



50-DAY PRAYER AND FASTING SEASON: 19th August – 8th October 2025

FOCUS ON THE GOVERNANCE SPHERE

2026 NATIONAL ELECTIONS AND THE FUTURE OF LEADERSHIP IN UGANDA

PRAYER GUIDE FOR WEEK ONE: 19th August to 24th August 2025

Day	Day of the Week	Date	Area of Focus
1	Tuesday	19 th August 2025	Personal Preparation
2	Wednesday	20 th August 2025	Self-Governance
3	Thursday	21 st August 2025	Family Governance
4	Friday	22 nd August 2025	Institutional Governance
5	Saturday	23 rd August 2025	Church Governance
6	Sunday	24 th August 2025	Civil Governance

SATURDAY DAY 22nd AUGUST 2025

CHURCH GOVERNANCE

1 Peter 5:1-4

So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.

Church Governance: Ordering the House of God in Christ's Authority

Every organization requires order and accountability, and the Church is no exception. But unlike other institutions, the Church is not merely human - it is the Body of Christ, called to embody His mission on earth. For that reason, church governance is not just administrative; it is deeply spiritual.

Church governance refers to the structures, processes, and spiritual principles by which a church is led, organized, and held accountable under Christ's authority. It defines how leadership is exercised, how decisions are made, how resources are managed, and how the church remains faithful to its biblical mission.

The apostle Paul reminded the Corinthians, *"Let all things be done decently and in order"* (1 Corinthians 14:40). That principle captures the heart of governance: the Church must be ordered in such a way that Christ is honored, members are nurtured, and the mission of God advances.

1. Christ as the Head of the Church

All governance in the church begins here: Christ is the supreme Head (Colossians 1:18). Leaders are shepherds and stewards, not owners of God's people (1 Peter 5:2–3). The church belongs to Christ, and governance structures must reflect His lordship.

This means decisions, policies, and leadership models should be tested against Scripture. Whenever human systems override Christ's authority, governance becomes distorted.

2. Leadership Structures

The New Testament describes several roles in the early church:

- **Elders/Overseers/Pastors:** Providing spiritual oversight and teaching (1 Timothy 3:1–7).
- **Deacons:** Serving practical needs and supporting ministry (Acts 6:1–6).
- **Congregation:** Participating in discernment and affirmation of leaders (Acts 15:22).

Over time, different governance models developed:

- **Episcopal** (authority vested in bishops),
- **Presbyterian** (governed by elders collectively),
- **Congregational** (authority vested in the gathered members).

Though models differ, the underlying principle remains the same: leadership should serve, not dominate, and it should edify the body of Christ.

3. Decision-Making in the Church

Good governance ensures decisions are made prayerfully, transparently, and with unity. Acts 15 (the Jerusalem Council) provides a model: leaders gathered with the wider church, sought God's guidance, and reached consensus grounded in Scripture and the Holy Spirit's direction.

Churches today must similarly develop processes that promote discernment and prevent decisions from being driven by personal ambition or politics.

4. Accountability and Oversight

Leaders are accountable to God, to one another, and to the congregation they serve. Paul and Barnabas, after completing their missionary journey, reported back to the church in Antioch (Acts 14:26–28).

Healthy governance requires checks and balances—financial transparency, peer accountability among leaders, and open reporting to members. These safeguards not only prevent abuse but also strengthen trust.

5. Safeguarding Doctrine and Teaching

One of the main purposes of governance is to protect the church's teaching from error. Paul instructed Titus that elders must *“hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught”* (Titus 1:9).

Throughout history, councils and creeds served to defend biblical truth against heresy. In the same way, churches today must ensure that preaching, teaching, and discipleship remain faithful to the gospel, not swayed by cultural trends or false teachings.

6. Stewardship of Resources

Governance is also about faithful stewardship of the resources God entrusts to His people. Paul was careful to ensure that financial offerings were handled transparently, so that *“no one should blame us in regard to this generous gift”* (2 Corinthians 8:20–21).

Churches today must be equally diligent in managing finances, property, and human resources with integrity. Transparency in budgeting and accountability in stewardship not only honor God but also strengthen the confidence of members and supporters.

7. Mission and Continuity

Ultimately, governance keeps the church focused on its mission: worshiping God, making disciples, serving the needy, and proclaiming Christ to the nations (Matthew 28:19–20). Governance also ensures continuity through leadership development and succession planning. Paul invested in Timothy and Titus, entrusting them with leadership responsibilities so that the work would continue beyond him (2 Timothy 2:2).

Churches that fail to prepare future leaders risk losing vision and vitality. Strong governance ensures that the mission endures across generations.

Church governance is not about bureaucracy - it is about stewardship of Christ's body. It is the means by which the church ensures order, safeguards doctrine, manages resources faithfully, and fulfills its mission. Without governance, the church risks disorder, division, and drift from the gospel. With it, the church thrives in unity, effectiveness, and faithfulness to Christ.

As Psalm 127:1 reminds us, *“Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain.”* Good governance is not simply human management but submission to Christ, the true Head of the church.

The challenge for today's leaders is clear: Will we govern the church in a way that honors Christ, protects His people, and advances His mission?

Prayer Points:

1. Christ as Head of the Church

- Lord Jesus, we acknowledge You as the true Head of the Church (Colossians 1:18).
- Forgive us where we have substituted human traditions or ambitions for Your authority.
- May every decision and structure in our church submit fully to Your Word and Your will.

2. Leadership Structures

- Father, raise up godly leaders - elders, pastors, and deacons - who will serve with humility and integrity (1 Peter 5:2–3).
- Protect our leaders from pride, corruption, and burnout.
- Help us to honor and support those You have placed in spiritual authority over us (Hebrews 13:17).

3. Decision-Making

- Lord, guide every decision in our church by the wisdom of Your Spirit and the truth of Your Word (Acts 15:28).
- Remove selfish ambition, division, and political maneuvering from leadership discussions.
- May our decisions advance Your kingdom and build up Your people.

4. Accountability and Oversight

- Father, establish strong systems of accountability in your church.
- Let leaders walk in the fear of the Lord, knowing they are stewards of Your flock (Acts 20:28).
- Protect us from the abuse of power; instead, let us walk in transparency, humility, and mutual submission.

5. Safeguarding Doctrine

- Lord, protect your church from false teaching and deception (Titus 1:9).
- Give your leaders discernment and courage to uphold sound doctrine in love.
- May Your truth be faithfully preached, taught, and lived out in our congregations.

6. Stewardship of Resources

- Father, we dedicate our finances, property, and talents to You.
- Keep us from mismanagement, waste, or corruption.
- Help us to be transparent and faithful stewards, using every resource for Your glory and the advancement of Your mission (2 Corinthians 8:20–21).

7. Mission and Continuity

- Lord, keep us focused on our mission: to worship You, make disciples, and serve the world (Matthew 28:19–20) and to be agents of your Kingdom coming on the earth.
- Raise up the next generation of leaders who will carry forward the work with faithfulness.
- May your church leave a legacy of righteousness, service, and gospel witness for generations to come (2 Timothy 2:2).

Heavenly Father, we place the governance of your church in Your hands. Be our foundation, our guide, and our protector. Let our leaders serve with humility, our members walk in unity, and our mission shine with clarity. May everything we do bring glory to Christ, the Head of the Church, and advance Your kingdom on earth. Amen.