

CHURCH OF UGANDA



**THE CHARGE BY
THE ARCHBISHOP OF CHURCH OF UGANDA
THE MOST REV DR. STEPHEN SAMUEL KAZIIMBA
MUGALU**

TO

**THE 26TH PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY OF
CHURCH OF UGANDA**

SITTING

AT UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY, MUKONO

**FROM
MONDAY 22ND TO FRIDAY 26TH AUGUST 2022**

**ASSEMBLY THEME: *“UNITED FOR SERVICE AND
GROWTH” (EPHESIANS 4:11-16)***

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Our Guest of honour;
The Dean of the Provincial Church of Uganda;
My Brother Bishops;
The Provincial Secretary
The Provincial Chancellors
The Diocesan Chancellors
All Provincial Assembly Delegates;
Provincial Secretariat Staff
Uganda Christian University Council and community
All our development partners
Invited Guests;

1. WELCOME AND THANKSGIVING:

Praise God from whom all blessings flow! Listen to these words in Lamentations 3:21-24

²¹ Yet this I call to mind

and therefore I have hope:

**²² Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.**

**²³ They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.**

**²⁴ I say to myself, "The LORD is my portion;
therefore I will wait for him." (NIVA)**

The Provincial theme; "Hope beyond affliction" came at the right time, when covid19 had greatly afflicted us and the fear of being consumed was everywhere but because of God's great love and mercy, here we are today! Praise the Lord! We must give thanks to our God, because He lives we have hope and we can face tomorrow. Amen.

You are aware that I began my work on 1st March 2020 as the 9th Archbishop of Church of Uganda amidst fears of an impending pandemic. As soon as I was enthroned as the Bishop of the Diocese of Kampala, the government declared lockdown in March 2020. I became a **covid Archbishop**. God has been faithful. It is our hope in the risen Christ that has kept us going. Because He lives we can face tomorrow!

I welcome you all to this very important Provincial Assembly of Church of Uganda. I thank the Lord for journey mercies and for life in general since the last Assembly of 2018. Many of you are coming to this Assembly for their first time. Welcome! There is so much to learn together or even unlearn as we engage during our stay here.

I would like in a special way, to welcome our Guest of honour. Thank you for honouring our invitation and choosing to be part of this important Assembly, the governing body of Church of Uganda.

Dear delegates, welcome with me the following Bishops who joined the House of Bishops after the Provincial Assembly of 2018. I am sure this too is their first Assembly in that capacity:

	BISHOP'S NAME	DIOCESE	NUMBER	CONSECRATION DATE	CATHEDRAL (BISHOP'S CATHEDRA)
1.	THE RT. REV WILSON KITARA	KITGUM	3 rd Bishop	25 TH NOVEMBER 2018	ALL SAINTS' CATHEDRAL KITGUM
2.	THE RT REV KOSEA ODONGO	SOROTI	6 th	16 TH JUNE 2019	ST PETER'S SOROTI
3.	THE RT REV JULIUS CEASER NINA	WEST LANGO	2 ND	15 TH DECEMBER 2019	ST. PETER'S CATHEDRAL, ADU
4.	THE RT REV JAMES BUKOME	MITYANA	5 TH	2 ND FEBRUARY 2020	ST. ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL, NAMUKOZI
5.	THE MOST REV DR STEPHEN SAMUEL KAZIIMBA MUGALU	KAMPALA	8 TH	8 TH MARCH 2020	ALL SAINTS' CATHEDRAL, NAKASERO
6.	THE RT REV NASON BALUKU	SOUTH RWENZORI	3 rd	13 TH DECEMBER 2020	ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, KASES
7.	THE RT REV GODFREY LOUN	NORTHERN UGANDA	8 th	21 ST NOVEMBER 2021	ST PHILIP'S CATHEDRAL GULU
8.	THE RT. REV. JOHN WILSON NANDAAH	MPALE	8 th	05 TH DECEMBER 2021	ST ANDREW'S CATHEDRAL MP
9.	THE RT REV PONS OZELLE	NEBBI	3 rd	22 ND JANUARY 2022	ST STEPHEN'S CATHEDRAL, G NEBBI
10.	THE REV MICHEAL OKWII ESAKHAN	KUMI	2 nd	6 TH MARCH 2022	ST PHILIP'S CATHEDRAL NGOI
11.	THE RT REV AKANJUNA GAD	KIGEZI	6 th	26 TH JUNE 2022	ST PETER'S CATHEDRAL RUGARAMA, KABALE

A Bishops' training has been planned for these new Bishops in November 2022. This will orient us well to our role as Bishops.

I welcome the Bishop Caretaker for North Kigezi Diocese, the Rt Rev Patrick Tugume Tusingwire and appreciate his support in this diocese at this time.

Welcome with me and appreciate my predecessor, our father in the Lord, the Rt Rev Dr Henry Luke Orombi and Mama Phoebe Orombi for their tremendous work among us and for caretaking Nebbi Diocese during the most difficult time of loss of their Bishop. Thank you for the successful transition.

I also thank and appreciate the work done by the retired Bishop, the Rt Rev Charles Odurkani as Caretaker Bishop of Kumi Diocese, the job that proved to be so challenging but he was resilient and now Kumi has a Bishop. Thank you.

We thank God for his healing hand upon my Assistant Bishop of the Diocese of Kampala – the Rt Rev Dr Hannington Mutebi, who received his treatment before Covid19 from the UK, returned, and is here with us today – *the miracle Bishop*. Praise the Lord. I thank all of you for your support to him and his family.

Our dear Guests, you are warmly welcome. I would like also to recognize our Mission partners from the USA, UK, South Korea, Australia, Germany, Nigeria, Ethiopia and other parts of the world. We value your friendship and partnership. I recognize all our

development partners and Church of Uganda Affiliates and our Media evangelists and friends, you are all welcome.

This is a special Assembly for Church of Uganda and I pray that all the Houses will fully participate in the decisions to be taken and keep united to stir God's Church in the direction He wants. Thank you for coming.

2. OBITUARIES (SINCE LAST PA);

Let us have a moment to pray for the families of our departed relatives, friends, colleagues and leaders; as I mention but a few; you know others in your localities;

- Governor Emmanuel Tumusiime Mutebile
- Rt Hon Speaker Jacob Oulanyah
- Mama Mary Luwum, wife to late Archbishop Janani Luwum
- Bishop Melekisedek Otim - first Bishop Lango Diocese
- Bishop Remelia Ringtho - Madi & West Nile Diocese
- Bishop Cyprian Bamwoze (RIP 2019)
- Bishop Alphonse Watho-Kudi - Nebbi Diocese (January 2021)
- Bishop Benon Magezi - North Kigezi Diocese (15th June 2021)
- Bishop John Ntegyereize - Kinkiizi Diocese
- Mama Ann Margaret Obaikol – wife to retired Bishop Obaikol of Soroti Diocese
- Mama Faith Mutebi – wife to retired Bishop Mutebi of Mityana
- Mama Beatrice Ruhindi – wife to late Bishop Ruhindi of North Kigezi Diocese
- Rev. Canon Lovey Kisembo (Pioneer Female clergy of COU) – wife to Retired Bishop Kisembo Rwenzori Diocese.
- Rev Canon Prudence J. Kaddu – Pioneer Female Clergy COU/Diocese of Kampala
- Archbishop Cyprian Lwanga – Archbishop of Roman Catholic church
- Metropolitan Jonah Lwanga; The Orthodox Archbishop of Uganda
- Diocesan Chancellors;
- Mr Enoch Kyabakaya of Mbale Diocese,
- and Mr Fredrick Matthew Mbaziira of West Buganda Diocese;
- Mr Fredrick Mukungu– Board Member Provincial Missions and outreach
- Ms Hope Kivengere – daughter to late Bishop Festo Kivengere of Kigezi
- Mrs Wairimu Kamyia mother to Hon Beti Kamyia(PASC member)
- Mzee John Lutwaama Ssebugwaawo – Father to the Nabagereka of Buganda/Namirembe Diocese
- Prof. Kisamba Mugerwa – our member on Resource Mobilization Committee
- Our Friend Prof. Apolo Robin Nsibambi (RIP April 2019), Namirembe Diocese
- Mama Kageye Atwooki - mother to Bishop Sheldon Mwesigwa - Ankole
- Father-in-law to Bishop Ahimbisibwe - South Ankole
- Mother to Bishop Namanya – North Ankole
- Father to Bishop Ozelle- Nebbi Diocese
- Mother to Rev Canon William Ongeng – Provincial Secretary
- Rev Canon Christopher and his wife Margaret Wataaka – Mbale
- Kaaka Kabudensia – mother to Prof Aaron Mushengyezi, Vice Chancellor UCU
- Mzee John Tebaleka - Father to Rev Kansime my chaplain

The Provincial Secretary will acknowledge others. Let us continue to pray and stand with these families and one another.

3. PROVINCIAL ANNUAL THEME:

- a) The theme chosen for Church of Uganda this year 2022 is “**Hope beyond affliction: Lamentations 3:21-24**. Embrace it and let us build hope in the midst of afflictions - economic, social and so forth. The year 2021 theme was “*Life in*

its fullness “(John 10:10b). God granted us life even amidst challenges especially because of Covid19 related issues.

b) THEME FOR 2023.

I am grateful to those who chose the Provincial Theme “Hope beyond affliction”. Covid has made the body of Christ challenged, many families affected. Many homes experienced gender based violence (GBV), divisions and setbacks of different types. Therefore the need for unity for service and growth is real.

We found Ephesian 4:11-16 with a theme "United for service and growth". St. Paul begins by categorizing areas of gifts and mentions that the purpose is to equip people for service geared towards unity and fullness of Christ. Dear delegates, you are welcome and we are supposed to have new boards, new strategies but we need to be united and mature in Christ. According to Paul, this body is held together by supporting "*Ligaments*" which I take to be possession, gifts and resources especially human resources. With such this body called Church will build itself up as we unite with each other.

I sincerely thank Rev Canon Dr John Senyonyi our preacher for helping us to open this theme. **I recommend “United for service and growth” to this PA to be adopted as our 2023 Provincial Theme.**

4. CHALLENGES, OPPORTUNITIES, DEVELOPMENTS AND WAY FORWARD AS CHURCH OF UGANDA:

1. BUSINESS UNUSUAL 2020-2021 AND COVID19: The covid19 pandemic and preventive measures forced us to do business unusual during this period. Together with my chaplain Rev Kansime and driver Godwin, we were able to reach out to all the active and retired Bishops, widows of Bishops, clergy and other church workers in the year 2020. We traversed the Province during lockdown and friends and well-wishers supported us with foodstuff to distribute to these families. I thank you all for standing together during this period and for your contributions in seeing that God’s people continued to be encouraged and hopeful. Covid is still here with us, let us continue to be vigilant and hopeful.

i) RETIRED BISHOPS AND CLERGY: During the covid19 lockdown, as I traversed the country reaching out to our Church leaders, I noticed how badly off some of our retired church leaders are doing in terms of health and personal welfare. It is painful but a reality. We need to think of our retirement and the Bishops that retire in our midst. On retired Bishops, I propose to this PA to consider reviewing upward the provincial quota by 20% seeing the economic situation at hand. This will allow the Provincial contribution towards Bishop’s retirement benefits improve to at least 250,000/- from what it is now. The Provincial Treasurer has details on this.

ii) COVID19 IMPACT AND LESSONS: The Covid pandemic exposed the desperate need for the Church to have other viable streams of income to support Church ministry. We thank Christians who committed their resources in

supporting their ministers during the closure of churches. A lot of suffering and reproach was experienced by church workers due to loss of livelihoods. Others were of course laid off even at the Provincial Secretariat. Some donors and partners suspended their programmes and funding. Thus we need to rethink how we do business as Church organs and make sure we utilize well whatever resources God has endowed us with as Church of Uganda and as individuals. **Covid pandemic measures also exposed the levels of abuse and gender based violence in our communities. It also revealed the strengths and weaknesses in our witness as a Church.**

- iii) **ONLINE CHURCH** – During the lockdown, we were kept together through the online ministry. I am very supportive of this because it is a ministry that can bring us together as an entire Province and even unite us with our brethren in the Diaspora if we focused on preaching the Gospel and the Great Commission. I thank the vision bearers for Online Church of Uganda (Online COU), Rev Lydia and Rev Dr John Kitayimbwa and Uganda Christian University for accepting to host it and all who are working with them. We thank you all who have supported your Dioceses to engage in online ministry since 2020. I recommend this ministry for the PA’s approval to continue because the future points us to online ministry. We need new tools for new challenges.

- iv) **CHURCH OF UGANDA FAMILY TELEVISION:** I am grateful to God for those who had a vision of beginning a television for Church of Uganda and currently Church of Uganda Family Television is our official Church of Uganda Television. We thank H.E the President for supporting us on this. **It is before you now. We can access this TV on DSTV 375, GoTv 829, free to air channel 939, Star Times channel 282.** Today it shall be dedicated to the Lord.

- v) **NATIONAL ELECTIONS:** Uganda’s presidential and other leaders’ elections happened amidst heightened covid19 infections and we saw a lot of confusion and loss of lives, trust and property. God had mercy on us and we were not destroyed. Many had predicted that blood would flow on the streets of Uganda. Let us continue to pray and love our nation. Let us continue to pray for peace and reject all kinds of corruption.

- vi) **NORTH KIGEZI AND NEBBI DIOCESES’ SHOCK:** We lost our Bishops due to covid19 as you may be aware and many of our friends, supporters and relatives. Bishops Magezi Benon of North Kigezi and Alphonse Watho-Kudi succumbed to covid19 infections and passed on in 2021. Both Dioceses had to be under the Archbishop of Church of Uganda according to our constitution. I thank our father and retired Archbishop Orombi who accepted to caretake Nebbi and led them through the grieving period to this year when a new Bishop was elected and consecrated – Bishop Pons Ozelle. Bishop Patrick Tugume is caretaking North Kigezi. We continue to pray for North Kigezi as they go through the process of getting a new Bishop.

vii) ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT: In the 1st Archbishop's Leadership Summit on 7th December 2020, we were able to mobilize ourselves and have time to pray and discuss many issues virtually. In the midst of hopelessness, fear and loss, we needed something to bring us together, to pray and build hope again. It was successful, with 100% participation from Dioceses. With it, we were able to embark on new ways of reaching out through Information Communication and Technology (ICT) and thus the birth of Online Church Ministry using zoom, Facebook, Televisions, YouTube and other avenues. This first summit focused theme: *"Business unusual: Accelerating the conversion of the Head, Heart and Hands"* (text Jeremiah 17:9-10). Relevant theme due to the challenges that the church had never experienced in history – closure of worship places and in-person, face-face communication were stripped away abruptly.

The second virtual Archbishop's Leadership Summit took place on 6th September 2021 from 9:30 a.m.–2.00p.m with the Theme *"Accelerating Sustainability to Advance Mission"* (Text 1 Peter 4:10). The chosen speakers ably exposed the theme and now more than ever we must dig deep into understanding the dynamics of sustainability for God's church. Dioceses have been engaged in follow-up on six action points including; *Discipleship, high technology engagement, Youth empowerment* (boy to men ministry/advocacy), *Financial strategy, training and family harmony* (including fight against Gender-based violence) for stronger families. I would like to thank you all who fully supported the Archbishop's Leadership Summits. The Youth were able to have Archbishop's Youth Leadership Summit as well on 2nd December 2021. **My request to the PA is to adopt it as an annual event.**

viii) KUMI DIOCESE CHALLENGES: Kumi Diocese fell vacant on December 29th 2019. This was The election of Rev Charles Oode Okunya had been revoked due to issues of integrity and therefore the Diocese reverted to the Archbishop as the Constitution required and Bishop Odurkani was requested to caretaker the Diocese. The Rev Okunya took the Archbishop and the House of Bishops, the Chancellor and Bishop Caretaker to court but lost the case, could not appeal and is yet to pay the cost of this case. The Rev Okunya disregarded every counselling, mobilized gangs and paralysed work in parts of the Diocese but finally as you are aware he decided to leave Church of Uganda unceremoniously and joined himself to a sect calling itself *"Reformed Anglican"*. We will continue to preach the gospel and pray for him and all the people that have joined him that the Lord will have mercy upon them to find Jesus' peace. Let us not trouble ourselves but put our effort in supporting and enabling Bishop Okwii Esakhan to steer Kumi Diocese in the right direction. *2 Timothy 2:19 Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."*

ix) **ARCHBISHOP'S PASTORAL VISITS 2022:** Due to Covid19 challenge, I was not able to start on my official pastoral visits to the Dioceses as planned in 2021 but started this year 2022. So far the following Dioceses have been visited – **Ankole, Bukedi, East Rwenzori, Kampala, Karamoja, Kinkizi, Luweero, Muhabura, Mukono, Namirembe, North Kigezi, North Mbale, Rwenzori and South Ankole.** We appreciate heartily; the welcome, hospitality and the joy with which we have been received in each Diocese. We have also noted and experienced the blessings and challenges you have. Pray for us as we visit and share with God's people.

2. CHURCH OF UGANDA ENDOWMENTS AND SUSTAINABILITY PLAN:

i) **JANANI LUWUM CHURCH HOUSE AND COU 60TH ANNIVERSARY:** Church of Uganda 60 Years of Self-Governance (1961-2021) anniversary was celebrated on 22nd April 2021 with a special thanksgiving service at St Paul's Cathedral Namirembe. I am glad some of you were able to participate under Covid19 guidelines, and we launched a year of 60th Anniversary activities to mark this. On this occasion we launched the Church of Uganda Family Television and relaunched Kingdom Development Organ (KIDO). I am glad to say that so far, KIDO has registered 13,334 members and 11 Dioceses have created KIDO committees. We encourage you to register and join the Health Insurance schemes now with 1,531 members.

We were to celebrate many milestones of Church of Uganda and one major one is the Church House/Janani Luwum House on Kampala Road. So, we began the journey of securing Church House by completing the Equity Bank loan repayment that was at 60Bn. Our goal was that this matter would be closed by end of July 2021 through the Love Gift "Yes We can" campaign and other celebration strategies by Dioceses. The Love Gift Campaign was launched on 6th June 2021 at All Saints' Cathedral, Kampala. However the COVID-19 pandemic SOPs including lockdowns particularly of places of Worship greatly affected the mode of celebrating this milestone in the life of our Church. House of Bishops agreed that we extend the campaign. The journey is still on. I appeal to all PA to contribute to Church House.

Well, under the unusual circumstances, the Lord remained faithful and I am grateful for the response so far achieved through the Love Gift Campaign and other strategies. and the loan has been reduced to 16Bn. We appreciate Government and H.E the President for repayment of the compensation on Church land at Entebbe. I thank the different teams that have worked tirelessly. I appreciate the Rt. Hon. Amama Mbabazi and teams for the different strategies devised to reach as many groups and individuals as possible to support the drive.

ii) **PROJECTS FOR SUSTAINABILITY:** The next 60 years should be years for Church of Uganda to become a self-sustaining church. We encourage each Diocese to identify an income generating activity it can engage in as a diocese to parish level. South Ankole, West Buganda, Central Buganda, Sebei and Ankole are examples to emulate in coffee, banana, potatoe, cattle, poultry and fish farming.

Every region is endowed differently in land, weather, soil and people, resources we can tap for sustainability of Church mission. Government is a willing partner in development to help us put to use our land resources to protect it from grabbers and encroachers. Let us look for ways of utilizing it profitably. If you can set up guest houses and commercial buildings do so; Ankole and Mukono are examples; just to mention a few.

3. GODLY STEWARDSHIP OF CHURCH RESOURCES AND ASSETS:

- i) CHURCH LAND:** The Church has lost substantial acres of land and properties due to sheer greed, personal negligence by us in our governance structures and we must find a solution or the future will judge us harshly. Issues of breaking up worship places like the Ndeeba Church scandal will forever be etched in our minds and indeed it revealed that something is wrong somewhere and we must act to rectify this. All Church of Uganda land is held in trust by the Registered Trustees of Church of Uganda which is the legal entity. Otherwise, we may continue to lose land and other valuable assets if as Dioceses we continue to disregard our own constitution and canons. How do we protect our land? By having it titled and registered appropriately. The PA must pronounce itself on this. The Provincial Secretariat working with Dioceses has put together a land policy to guide us. As PA we need to study Church of Uganda policies and use them properly.
- ii) SANCTUARIES, MONUMENTS, RECORDS AND HISTORICAL SITES:** My dear delegates, Church of Uganda is endowed with an enviable list of items that if lost will cost us a lot to recover and restore. Our sanctuaries are assets we need to protect and defend. The church records on marriages, baptism, confirmation, minutes, MOUs and pastoral letters are very important both to us and our partners. Researchers like Bishop Dr Sheldon Mwesigwa and Bishop Prof Olwa can testify on how hard it is to find information about our Ugandan evangelists and leaders due to lack of records or not keeping them properly and on historical sites like Namugongo, Mucwinyi, etc. We may need to continue planting trees in our church boundaries as per number of people we confirm, baptize and wed. This conserves our environment but also protects our land and it becomes our income generating activity in future as we establish nursery beds.

Please desist from removing or destroying foundation stones because you disagree with your predecessors or destroy records or take church property with you as you retire from your position. That is wickedness!

We are trying to map out our heritage sites for development. The Provincial Secretary has written to Dioceses to identify important church sites and other tourist attraction areas that could be developed for historical purposes, education and for income generation in your diocese. The response has been slow but it showed that some of you are not sure or interested in such. To protect our records well, we need to engage Uganda Christian University and colleges to help in archiving and hi-tech documentation.

Also for purposes of history and records, we have been approached by the Rev Canon Dr. Moses Isabirye (of Bishop Tucker School of Theology & Divinity) requesting to write a book on the 60 years of our Church. I put it to you now.

We have been also approached by Professor E. Maxine Ankrah requesting permission to write a sequel to the book written by her late husband Kodwo, which was published in 1998 “The Church of Uganda Mission, Myths and Metaphor”. I put it before you now.

- iii) EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND POLICIES:** Many of us are lamenting the deteriorating state of our schools and institutions. Let us get out of lamentations and refocus our energies on revamping them by supporting them both financially, and otherwise. Our institutions are redeemable. Each diocese is asked to have at least one model Primary, one Model secondary and a model tertiary institution (Vocational or technical). Let us reconsider our founding father’s vision – schools and hospitals as our mission grounds for evangelism and discipleship. An education policy has been drawn, let us review it and use it.

I urge you, delegates to support our own institutions. Uganda Christian University is ours. Let us support its programmes to let it continue to excel. The UCU Sunday that was instituted by the 2018 Provincial Assembly is one way you can support our university.

4. LEGAL, FAITH AND ORDER ISSUES:

- i) DIOCESAN CONSTITUTIONS:** The House of Bishops recommended that PASC should prompt Dioceses to have in place constitutions that were aligned with the Provincial Constitution and Canons. This was done and PASC mandated the Provincial chancellor together with the Diocesan Chancellors to work on a template that would guide the process. This is on our agenda but I would like to appeal to you delegates to make sure your diocese has an approved constitution by this PA in order to reduce and possibly eliminate issues that have plagued Church of Uganda in the past on leadership transition, faith and order and land wrangles. I sincerely thank the Provincial Chancellors, the Diocesan Chancellors and the Provincial Secretariat who have guided the process of drafting the constitution. I recommend that the PA approves the draft Constitutions for implementation. The PASC has done tremendous work on your behalf as you will note in the report. I recommend that the PA should mandate the PASC to complete approval of pending constitutions.

- ii) THE PROVINCIAL CHANCELLORS:** Canon Barnabas Tumusingize and Mr Naboth Muhairwe have served Church of Uganda so well with all their hearts, resources, professionalism and humility. They have been our anchor as far as the law is concerned. I would like us to appreciate them.

- iii) GAZETTE/PATENT CHURCH OF UGANDA CLERICAL VESTMENTS AND OBJECTS OF WORSHIP:** The House of Bishops passed a resolution to start the process and constituted a team of three to carry on this task; Bishop

Obetia, Bishop Prof Olwa and Bishop Ssebagala. The process may be slow and cumbersome but we have embarked on it. Bishop Prof Olwa is leading well the team entrusted to research and coordinate this task and I request for PA's blessing to conclude this work.

iv) CREATION OF NEW DIOCESES

I propose to the Provincial Assembly that the moratorium over the creation of new dioceses remains and that no group should be allowed to raise funds in preparation for a proposed diocese before the suspension is lifted. Even when it is lifted, such a body shall have to first be approved by the Diocesan Synod. During this time of suspension, no Christian or group should ask for money from or give money to any person or group, unless such a group or person, after the suspension, is officially put in place or approved by the Diocesan Synod. Christians should continue activities of developing their Archdeaconries, Parishes and Sub-parishes through their already established councils and structures, till when the suspension is lifted.

v) FALSE DOCTRINES AND DIVERSIONS: There urgent need to watch our doctrine very carefully (*1 Timothy ¹⁶ Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers*). The Church of Uganda, through the Provincial Mission and outreach is equipping clergy and church ministers with tools for discipleship, tools that can help in discerning false doctrines and diversions in our midst. The Church Transformation Network program is providing in-depth, but non-formal training for Lay Readers and clergy to equip them in discipling one another and training.

vi) MINISTERIAL FORMATION AND ECCLESIASTICAL DISORDER:

You are aware that Rev Okunya sued the Archbishop, lost the case and tried to consecrate himself Bishop of Kumi on 23rd January 2022, an effort that was illegal therefore failed. This kind unprecedented ecclesiastical disorder portrayed in Kumi diocese has been spreading in other Dioceses. It is true that some go for training not because they are called to serve but because of selfish interests. I urge you to desist from such divisions. St Paul asked the Corinthian church in *1 Corinthians 1:13 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?* We trust Uganda Christian University, Bishop Tucker to guide us in this area. There is need to review our ministerial formation and training focus and choices.

vii) RETURNING CLERGY AND CHRISTIANS:

A long gone clergy in Busoga Diocese Rev Canon Sam Lubogo has repented and returned to Church of Uganda with his regalia of Bishop from his cultic expedition. Like the prodigal son, he and his family have been received on our behalf by Bishop Naimanhye. Let us help them to heal and re-join the COU family. There are Christians returning quietly or openly in your areas, let us welcome them but disciple and teach without getting tired. The Church of Uganda is not dying as some would like to think and believe, but growing. Each day numbers are added as we reach out, preach and teach. Be

encouraged, the Church of Christ will stand. COU canonical process is clear but let the lost return to the Lord and to his Church!

5. PARTNERSHIPS:

a) WITH OTHER CHURCHES AND CHRISTIAN BASED ORGANIZATIONS: Church of Uganda is committed to maintain and strengthen partnerships with other like-minded Churches and Christian-based organizations within and without especially in building strong families and a disciplined nation. Church of Uganda is a key partner in the pan-African Strategic Discipleship Network (Provincial Strategic Discipleship Network). PSDM, as its name says, is a strategic approach to multiplying disciples in the way that Jesus did with his 12. Church of Uganda has welcomed the following partners to strengthen its vision and mission;

- | | |
|---|---|
| i. Church Missionary Society- UK/Africa | vii. The Bible Society of Uganda |
| ii. Oryn Community Church (South Korea) - The Daniel Uganda Program (DUP) | viii. Global Fellowship of Confessing Anglicans |
| iii. Church Transformation Network, Long Beach, California | ix. Evangelical Fellowship of Anglicans (EFAC) |
| iv. Life Ministry Uganda | x. Mary Sumner – Mothers’ Union global network |
| v. African Evangelistic Enterprises | xi. Danish Church Aid |
| vi. Words of Hope Radio Ministries | xii. etc |

b) WITH GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA AND OTHER NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS:

The Church plays a vital role in social economic development of the country particularly in poverty eradication, education, health and spiritual edification of the nation. We continue to complement government in its development programs in partnership with;

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|--|--------------------------------------|
| i. Ministry of Agriculture - National Agricultural Advisory Services (NAADS) | vi. Joint Medical Stores |
| ii. Ministry of Health - National Drug Authority | viii. Uganda Joint Christian Council |
| iii. Ministry of Water and Environment - National Forestry authority | ix. UNICEF |
| iv. Ministry of Education and sports | x. World Vision |
| v. Ministry of Ethics and Integrity | xi. Compassion International |
| | xii. UNFPA |
| | xiii. etc |

c) CHURCH OF UGANDA AND UPMB

According to history, Uganda Protestant Medical Bureau (UPMB) was formed in 1957. The eight missionary Hospitals that were later handed over to the Anglican Church of Uganda came together and formed UPMB while the Roman Catholic formed Uganda Catholic Medical Bureau (UCMB). Later under UPMB was incorporated the Seventh Day Adventist (SDA) Hospital in Ishaka to make nine Hospitals. Apparently, the leadership of UPMB has taken it as a NGO and are not recognizing the ownership of Church of Uganda. Efforts have been made, by the Provincial Assembly Standing Committee (PASC) and the Provincial Secretariat to realign it but have not yielded any result because some individuals within think it is not for the Protestant Church of Uganda. Government on the other hand knows UPMB as the health department of COU and yet structure wise UPMB calls themselves NGO separate from Church of Uganda. Out of 305 Health facilities registered by

UPMB, 208 belong to Church of Uganda. The Provincial Assembly should advise on how to redeem UPMB like we redeemed Mengo Hospital.

6. CHURCH PLANTING

We are a Christ-centered and faster growing church. This is great but to fulfil it, church planting should be given attention. I see the need for church planting especially in urban areas. I suggest that Dioceses that share boundaries should collaborate in church planting so that no excuse is given to leave any stone unturned.

7. HOME-GOING SERVICES

It is very challenging when we lose our dear ones, but it gives an opportunity to church to minister to the bereaved families and their friends. However, because of the many deaths and busy world, I see the need of having a reasonable number of speakers preferably four (4) to avoid overstaying in the sanctuary.

8. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS UPDATES

- a) **LAMBETH CONFERENCE:** Every ten years, the Archbishop of Canterbury calls together the Bishops of the Anglican Communion to discuss matters of importance to the Communion. The most recent Lambeth Conference concluded a few weeks ago. The shameless denial of the Bible's teaching on marriage and human sexuality by the overwhelming majority of Bishops from the Western world is very troubling. Most of them signed an Open Letter to the Lesbian-gay-bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community in which they said, "*We wish to affirm the **holiness of their love** [LGBT love] wherever it is found.*"

This is even more troubling than in 2003, when the Episcopal Church in USA (TEC) consecrated a divorced father of two children, living in a same-sex relationship as a Bishop. Almost 20 years later, there were SIX gay and lesbian bishops allowed into the Lambeth Conference, along with their same-sex partners; they were from TEC (USA), Anglican Church of Canada, and the Church in Wales. But, even more troubling than this, was the Archbishop of Canterbury's clear statement that he would not discipline those churches that have violated the Bible's teaching on marriage and human sexuality. Instead, he wants us to accept that there are a "plurality" (range) of views. I want to assure you and all members of Church of Uganda that we will never accept that. As a church, we stand on Bible principles. This is why Church of Uganda was a founding member of Gafcon (Global Anglican Future Conference) in 2008; and has continued to support its growth and development. This is why the House of Bishops decided to boycott the Lambeth Conference in 2008 and this year, 2022.

GAFCON exists because at the global level the instruments of communion in the Anglican Communion have totally failed to bring order and discipline within the Anglican Communion. GAFCON is to the Anglican Communion what the East African Revival was to the Church in Uganda. Issues that brought the separation and emergence of GAFCON in 2008, are part of a larger and stronger

force of secularism that is exerting a lot of pressure all over the world to erase Christianity. As core provinces of the Anglican Communion – Uganda, Nigeria, Rwanda, Kenya and North America – we agreed not to attend this recently concluded **Lambeth conference**. As confessing Christians, we must be able to clearly articulate the message of the Gospel in a way that refutes secularism and makes the Gospel even more compelling and attractive as our apostolic foundation portrays.

Let us as PA reaffirm that we will Proclaim Christ faithfully to the nations! Let us deliberately and intentionally be vigilant with Scriptures, reach out to Children in schools, and strengthen our fellowships at Bible Conventions.

- b) GAFCON IV-RWANDA:** the spirit of the Global Anglican Future Conference (GAFCON) is growing. A number of new Dioceses and congregations around the world, plus new Bishops, have been added since 2018 (e.g in New Zealand). The GAFCON Primates had a hybrid in-person and virtual meeting in Nairobi Kenya from 16th -18th September 2021 and spent two days in prayer, fellowship, discussion and discernment about many challenging issues in today’s world. We agreed that the next global gathering of Bishops, clergy and lay leaders from GAFCON Provinces and branches would meet in Kigali in April of 2023.

I want to encourage every Diocese to send their Provincial Assembly delegates to GAFCON IV, as well as Diocesan Chancellors, Synod members, clergywomen, active Christians in politics, key laywomen, youth, education, health, and HCT leaders in your dioceses. I hope we will have a minimum of 400 Ugandans at the conference. Because of global financial challenges, there will be no bursaries. So, you will need to find creative ways to fund your participation. The cost is still being determined; but will be approximately 7.8M UGX per person, inclusive of accommodation, meals, and conference expenses, exclusive of travel expenses.

I have asked Rev. Canon Dr. John Senyonyi, together with Rev. Canon Dr. Alison Barfoot, to coordinate our delegation to the Gafcon IV global assembly in Rwanda. Time is not on our side. Gafcon needs our registrations now and even a deposit. Please receive them warmly when they contact you.

- c) MINISTRY TO THE MIDDLE EAST:** I was able to travel to South Korea to cement our relationship in mission with the Oryun Community Church South Korea. On our way, we met many Ugandans at Doha Airport. We always hear of many Africans in Arab countries who suffer, commit suicide and many are oppressed/enslaved. We discovered the need for ministry in the Middle East to offer pastoral care to many of our people whose hopes are gone. Pray that God will guide us on how to do it or even deliberately train men and women who can become missionaries in those countries. Currently the online church is doing something but more needs to be done.

9. APPRECIATION:

I would like to thank the Provincial Secretary and the entire Secretariat for the tireless work put in planning and organizing the Provincial Assembly. I applaud Uganda Christian University, our University and all our partners for the team work that has led to this Assembly to happen today. For you prayers, financial and moral support, thank you is not enough. I pray that the Lord may lift every affliction from you, your resources and enable you to prosper. Thank you, Vice Chancellor and the UCU community for hosting us and for making us feel comfortable and welcome here today. The Lord bless you all.

Once again, I thank our guest of honor for accepting to come and open this Assembly. We appreciate your friendship to Church of Uganda and your firm faith as you perform your leadership role in this nation as our partner in development and beyond. Be assured of our prayers and counsel.

Our delegates, invited guests and all our mission partners, we value your presence and thank you for putting aside this time for us. May the good Lord watch over you and give you peace as you travel back to your respective places. Thank you.

10. NOTICES FOR PA FROM HOUSE OF BISHOPS

i) The following Bishops will retire from active ministry;

Bishop Nasak of North Karamoja - 27 December 2022

Bishop Ssebagala of Mukono - 28 February 2023

Bishop Nsubuga of Luwero - 13 July 2023

Bishop Luwalira of Namirembe - 8 December 2023

Bishop Cranmer of Muhabura – Early Retirement.

You are the team and leaders entrusted to guide the transition processes. Do not be the stumbling blocks in God's work. Hold them in prayer and where possible participate.

ii) Centenary & Golden Jubilee celebrations:

a. Diocese of Kampala - August 2022 (1972-2022);

b. Bunyoro-Kitara – 30th September 2022;

c. Bukedi Diocese - 2nd October 2022;

d. Busoga Diocese – 2022 (yet to set date)

e. Centenary: Kumi Freda Carr Hospital (CMS founded), 27 November 2022;

11. SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION:

a) Requests/Recommendations:

i. To increase quota by 20% to be able to improve retirement benefit of retired Bishops

ii. PA to approve the draft Constitutions for implementation

iii. PA to approve the 2023 Provincial Theme. "United for service and growth"

iv. PA to approve Online Church of Uganda Ministry

v. PA to approve Archbishop's Annual Leadership Summit

- vi. PA to approve the Writing of a Book on 60 years of Church of Uganda by Rev Canon Dr Isabirye
- vii. PA to approve the request to have Sequel on Canon Kodwo's book by his wife Professor Maxine Ankrah
- viii. PA to advise on COU and UPMB relation
- ix. PA to approve Church of Uganda's commitment to Anglicanism that is Christ-centred and Bible-based; and to further approve the Church of Uganda's continued position not participate in Canterbury-led Anglican Communion gatherings, meetings, networks, or commissions until a Biblical understanding on human sexuality and lifelong marriage between one man and one woman are restored and observed as core convictions of Anglicanism.
- x. PA to encourage big numbers to participate in the April 2023 Gafcon IV Global Assembly in Kigali.

b) Conclusion:

Because of God's great love we have hope beyond affliction. Thank you for honoring our invitation and participating in this Assembly. The Lord has granted us all an opportunity to participate in the His great commission and commandment. Let us be great ambassadors. We need to think big and have mind set change if we are to achieve self-sustainability as Church of Uganda and at different levels. Our schools need not be in the state they are in if we are Christ-Centered and a faster growing church. Our church needs to be focused on self-sustaining for the years ahead so that we are able to be a sending church not just a receiving one. We need to protect our lands and resources and use them appropriately as good stewards. The Lord will ask for accountability from each one of us. Let us unite and work together. Let us repent of greed, divisionary tendencies and return to the Lord our God and depending on His wisdom, power of the Holy Spirit, together we can go far. We have a lot to achieve together in development, investment and protection of our heritage. May the Lord bless the efforts of our hearts, hands and heads that we may be a transformed church that is rooted and established in His love and plan.

Last but not least, forget not to give attention to a boy child in order to get responsible men who will care and protect our girls and women.

I pray for a peaceful, focused Provincial Assembly. Welcome and have a blessed time.

The Most Rev. Dr Stephen Samuel Kaziimba Mugalu
ARCHBISHOP, CHURCH OF UGANDA