The main issue of the paper is modes of Christian mission and Muslim da’wa in Zanzibar and their impact on Christian-Muslim relations.

Argument:

The paper takes as its point of departure that the freedom of religion includes the right to manifest one’s religion in public, but argues that there are ethical standards which should be adhered to. Presenting three Christian mission initiatives and three Muslim da’wa initiatives in Zanzibar, the paper will show, mainly using material collected in qualitative interviews November 2013, how different modes of Christian mission and Muslim da’wa influence Christian-Muslim relations in various ways.

The paper will argue that the recommendations contained in the 2011 ecumenical document “Christian Witness in a Multi-Religious World” provide wisdom relevant not only to Christian mission but to Muslim da’wa as well. Finally, it will outline some of the effects of the economical inequalities which continue to influence Christian mission and Muslim da’wa in the Zanzibari context.

Relevance:

In Africa, the practice of Christian mission and Muslim da’wa is very much alive and continues to influence Christian-Muslim relations. Being a continent where both religions play important roles, and where sometimes conflicts arise along religious lines, it is important that these religions continue to develop their ethical reflection concerning their various practices, including their conduct of mission and dawa.
