

Theme: Leadership and Governance Challenges (Nairobi)

1. What is the role and place of the church in Nairobi in responding to the crisis of Leadership and Governance Challenges?

- **Advocating for Accountability:** The church plays a crucial role in advocating for the proper use of resources within the community and society at large. This includes calling for transparency and integrity in governance and public resource management
- **Inspiring Transparent Resource Utilisation:** The church should serve as a model of transparent resource utilisation and inspire communities and leaders to adopt ethical practices.
- **Integrating Justice in Ministry:** The church should incorporate issues of social, economic, and political justice into its preaching and ministry. This includes addressing governance failures and injustice from the pulpit to guide communities on these issues.
- **Learning from Historical Church Involvement:** Participants noted that historically, the church in Kenya took an active role in holding the government accountable, especially in the 1990s. The modern church should emulate this proactive stance.
- **Pastoral Influence in Governance:** Some participants discussed the concept of "pastoring for good governance," where the church engages directly with government officials, offering guidance, prayers, and moral leadership.

2. What are three practical steps that the church in Kenya can take to respond to the Leadership and Governance Challenges?

- **Mobilising Communities for Peaceful Coexistence:** The church can bring together communities around key issues like peaceful coexistence. By fostering dialogue and unity, the church can help resolve conflicts between communities, particularly in areas prone to tribal or ethnic tensions.
- **Creating Safe Spaces for Vulnerable People:** The church can establish rehabilitation hubs for victims of crises, such as those affected by floods or domestic violence. This would provide shelter, counselling, and support to those in need.
- **Promoting Correct Theology:** By preaching the correct theology, the church can help transform individuals' hearts and minds, enabling them to live with moral integrity. This transformation can positively impact governance and leadership by encouraging ethical behaviour.
- **Taking Care of the Vulnerable:** The church should provide tangible support to vulnerable groups such as widows, orphans, and the poor. This includes providing food, clothing, and psychological rehabilitation for those affected by governance failures.
- **Pastoring Public Servants:** Engaging with government officials, public servants, and leaders in the congregation through mentorship and moral guidance was highlighted as another key step the church can take.



3. What are three practical steps that your church community can take to respond to the crisis of Leadership and Governance Challenges?

- **Public Participation in Civic Processes:** The church community should actively participate in public forums, such as budget-making processes, at both county and national levels. By doing so, they can ensure that their voices are heard in governance matters.
- **Regular Civic Education Forums:** The church can organise civic education seminars, particularly targeting youth and women, to raise awareness about governance processes and empower these vulnerable groups to engage in leadership and governance.
- **Establish Crisis and Disaster Management Teams:** The church can create crisis management teams that proactively monitor and respond to issues within the community. These teams can collaborate with organisations like the Red Cross to provide disaster relief and first aid services.
- **Developing Community Resource Centres:** Churches can establish resource hubs that provide assistance such as food, medical care, and rehabilitation services for young people and families in need. These centres can play a role in mitigating the effects of governance failures.