

REPORT ON
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHURCH AND SOCIETY
BY
CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY FOR LEADERSHIP
EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT (CULED)



INTRODUCTION

The relationship between the Church and society is of paramount importance in shaping the well-being and progress of nations. The Church plays a crucial role in addressing societal challenges, nurturing moral values, promoting social justice, and fostering sustainable development. Recognizing the significance of this relationship, Christian University for Leadership Education and Development (CULED) convened the inaugural international conference on "Church and Society" to explore and strengthen the collaborative engagement between these spheres.



The International Conference on Church and Society brought together world-renowned thinkers and leaders from across the globe to engage in collaborative discussions on how the Church can help bring about global transformation. The theme of the Conference was “**Collaborative Engagement for Global Transformation**”. The Conference was held at the Osu-Eben-Ezer Conference Hall, Accra, Ghana, West Africa, from January 25-26, 2024. At the Conference, Christian theologians,

Educators, Church Workers and Civil Society Actors carefully identified and examined the important role of the Church in society and made recommendations that will be shared with Church Leaders, public organizations and academic institutions, to enable them formulate policies that will help in forging a more peaceful, better habitable and sustainable society.

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES:

- ❖ To facilitate an interdisciplinary dialogue among scholars, religious leaders, policymakers, and practitioners on the role of the Church in addressing contemporary societal issues.
- ❖ To examine the impact of the Church on social transformation, including its contributions to education, healthcare, poverty alleviation, peace building, and environmental stewardship.
- ❖ To explore effective strategies for enhancing the Church's engagement with civil society, government institutions, and international organizations for the betterment of communities.
- ❖ To promote interfaith dialogue and understanding, emphasizing the Church's role in fostering religious harmony and peaceful coexistence.
- ❖ To identify emerging challenges faced by the Church and society and develop actionable recommendations for addressing them.

KEY THEMES DISCUSSED:

The conference covered a wide range of topics, related to the intersection of faith and societal issues including:

- a. **Social Justice and Human Rights:** The role of the church in advocating for human rights, promoting equality, and addressing social injustices.
- b. **Community Engagement and Empowerment:** Strategies for churches to effectively engage with their communities, empower marginalized groups, and contribute to sustainable development.
- c. **Ethical Leadership and Governance:** Discussions on the responsibilities of church leaders in promoting ethical governance, transparency, and accountability in society.

NOTABLE SPEAKERS AND PRESENTATIONS:

The conference featured prominent speakers and presentations, including:

1. **Prof. Dr. Nozizwe Glenrose King**, a renowned theologian, and Founder of Kings University, based in South Africa, presented a paper on “Education and Sustainable Development”
2. **Dr. Collins Ogbu**, Research and Development Manager at Caritas Nigeria, presented a paper on “The Role of Catholic Social Teachings in Caritas Nigeria Humanitarian Interventions”
3. **Prof. Bank-Ola Steve Abayomi**, Theologian and Chancellor, Godman Soteria Academy of Theology presented a paper titled “Church and Society: Biblical Ethical Transformation Model”
4. **Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Kwabena Larbi**. An ordained Minister, sociologist, philosopher and administrator, presented a paper titled “Christian Leadership and Integrity: A Tool for Nurturing Values for Good Governance”
5. **Bishop Dr. David Quartelai Quartey**, theologian, administrator and human resource management expert, presented a paper titled “Women Empowerment for Societal Transformation”
6. **Rev. Assoc. Prof. Joseph Maren Sampson**, Rector, College of Peace and Reconciliation Studies, presented on “Christian Education and the Teaching of Peace and Security in African Context”.

ATTENDEES AND NETWORKING:

The conference attracted a diverse group of Sixty-Four (64) attendees, including clergy members, scholars, activists, and representatives from non-profit organizations. Attendees had the opportunity to network, share best practices, and form new partnerships for collaborative projects. As a result of the conference, several key outcomes and recommendations emerged:

- A consensus on the need for churches to prioritize social justice and human rights advocacy within their communities.
- Training programs must be developed to equip church leaders with the skills needed to address pressing social issues effectively.

IMPACT AND FUTURE PLANS:

The conference is expected to have a significant impact on the role of the church in society. Participants expressed a commitment to implementing the recommendations and integrating the insights gained into their respective communities. Future steps include the establishment of a working group to continue the dialogue and support collaboration among attendees.

CONCLUSION:

The International Conference on Church and Society provided a platform for meaningful discussions and exchange of ideas. It underscored the critical role of the church in addressing societal challenges and promoting positive change. The insights and recommendations generated at the conference are poised to guide future efforts in advancing social justice and community development through the collective action of churches worldwide.

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