



## South African Council of Churches (Free State) Provincial Executive Council

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Ministers of all Member Churches  
Members of Minister's Fellowships

Dear Colleagues

### **NATIONAL AND PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS: 8 MAY 2019**

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

One of the pillars of the South African Council of Churches' (SACC) campaign, "The South Africa We Pray For", is "Anchoring Democracy". As churches we really need to play a more significant role in making a contribution towards fair and peaceful elections. In this regard we wish to inform you on the following very important matters:

#### **1. Observer Services**

As part of "Anchoring Democracy", the SACC is currently in discussions with the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) as a stakeholder during the 2019 National Elections to be involved in rendering *Observer Services* to Election Stations, etc.

We are looking for Ministers/Pastors/Priests who would be willing to volunteer to assist as Observers at polling stations throughout the Free State. Would you please be so kind as to invite Ministers/Pastors in your Denomination or Fraternal/Fellowship to avail themselves to act as Observers in their areas? The IEC Code of Conduct for Observers is attached hereto. Please note that this is a volunteer position and no payments will be made by either the SACC or the IEC.

Could you please complete the details of the Ministers/Pastors who are interested to serve as Observers on the attached form and then forward the form to us by no later than Monday the 25th of March 2019. Details about training and any further communication will be forwarded to you as and when it becomes available.

#### **2. Special Prayer Event for the 2019 Elections**

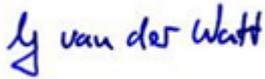
We appeal to ministers/local fellowships to take initiative in arranging ecumenical prayer meetings in your city, town or region. We suggest that these prayer meetings be

held on Friday morning of the **3<sup>rd</sup> of April 2019** – any time between 8:00 and 12:00. These meetings must not in any way be politically biased. Representatives of all political parties must be welcome to attend, but the prayer meeting itself should have the character of churches praying to God for granting us fair and peaceful elections and the coming of God's Kingdom in our beloved country. In Bloemfontein the prayer meeting will be in the Tweetering Church in the City Centre – at 8:30. Further information will follow.

### **3. Sunday morning services**

We urge congregations to pray for our country in the coming Sunday morning services leading up to the **5<sup>th</sup> of April**. We request each congregation to make a special effort/create space during that Sunday morning service for praying for the elections.

May God bless you all!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "G van der Watt". The signature is written in a cursive style.

**Dr. Gideon van der Watt**  
**(Secretary)**