THE DOCTRINE OF THE CHURCH IN THE LIGHT OF WOMEN'S MINISTRY IN THE BODY OF CHRIST: A CASE STUDY OF A.C.K KIRINYAGA DIOCESE

By

Susan Wambui Kariuki

This dissertation is submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of a Masters degree in Theology from St Paul's University

September 2012

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DECLARATION

This dissertation is the product of my own work and is not a result of anything done in collaboration. It has not been previously presented in any institution. I agree that this dissertation may not be available for reference and photocopying, at the discretion of the college.

SIGNATURE OF STUDENT…….. DATE……

I confirm that the work reported in this thesis was carried out by the student under my supervision

SIGNATURE OF SUPERVISOR…….. DATE…….

Approved by

Signature_____ Date_____

DIRECTOR, POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

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ABSTRACT

This study focuses on the role of women in the body of Christ, which is the church. Paul says that all the members belong both to the church and to one another because of a built-in interdependence. In brief God has arranged the human frame so that there might be no division in the body but that the members should have the same care for one another (1Corinthians 12: 25). Women seem to be the majority in the church as compared to men. In relation to their position in the church, this study has investigated the role of women in the church as compared to that of their men counterparts. It has also looked at whether there are obstacles that hinder women's full participation in the church. This study therefore has proposed some measures that will enable women in Kirinyaga to fully participate in the body of Christ which is the church. This study has been done in ACK Kirinyaga Diocese and has concentrated mainly in Kirinyaga District, Kabare where the gospel came in 1910. It is a descriptive and a qualitative study which has portrayed characteristics of events, situations, and a group of people, community or a population. There are three methods that are being used in this study. The first method is interview method. This is a face to face interaction between the researcher and the interviewers. The second one is group discussion method, where a group of selected individuals have been used to collect data and the third one has been indirect method which involves collecting data from written documents and books. The researcher has analyzed data and found that women fail to participate fully in the church due to low self esteem and social construction which is contributed by illiteracy, self-hate and male dominance. The collected materials scrutinize how women's participation can be felt in the body of Christ. This study has adopted a theoretical framework informed by liberation theology. In this case, women need to be liberated through education and empowering them to know their rights.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Declarations……i
Abstract……ii
Acknowledgement……iii
Table of contents……iv
Abbreviations and Acronym……vi
Definitions……vii
Chapter One: Background Information……1
1.1. Introduction……1
1.2. Statement of the problem……3
1.3. Purpose of Study ……4
1.4. Research Objectives……4
1.4.1Specific Objectives……4
1.5. Specific questions……4
1.6. Hypothesis……5
1.7. Justification of the problem……5
1.8. Delimitations……5
1.9. Outline of Chapters……6
Chapter two: Literature Review……8
2.1 Introduction……8
2.2 The ministry of women in the church……9
2.3 Conclusion……27
Chapter three: Methodology……27
3.1 Introduction……27
3.2 Sampling frame: snowball sampling……29
3.2 Validity……29
3.3 Ethical issues……30
Chapter four: Data Presentation, Analysis, and Interpretation ……31
4.1 Introduction……31
4.2 An overview of where ACK Kirinyaga is situated……31
4.3 Women's role in the church……36

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4.4 Ministry of ordained women……36
4.5 Challenges of ordained women ……...41
4.6 Administration of Holy Communion……...50
4.7 Disciplinary Measures……50
4.8 Challenges of women in ACK Kirinyaga Diocese……51
4.9 Gender based Violence……54
4.10 Conclusion.....62
Chapter five: Theological Reflections and Conclusion……63
5.1 Introduction.....63
5.2 Theological approaches.....63
5.3 Theology of inclusion and exclusion..... …….65
5.4 Limitations of the Study..... 68
5.5 Conclusion..... 69
5.6 Recommendations..... 70
References..... ……..72
Appendices…….. 76

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYM

A.C.K -	Anglican Church of Kenya
ASWOM -	Association of women in the ministry.
CMS-	Church Missionary Society
KAMA-	Kenya Anglican Men Association.
M.U-	Mothers' Union
REV-	Reverend
TEE	Theological Education by Extension
VEN-	Venerable
WATCH-	Women and the church
Rt. Rev-	Right Reverend

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DEFINITIONS

Archdeaconry	An area that is governed by an archdeacon.
Archdeacon	A person appointed by the bishop to oversee the Archdeaconry
Bishop	The overseer of the whole diocese
Curate	A deacon or a priest who serves under the vicar in charge of a parish
Deanery	An area that covers several parishes in Anglican Church
Diocese	It is an area that is overseen by the bishop
Lay reader	A licensed person who serves in the church voluntarily without pay
Parish	It is an area that comprises of different congregations and the priest is in-charge
Synod	The governing body of the Diocese. It meets once after 2 years

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