

**A Survey of Leadership and Intra-Church Conflicts in
Thika Town Churches, Kenya**

By

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this study was to identify the causes of wrangles in Thika Town churches and how well the church leaders are equipped to handle them. This study sought to determine the causes of conflicts in churches; explore the impact of the wrangles in the church and community; and recommend best practices and strategies for minimizing intra-church conflicts in churches in Thika town, Kiambu County.

A descriptive survey design was used. Probability and non- probability sampling techniques were used to create a sampling frame. Stratified sampling was one of the probability techniques used in order to ensure that different churches were included in the survey. Data was collected using self-administered questionnaires, interview guide and observation method. The collected data was analysed using Statistical Package for Social Scientist Software (SPSS). The results of the study were analysed using descriptive and inferential statistics and the results were presented using tables. The findings of the study revealed that churches surveyed do not have a functional conflict resolution and management mechanism and the leaders need skills in conflict management.

It was also confirmed that the major causes of conflicts in the church include strife for power, poor leadership, poor conflict management, financial issues and disagreement with other members. By way of its implications for the church and the community, this study revealed that intra-church conflicts leads to lack of respect for leadership, bad image of the body of Christ and lastly it led to bitterness and disillusionment. From the findings of this study, it is recommended that modules on conflict management be introduced in the education system and incorporated in the theological institutions to equip ministers to address conflicts in their churches.