

Theme 1: Governance and Church Relations

1. What is the role and place of the church in Kigali in responding to the crisis of Governance and Church Relations?

- The church plays a key role in **bringing people together**, acting as a unifying body in the face of governance challenges. It is seen as a leader in **restoring trust** and ensuring that the community remains united despite any political or governance-related disruptions.
- The church is also responsible for providing **moral guidance**. It should lead by example, ensuring that principles of **accountability**, **justice**, and **compassion** are upheld, particularly when governance falters.
- **Leadership within the church** is crucial in mediating between communities and the government, acting as a bridge for peace and reconciliation. The church should engage with both the spiritual and physical needs of the people, fostering a supportive environment in the community.

2. What are three practical steps that the church in Rwanda can take to respond to Governance and Church Relations?

- **Prayer and Intercession:** The church should organise collective prayers to seek divine intervention in governance issues. Prayer is seen as a powerful tool that brings about change, fostering spiritual leadership in times of crisis.
- **Mutual Support:** Churches are encouraged to develop initiatives that promote mutual help among congregants. This includes **supporting each other** in times of governance crises, ensuring that no one in the community feels abandoned.
- **Commitment to Christian Values:** The church must reaffirm its commitment to Christian principles, which serve as a moral compass in times of governance crises. This involves **teaching congregants** the importance of being active, morally upright citizens who contribute positively to the nation.

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

- **Teaching Core Principles:** Church leaders should introduce core **Christian principles** within the church community that encourage good governance and leadership. This includes the need to teach accountability, justice, and compassion as essential components of leadership.
- **Leadership Training:** The community must focus on **training Christian leaders** who can act as role models and lead by example. These leaders would ensure that the relationship between the church and the government remains constructive, fostering mutual respect.
- **Small Group Teachings:** Churches should establish small groups where teachings on governance and Christian leadership can be discussed in-depth. These small group sessions would provide a platform for community members to engage with leadership issues and build a stronger, informed congregation.



Conclusion:

In summary, the participants in Kigali identified the church as a pivotal player in responding to governance crises by fostering unity, providing moral leadership, and mediating between the community and government. The practical steps highlighted include collective prayer, mutual support, and a commitment to Christian principles. On a more localised level, churches are encouraged to implement teachings on governance, train their leaders effectively, and establish small discussion groups that promote active engagement with governance issues. These responses reflect the church's dual responsibility to cater to both spiritual and societal needs in times of crisis.

