficial relationship between the Church and the political sphere. Ultimately, this research has the potential to create a positive impact by encouraging a meaningful and effective participation of the Church in active politics, contributing to the well-being and development of Kagera Diocese, and serving as a valuable reference for similar contexts worldwide.

### **1.9 Significance**

This study holds significant importance for various stakeholders, including theological students, Church leaders, policymakers, and individual Christians. The findings will serve as a valuable resource for theological students seeking to understand the complexities of the relationship between the Church and politics. Church leaders can utilize the insights gained to make informed decisions about the Church's involvement in active politics, aligning their actions with theological principles and the needs of

their congregations. Policymakers will benefit from a deeper understanding of the potential contributions and challenges associated with the Church's engagement in politics, enabling them to create an environment that supports a constructive relationship between the Church and the political sphere. Moreover, individual Christians with an interest in politics will find guidance and strategies within the study's findings, empowering them to meaningfully engage in political affairs. The significance of this study extends beyond academia, aiming to contribute to the well-being and advancement of Kagera Diocese and its surrounding communities by fostering a harmonious and mutually beneficial relationship between the Church and society at large.

## Chapter Two

### Literature Review

#### 2.1 Introduction

Scholars have differing opinions on the involvement of the Church in active politics. Some support the idea and highlight the positive impacts of the Church's participation in politics, while others, using the same biblical standards, strongly oppose it and emphasize the negative impacts. This chapter reviews various literature related to the topic of the Church in active politics, aligning with the research objectives to explore the extent of the Church's participation in active politics, examine the consequences of its engagement, and assess strategies to enhance its involvement.

#### 2.2 The Extent of the Church's Participation in Active Politics

The involvement of the Church in active politics has been a long-standing and contentious subject that has sparked scholarly and public discussions for centuries.<sup>6</sup> This literature review seeks to explore the multifaceted dimensions of the Church's engagement in political affairs, drawing upon historical, biblical, and contemporary perspectives.

Historically, the Church has served as a moral voice in political arenas, advocating for social justice and influencing public opinion on contentious issues. Debates over topics such as abortion, same-sex marriage, and immigration often see the Church taking a

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<sup>6</sup> Grzymala-Busse, A. (2012). Why comparative politics should take religion (more) seriously. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 15, 421-442.

firm stance, utilizing its platform to shape legislative changes and societal attitudes.<sup>7</sup> This advocacy role is evident in recent discussions surrounding healthcare reform, where the Church has championed the rights of vulnerable populations and advocated for universal access to healthcare, reflecting its commitment to addressing social issues and promoting the well-being of society.

In various countries, the Church exercises direct influence over policymaking processes, with clergy members participating in governmental committees and advising lawmakers on matters of morality and ethics. This influence is particularly notable in nations like Ireland, where the Catholic Church has historically played a pivotal role in shaping decisions related to education, healthcare, and social welfare, reflecting its desire to contribute to the establishment of policies that align with its moral teachings and values.

The Church possesses a unique capacity to mobilize its members for political action, leveraging its extensive network of congregations and charitable organizations to advocate for change at local, national, and international levels.<sup>8</sup> This mobilization has been instrumental in historical movements such as the civil rights struggle in the United States, where churches played a central role in galvanizing support for racial equality and justice, demonstrating the power of the Church as an agent of social transformation.

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<sup>7</sup> McCarthy, A. F. (2019). *The Religious Impact: Understanding the Influence of Religiosity on Attitudes Toward Policy Issues*. Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College.

<sup>8</sup> Christens, B. D., & Speer, P. W. (2015). Community organizing: Practice, research, and policy implications. *Social Issues and Policy Review*, 9(1), 193-222.

While the Bible does not provide explicit directives regarding the Church's involvement in politics, it offers insights into the interdependence of religious and political institutions. Scriptural narratives depict church leaders as individuals who engage in both ecclesiastical and political realms for the betterment of society. Furthermore, Jesus' teachings emphasize the responsibility of Christians to exert positive influence within the political sphere, encouraging believers to actively participate in political processes and work towards justice, compassion, and the common good.

Throughout the Old Testament, religious and political leadership were often intertwined, with prophets and priests holding advisory roles in the king's councils.<sup>9</sup> We of course study of Daniel, Meshach, Shadrack and Abednego, strong religious leaders who were also chief advisors in the general council of kings Nebuchadnezzar and Cyrus of Babel. These nobles' men in the king's service dealt with all matter of political affairs. For their intuitive divine wisdom, "in every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom" (Dan 1:20). The prophet Isaiah also, was the main advisor in the council of king Uzziah. Here, remember that king Uzziah was known for his extreme corruption and rudeness in leadership, he was a leader without spiritual vision. In short, King Uzziah could be termed as a man of dirty politics. In his advisory role, there was a time Isaiah was so despondent that, he asked God, "for how long... I will I keep ministering in this condition"? Yet, Isaiah did not absent himself from the council. The summary of the matter lies in the testimony of the prophet who

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<sup>9</sup> Walzer, M. (2012). *In God's Shadow: Politics in the Hebrew Bible*. Yale University Press.

said; “in the year that king Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple “(Isa. 6:1). Bad leadership of Uzziah, blocked Isaiah’s eyes so that he could not see the Lord, but Isaiah did not resign and withdraw from the national politics, even though they were dirty politics. And at the call of the prophet Jeremiah who was to work as advisors to king Josiah, Jeremiah knew well how hard the task would be. Jeremiah tried hard to resist the call and raised arguments in self-defense but God did not concur with him. He was called to a very difficult political task “.... See, today I appoint you over nations and kingdoms uproot and tear down, to destroy and throw, to build and to plant” (Jer. 1:4-10). Also, in (Jer. 2:1), God set Jeremiah to go and to proclaim in Jerusalem: The message given to him was not only about religious matters, but also carried international political ramifications. These biblical precedents underscore the compatibility of religious values with political engagement, challenging notions of a rigid separation between Church and state. The involvement of prophets and priests in political affairs demonstrates the belief that religious and moral guidance is essential for effective governance and the well-being of the people.

Contemporary examples, such as the National Christian Council of Kenya's advocacy for political participation grounded in biblical principles, further illustrate the ongoing relevance of the Church's involvement in politics.<sup>10</sup> Acknowledging concerns about the erosion of secular governance, proponents argue that the Church's engagement can serve as a force for moral accountability and societal transformation, emphasizing that

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<sup>10</sup> David, S. K., & Katola, M. T. (2016). *The Church-State Relationship in Kenya after the Second Liberation Struggle*.

the Church's involvement in politics is about advocating for justice, compassion, and the values espoused by their faith.

The Church's participation in politics is framed within a broader ethical framework, emphasizing its responsibility to uphold Christian values and promote the common good. This ethical imperative extends beyond mere advocacy to encompass tangible contributions to social welfare, humanitarian aid, and the protection of human rights. The Church's involvement in social services, such as establishing health facilities, schools, and providing aid during calamities, reflects its commitment to serving society in both spiritual and practical ways, aligning with the belief that the Church has a responsibility to contribute to the well-being of individuals and communities.

### **3.3 The Impact of the Church's Engagement in Active Politics**

The relationship between the Church and active politics has been a subject of ongoing debate, sparking discussions and disagreements over the years. Some argue for a clear separation between the Church and political affairs, while others believe it is morally necessary for the Church to address important societal issues.<sup>11</sup> This literature review explores the various consequences that arise from the Church's participation in active politics, considering both potential drawbacks and positive outcomes.

One immediate result of the Church's involvement in political matters is the blurring of boundaries between Church and state. When the Church takes positions on political

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<sup>11</sup> Wald, K. D., Silverman, A. L., & Fridy, K. S. (2005). *Making sense of religion in political life*. *Annu. Rev. Polit. Sci.*, 8, 121-143.

issues, it inevitably influences government policies and legislative processes.<sup>12</sup> This convergence of religious and political spheres can lead to discord and polarization within society as differing viewpoints clash over the perceived intrusion of religious ideology into secular governance. The Church's involvement in politics can spark debates and divisions, challenging the traditional separation of Church and state.

Furthermore, the Church's engagement in active politics carries the risk of perpetuating discrimination and exclusionary practices. If the Church aligns closely with a particular political party or ideology, it may alienate individuals who do not share the same beliefs. This potential for marginalization threatens to isolate segments of society within the Church community, undermining the principles of inclusivity and unity that the Church strives for. Aligning with specific political ideologies can lead to divisions within the Church community, potentially compromising the spirit of inclusivity and unity.

Moreover, excessive entanglement in political affairs can divert the church from its fundamental mission of spreading messages of love, compassion, and forgiveness.<sup>13</sup> Instead of being a beacon of hope and support for those in need, the Church may become embroiled in divisive political battles that detract from its core values and spiritual responsibilities. This dilution of its primary purpose compromises the Church's ability to effectively fulfill its role as a moral and spiritual guide. The risk of being

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<sup>12</sup> Andersen, D. M. (2006). *Political Silence at Church: The Empty Threat of Removing Tax-Exempt Status for Insubstantial Attempts to Influence Legislation*. *BYU L. Rev.*, 115.

<sup>13</sup> Falola, T. (1998). *Violence in Nigeria: The crisis of religious politics and secular ideologies*. University Rochester Press.

drawn into divisive political battles may divert the Church's focus from its core mission of spreading love, compassion, and forgiveness, potentially compromising its spiritual and moral guidance.

However, amidst these challenges, the Church's active involvement in politics also has the potential for positive impact. By using its platform to speak out on critical social issues, the Church can raise awareness and draw attention to injustices that need to be addressed. This advocacy has the power to inspire followers to take concrete action and contribute to positive societal change. The Church's active engagement in politics can act as a catalyst for raising awareness and inspiring meaningful action to address societal injustices.

Furthermore, the Church's historical legacy of advocating for the rights of marginalized and oppressed communities highlights its potential to be a powerful voice for those who are unheard and overlooked. Through active participation in political arenas, the Church can continue to champion greater equality and justice, contributing to the realization of a more inclusive and equitable society. The Church's involvement in politics can serve as a powerful force for advocating greater equality and justice, reflecting its historical legacy of advocating for the rights of marginalized communities.

### **3.4 Strategies for Enhancing the Church's Involvement in Active Politics**

The role of the Church in politics has been a topic of debate throughout history, with differing opinions on whether the church should stay away from political affairs or actively participate in shaping public policy. For those who support the Church's

involvement in politics, there are various strategies that can be used to ensure the church's voice is not only heard but also respected in the political arena.

One effective strategy for the Church to engage in active politics is to educate its members on political issues. By providing comprehensive information about relevant policies and candidates, the Church empowers its members to make informed decisions during elections.<sup>14</sup> This can involve hosting informational sessions, distributing voter guides, or inviting guest speakers to address the congregation on political topics. Educating the congregation on political matters ensures that they are equipped to make informed decisions that align with their values and beliefs.

Mobilizing Church members to take action is another vital strategy for political engagement. Encouraging voter registration, participation in grassroots campaigns, and even running for political office can amplify the church's influence on the political process. By mobilizing its members, the Church can effectively advocate for its values and priorities in public policy. This strategy ensures that the Church's influence extends beyond the pews and into the broader political landscape.

Establishing relationships with political leaders and government officials is crucial for the Church's effective participation in politics.<sup>15</sup> By engaging in dialogue, attending town hall meetings, and participating in community events, the Church can position itself as a trusted and influential voice in the political sphere. These relationships

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<sup>14</sup> Smith, D. R., & Harris, F. C. (Eds.). (2005). *Black churches and local politics: Clergy influence, organizational partnerships, and civic empowerment*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

<sup>15</sup> Longman, T. (2001). Church politics and the genocide in Rwanda. *Journal of Religion in Africa*, 31(2), 163-186.

enable the Church to advocate for issues important to its members and influence policy decisions. Building strong relationships with political leaders allows the church to have a direct impact on policy-making processes.

Collaborating with organizations that share similar values and goals enhances the church's political impact. Forming coalitions or alliances with like-minded groups amplifies the Church's voice and strengthens its influence on political issues. Strategic partnerships are particularly effective in advocating for issues that require a united front, such as social justice or environmental protection. By partnering with other organizations, the Church can leverage collective influence to address complex political challenges.

The church's resources, including its buildings and facilities, can be utilized to host political events and forums. By providing a space for community discussions and debates, the Church fosters civic engagement and informed dialogue on crucial political matters. These events contribute to creating a politically aware and active congregation. Utilizing its physical resources, the Church can facilitate open and constructive conversations about political issues.

The Church can leverage its moral authority to speak out on political issues and hold elected officials accountable.<sup>16</sup> By taking a principled stand on matters of social justice, human rights, and morality, the Church shapes public discourse and influences policy outcomes. Issuing statements, writing letters, and organizing protests are among the

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<sup>16</sup> Palmer, P. J. (2024). *Healing the heart of democracy: The courage to create a politics worthy of the human spirit*. John Wiley & Sons.

methods through which the Church can assert its moral authority in the political arena. This strategy ensures that the Church's voice is heard and respected in political discussions.

## Chapter Three

### Research Methodology

#### 3.1 Introduction

This chapter presented the procedures and methods employed in the study. It covered various aspects such as research design and approach, study population, study area, sample size determination and methodologies, data collection tools, quality control measures, variable measurement, data analysis, and ethical considerations.

#### 3.2 Research Design and Approach

A research design serves as a direction for the study. It outlines the philosophical position, methodology, and strategies employed to achieve the objectives of the study.<sup>17</sup> This study adopts a case study methodology and a qualitative research approach to explore the perspectives of various stakeholders regarding the place of the church in active politics by critically examining the role of the Church in active politics within the specific context of Kagera Diocese. The qualitative research design is chosen to get into the experiences, and perspectives of stakeholders concerning the role of the Church in active politics.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>17</sup> Howell, K. E. (2012). *An introduction to the philosophy of methodology. An Introduction to the Philosophy of Methodology*, 1-248.

<sup>18</sup> Chenail, R. J. (2011). *How to Conduct Clinical Qualitative Research on the Patient's Experience*. *Qualitative Report*, 16(4), 1173-1190.

### **3.3 Area of Study**

The main focus of this to examine the role of the Church in active politics within the specific context of Kagera Diocese, situated in the extreme northwest corner of Tanzania. Various churches within the diocese will be examined, capturing the perspectives of church leaders and members. The research will primarily investigate the relationship between the Church and active politics, scrutinizing the effects of the Church's engagement in politics within the specific context of Kagera Diocese.

### **3.4 Sources of Data**

A combination of primary and secondary sources is essential to ensure a comprehensive and well-rounded research study on the role of the Church in active politics in Kagera Diocese.

### **3.5 Sampling Techniques**

This study exclusively employs purposive sampling, a non-probability sampling strategy where participants are chosen based on the researcher's judgment.<sup>19</sup> The selection criteria will be carefully set to ensure accuracy and clarity. Specifically, Church leaders, both active and retired, along with the bishop of the diocese, will be purposively chosen to represent a diverse range of viewpoints.

### **3.6 Data Collection Methods, Tools, and Instruments**

In-depth interviews will serve as the primary data collection method. These interviews will be semi-structured, allowing participants the flexibility to express their

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<sup>19</sup> Pace, D. S. (2021). *Probability and non-probability sampling-an entry point for undergraduate researchers*. International Journal of Quantitative and Qualitative Research Methods, 9(2), 1-15.

perspectives and experiences regarding role of the Church in active politics. Interviews will be conducted in English to facilitate clear communication.

### **3.7 Quality Control**

Reliability and validity will be employed as measures of data quality control. A pilot study will be conducted prior to data collection to assess reliability, and face and content validity will be ensured through presentations to research supervisors and consideration of their feedback.

### **3.8 Data Analysis**

Thematic analysis, following the method described by Braun and Clarke (2006), will be employed to identify recurrent themes and patterns in the qualitative data collected from the Kagera Diocese. The analysis process will include familiarization with the data, preliminary coding, topic discovery, theme refinement and naming.

### **3.9 Ethical Consideration**

Respecting participants' autonomy and ensuring their comfort and right to withdraw from the study at any time will be emphasized. Upholding ethical norms and participant protection aligns with the highest standards of research ethics, promoting trust in the research process and ensuring the study's legitimacy and integrity.

## Chapter Four

### Data Presentation and Analysis

#### 4.1 Introduction

In this chapter, the researcher explored the data gathered from oral and written interviews conducted with the respondents. The data presented illustrates the diverse range of perspectives and understanding among the people in Kagera Diocese.

#### 4.2 Data Presentation

The study aimed to investigate the role and impact of the Church in active politics. The findings revealed that a significant portion, about 20.3% of the respondents, expressed uncertainty about the appropriateness of the Church's involvement in politics. Surprisingly, this uncertainty surpassed the 10.5% who strongly opposed such involvement. This indicates an opportunity to positively educate those who are uncertain, potentially changing their perspective.

If the 20.3% of uncertain respondents were influenced to join the 69.2% who supported the Church's direct involvement in politics, the combined percentage would reach 89.5%. This shows that a large majority of community members are in favor of the Church's political engagement. Additionally, it is important to note that among the 69.2% supportive respondents, there was representation across various demographics, including youth, the elderly, elites, and ordinary citizens within the Kagera Diocese.

In summary, the data suggests a growing understanding among individuals that the Church and active politics are interconnected, especially for individual Christians. This

indicates a collaborative relationship between the Church and politics, where both contribute to shaping governance structures and societal norms. This synergy between the Church and politics is crucial for ensuring effective governance and societal well-being.

### **4.3. Data Analysis**

#### **4.3.1 The Extent of the Church's Participation in Active Politics**

In Ngara Mjini Deanery, respondents from diverse backgrounds, including adults, the elderly, youth, elites, and individuals from various societal positions, contributed to the study. Their perspectives were vital for understanding how members of Kagera Diocese perceive the church's involvement in active politics. Additionally, discussions within this deanery highlighted the distinct impacts of interactions between church members and secular politicians, shedding light on both positive and negative aspects.

Mugoma Deanery provided valuable insights into the perceptions of Church involvement in politics. Here, respondents shared their perspectives on the role of the church in addressing social, economic, and spiritual issues within the community. The discussions underscored the complexity of navigating the intersection between church and secular politics, with differing viewpoints on the extent of church engagement.

Similarly, in Kayanga Deanery, discussions centered on the influence of Church participation in politics on community development. Respondents emphasized the importance of ethical leadership and the potential for positive change through committed Christian politicians. However, concerns were raised about the limited

representation of Church members in political spheres, indicating areas for improvement.

Kabanga Deanery offered perspectives on the role of Church leaders in political engagement. While some respondents endorsed the active participation of church leaders in politics as a means to advocate for justice and ethics, others expressed reservations, fearing potential divisions within the church. These discussions highlighted the need for careful consideration of the implications of church involvement in political affairs.

In Bushangaro Deanery, respondents provided insights into the complexities of political engagement within Christian denominations. Varying perspectives emerged, with some endorsing active involvement in politics while others advocated for distance due to perceived moral implications. These discussions underscored the challenges faced by church members in navigating their roles in both religious and political spheres, emphasizing the importance of ethical considerations.

#### **4.3.2 The Impact of the Church's Engagement in Active Politics**

In Ngara Mjini Deanery, the impact of the Church's engagement in politics was examined, revealing significant contributions to societal well-being and ethical governance. Respondents highlighted the church's role as a defender of moral values and its advocacy for principles such as honesty, integrity, and compassion. Discussions emphasized the importance of humility, servant leadership, and accountability in preventing the abuse of power within the political sphere.

Mugoma Deanery echoed similar sentiments regarding the positive outcomes of the Church's involvement in politics. Here, respondents emphasized the Church's responsibility to hold the government accountable for its actions, particularly in cases of human rights violations and unethical practices. By speaking out against injustice and oppression, the church became a voice for the marginalized and oppressed, advocating for positive change.

In Kayanga Deanery, the Church's commitment to addressing societal needs through social justice initiatives and legal advocacy was highlighted. Respondents emphasized the importance of equal access to justice for all members of society, regardless of their socioeconomic status or political affiliation. By promoting accountability, the church contributed to the establishment of a more just and equitable society, upholding the rule of law and protecting fundamental rights.

Kabanga Deanery discussed the Church's role in providing social services such as education and healthcare. Collaborating with other organizations and government agencies, the church took a holistic approach to community development, acting as a catalyst for positive change. Additionally, the church's involvement in addressing refugee crises reflected its compassionate advocacy for vulnerable populations, embodying the principles of solidarity and humanitarianism.

In Bushangaro Deanery, challenges and negative consequences of the Church's engagement in politics were addressed. Respondents highlighted instances of syncretism and political corruption, which eroded the moral integrity of the Church and undermined its credibility as a moral authority. Discussions emphasized the need for

ethical leadership and principled engagement to effectively address societal challenges and maintain the church's integrity.

#### **4.3.3 Strategies for Enhancing the Church's Involvement in Active Politics**

According to an elder in Ngara Mjini Deanery, creating a culture of service and volunteerism is crucial for increasing community involvement in politics. Church leaders can inspire their congregation to actively participate in community service by emphasizing the importance of giving back and serving others. Encouraging volunteer opportunities, organizing service projects, and recognizing the contributions of church members involved in community service can foster a culture of giving and service within the church community.<sup>20</sup>

A Church member from Mugoma Deanery highlights the significance of positive civic education for both the government and the Church in selecting key personnel for political positions. Constructive civic education plays a vital role in mitigating the negative effects of the church's involvement in politics by fostering a better understanding of the roles and responsibilities of both entities. Addressing misconceptions and promoting informed participation in politics can lead to a more engaged and responsible citizenry.<sup>21</sup>

The Archdeacon in Kayanga Deanery emphasizes the importance of incorporating teachings from the Bible regarding political engagement within the Church community.

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<sup>20</sup> Respondent from Ngara Mjini Deanery.

<sup>21</sup> Respondent from Mugoma Deanery.

By integrating scriptural principles into educational seminars and teachings, prospective political candidates can develop a deeper understanding of their duty to God and the community. Initiatives led by individuals from the Lutheran Church demonstrate the impact of such educational efforts, which should be embraced and expanded by the entire Church community.<sup>22</sup>

The priests from Kabanga Deanery suggest that moral and ethical values should be instilled from a young age through Sunday school classes and adult Bible studies. By nurturing a culture of morality and spirituality, the Church can foster committed Christians who uphold Christian ethics even in challenging political environments. This ensures that both church and government leaders prioritize integrity and justice in their actions.<sup>23</sup>

In Bushangaro Deanery respondents commented that, the Church must take a firm stance against any immoral behavior exhibited by its members involved in politics. Implementing disciplinary measures upholds Church principles and maintains integrity within government institutions. By holding members accountable for their actions, the Church reinforces the importance of adhering to divine standards, dispelling the notion that politics is inherently corrupt.<sup>24</sup>

Prayer is identified as a fundamental tool for mitigating the negative impacts of the Church's involvement in politics across all deaneries. The power of prayer in influencing political dynamics is underscored by Paul's exhortation to pray for those in authority.

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<sup>22</sup> Respondent from Kayanga Deanery.

<sup>23</sup> Ibid.

<sup>24</sup> Respondent from Bushangaro Deanery.

Through earnest prayers, individuals and nations can experience spiritual renewal and divine intervention, leading to positive societal change and moral transformation.

Collaboration between the Church and government is essential for promoting justice and equality for all citizens, as highlighted by respondents from all deaneries. By working together as a cohesive unit, regardless of faith, socio-economic status, or ethnicity, both entities can address systemic injustices and uphold human rights. Drawing inspiration from historical figures like Martin Luther King Jr. and Mahatma Gandhi, who collaborated with religious leaders to effect social change, the Church and government can harness their collective influence to build a more just and equitable society.

## **Chapter Five**

### **Summary, Conclusion, and Recommendations**

#### **5.1 Introduction**

This chapter provides a comprehensive summary of the research's findings, draws conclusions, and offers recommendations regarding the role of the Church in active politics within the specific context of Kagera Diocese.

#### **5.2 Summary**

The investigation delved into understanding the intricate relationship between the Church and politics within the context of Kagera Diocese. Through a blend of oral narratives and written surveys, a spectrum of viewpoints emerged, illuminating the nuances of this relationship. Key findings revealed a diversity of opinions among respondents, with a notable majority supporting the Church's direct engagement in politics. However, there were also concerns raised regarding potential drawbacks such as divisions and moral compromises within the Church. Overall, the study underscored the evolving dynamics between the Church and politics, emphasizing the need for ethical leadership, informed civic education, and collaborative efforts to address societal challenges.

#### **5.3 Conclusion**

The research underscores the significance of recognizing the interconnectedness of the Church and politics. Despite varying viewpoints, there's a growing consensus that the Church holds a crucial role in shaping governance and societal norms. However, this involvement must be guided by ethical principles and a commitment to the common

good. The study highlights the necessity for constructive civic education, emphasizing the responsibilities of both the Church and government in promoting informed participation and ethical conduct. Additionally, integrating scriptural teachings on political engagement within the Church is vital for fostering ethical leadership and service to the community.

#### **5.4 Recommendations**

Based on the insights gleaned, the following recommendations are proposed:

1. Implement educational programs for Church and government officials on their roles in politics, promoting transparency, accountability, and ethical conduct.
2. Incorporate biblical teachings on political engagement into Church seminars and teachings, emphasizing ethical leadership and service.
3. Establish clear guidelines for addressing immoral behavior among Church members involved in politics, ensuring accountability and upholding ethical standards.
4. Emphasize the importance of prayer and collaboration between the Church and government in addressing societal challenges and promoting justice.

By implementing these recommendations, the Church can enhance its positive impact on society and contribute to the promotion of ethical governance and social justice within the political sphere.

#### **5.5 Future Research**

Further research is warranted to explore the long-term effects of the Church's involvement in politics and to conduct comparative studies across different regions and

religious denominations. Such studies would provide valuable insights into the varied dynamics of the relationship between religion and politics.

## **5.6 Personal Reflections and Recommendations**

In conclusion, it is evident that the Church plays a vital role in shaping political discourse and societal ethics. As individuals and as a collective body, Christians have a responsibility to engage actively in politics while upholding ethical values and principles. While challenges persist, including differing interpretations of scripture and navigating political complexities, there is a clear mandate for Christians to be agents of positive change in the political arena. By embodying the principles of peace, righteousness, and wise leadership, the Church can fulfill its mission to serve humanity and glorify God in all aspects of life. For instance, the scripture says; “Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people (Prov. 14: 34 NIV)” elsewhere King Solomon says, “Without wise leadership a nation is in trouble, but with good counsellors there is safety” Let us, therefore, embrace our responsibility as Christians to be both peace lovers and peacemakers, committed to promoting justice, righteousness, and the common good in our communities and beyond. Through prayer, wisdom, and collective action, we can strive towards a society characterized by ethical governance, social harmony, and spiritual flourishing.

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## Appendices

### Appendix 1: Research Tools

#### QUESTIONNAIRES TO DIFFERENT RESPONDENTS

My name is Anceth Faustine Kanyawawa Reg no: M21B09/048 a third-year student of Bachelor of Divinity at Uganda Christian University. I am pursuing research titled, “**A critical study of the place of the Church in active politics in Tanzania: A case study of Kagera Diocese**” I would like to request you kindly to respond the questions asked in this questionnaire. The information you give will be helpful and used only for the purpose of this study.

Name..... Gender..... Tittle.....

Education Background..... Date.....

To investigate the Biblical basis of the Church in active participation in national politics; A case study of Kagera Diocese in Tanzania.

1. What do you understand by the term Politics?

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2. What do you understand by the term Church?

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3. Should the Church as a body of Christ shun any involvement in active politics and then concentrate on its spiritual mission?

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Answer Yes or No. If your answer is Yes writing some reasons why Yes, if your answer is No, then give some reasons why No.

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4. The individual Church members should they be encouraged to participate actively in active politics? .....

If yes give reasons

If no give reasons

.....

.....

5. List down at least 3 Bible texts from each testament of the Bible (Old Testament and New Testament) which speak about Church and politics.

Old Testament texts

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New Testament Texts

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6. Give 5 positive effects of the Church in active politics

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7. Give 5 negative impacts of the Church in active politics

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8. Because the decisions made by politicians affect the whole society including Christians. Then, what positive strategies can the Church use to prepare Christians to participate fully in active politics?

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9. As a scholar of the 21<sup>st</sup> century comment on the place of the Church in active politics

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10. What do you think will happen when every committed Christians withdraw from active politics?

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**Thank you and my God bless you abundantly as you respond these questions!**