

**HISTORY, DEVELOPMENT AND IMPACT OF THE PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF EAST AFRICA IN THE EASTERN REGION, KENYA
(1915 -2022)**

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**A Thesis Submitted to the Graduate School in Partial Fulfillment of the
Requirements for the Award of the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Religious
Studies of Chuka University**


CHUKA UNIVERSITY

OCTOBER 2024

DECLARATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS


Declaration

This thesis is my original work and has not been presented for an award of diploma or conferment of a degree in this or any other University.

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Recommendations

This thesis has been examined, passed and submitted with our approval as University supervisors

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my late mum Dorothy Mwindi and my daughters Cynthia Gakii Mugambi and Grace Kathomi Mugambi.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I sincerely thank the almighty God who gave me strength and good health to undertake the task of conducting the research and accomplish the writing of the thesis.

My special gratitude goes to my supervisor, Professor Dickson Nkonge Kagema whose guidance, encouragement, concern and criticisms has tremendously improved the content of this thesis. Further, his professional suggestions and comments assisted me to complete this work on time. I sincerely thank him for his personal commitment. Through his assistance, I have been able to complete the work of writing this thesis. My special gratitude to my second supervisor, Dr. Caroline Mucece for her tireless concern that motivated me to complete the work on time, her professional guidance and encouragement led to the tremendous improvement of this thesis. May God bless you abundantly.

Special thanks to all the Chuka University academic staff and the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences for giving me an opportunity to conduct the study. I am grateful for their immense support during the course of this study. I also want to express my gratitude to the Chuka University Graduate School for the technical advice and support accorded to me during the course of this study.

My sincere thanks go to the leadership of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa. The office of the Secretary General, the PCEA moderators both at the presbyterial and parish levels. For allowing me to conduct this study in their Church. My special thanks to the retired ministers in the PCEA fraternity who formed majority of my informers during my research. I acknowledge the assistance accorded to me by Simon Mugendi the evangelist at Kiereni Church Archives. I would also wish to thank the late evangelist Elishena Muthoni for helping me to get most of my respondents. I also want to thank the secretariat in the church offices more so the secretary of Magumoni Presbytery, Madam Anne. I sincerely thank and appreciate all my respondents for providing me with the required information without which this work would not have been completed. The respondents included the PCEA clergy and Church members who were informers in this study. I also express my appreciation to the PCEA Chogoria Hospital especially the Matron, Madam Joan who helped retrieve the information in the hospital archives.

I also wish to appreciate my classmates Dr. Purity Kananu, Dr. Peter Wambugu, and Charles Ondicho for the moral support that they accorded me during the coursework. I thank Mr. Alfred Anangwe of the Kenya National Archives for his support and assistance when I visited the National Archives, Reverend Ngere of St. Andrews Church, Nairobi for his assistance during my visits to the PCEA Archives.

My special thanks go to Reverend Samuel Murigu, one of my key informers. Through his guidance, I was able to identify the key informers.

I am also indebted to my late mum, Dorothy Mwindi who encouraged me to undertake this study. My husband, Arthur Mugambi and our children, Cynthia Gakii and Grace Kathomi for their moral support and perseverance during my absence as I was preoccupied doing this research and writing of the report. I also wish to extend my gratitude to my colleagues especially Dennis Mwenda for the technical support throughout this study. May the almighty God bless you all.

ABSTRACT

This study sought to trace the history of PCEA in the Eastern Region from 1915 to 2022. The study also sought to analyze the spread and numerical growth of PCEA in the Eastern Region from 1915 to 2022. The impact on the social, economic and political transformation of PCEA in the Eastern Region was also assessed. The research questions included what is the history of PCEA in the Eastern Region. How has PCEA been spreading and growing numerically in the Eastern Region and how has PCEA impacted on the social, economic and political transformation in the Eastern Region? The justification for this study is that the Eastern Region is one of the administrative units of PCEA and PCEA is one of the earliest denominations in the Eastern Region but its milestones and influence in the region has not been fully analyzed. The purpose of this study was to trace the history, development and impact of PCEA in the Eastern Region from 1915 to 2022. The study was guided by two theories. Hegel's Linear Theory of History and Max Weber's theory of Sociology of Religion. Hegel described history as a continual refinement of intellectual understanding and that history is progressive. This was used in tracing the history of PCEA in the Eastern Region and analyzing the spread and numerical growth of PCEA in the Eastern Region. The impact of PCEA in the Eastern Region was assessed using Max Weber's Theory of the Sociology of Religion, Weber (1920) says that religion is a source of social change and stability. The research adopted the descriptive research survey design. The target population for this study was the 60,862 members of PCEA in the Eastern Region. A sample of 449 was used for this study. It included nine Presbytery moderators, 73 church ministers and 381 church members. The Presbytery Moderators were purposively selected; the parish ministers were selected using stratified sampling techniques while the church members were identified through simple random sampling. The respondents for this study were 438 who included 9 Presbytery moderators, 59 church ministers and 376 church members. Descriptive survey research method was used to generate both qualitative and quantitative data. Oral interviews and questionnaires were used to collect data from the, presbytery moderators, church ministers and the members of the church. Tape recorded data from the interviews was transcribed verbatim. Data was analysed qualitatively and presented using tables, percentages, figures and discussions. The study established that PCEA was brought to the Eastern Region by the Church of Scotland Mission in 1915 and that it has experienced numerical growth since its inception and has greatly impacted on the social, economic and political transformation in the Eastern Region. The study recommends that the PCEA should improve on data storage methods to avoid loss of important information about the milestones of the church. The Church should devise new strategies to ensure balance of numerical and spiritual growth. The study contributed a body of knowledge in the social historical perspective of religious study by elucidating the history, development and impact of PCEA in the Eastern Region.

