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**Conversions and Transformations:
Missiological Approaches to Religious Change**

Christian-Muslim relations in Zanzibar

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Abstract

Christian-Muslim relations in Zanzibar are complex and representations of them contested. While Muslims comprise the great majority, Christian churches add vibrancy to a multi-religious reality. The scope of the paper is to present and discuss central focus areas in the work of the Joint committee of [Christian and Muslim] religious leaders, which represents four Muslim institutions and three churches, from 2005 to 2013.

The first focus area is peace-building initiatives around election time, where the committee has played a constructive role. Such activities stimulate a discussion of how relations between religious and political realms should be.

The second focus area is the establishment of peace committees at grassroots levels, which raises the question of religious identity as well as the nature of the relations between religious leaders and followers.

The study is based on material such as notes and nineteen Swahili interviews with Christian and Muslim religious experts and “non-experts.”

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