



## DIAKONIA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

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Dear Friends

### Prayers for our Country

On Sunday December 16, our country's leaders will gather in Polokwane. Decisions arising from this conference could have far reaching effects on the lives of every South African. We also celebrate this day as the Day of Reconciliation.

The preceding months have seen heated debate at various levels of our government, as well as within civil society, and as a church we have journeyed together in discerning our responses to key issues such as the struggle for succession and a meaningful democracy for all.

At this final hour it would seem that we are now in the hands of God and we therefore call on all our friends to lift up to God their prayers for our country.

*We pray that our leaders will be inspired by the needs of others;  
Rather than by self-serving motives.*

*We pray that decision makers will strive to discern the common good;  
Rather than pander to party specific agendas.*

*We pray that reconciliation will be the order of the day;  
Rather than discord and blame and pride.*

*We pray for our new leaders and all our people;  
That our future will be guided by God's will for South Africa.*

We urge you therefore to remember the Polokwane Conference in your prayers. We call on churches and ministers to create opportunities for corporate or intercessory prayers during Sunday's services. We believe that prayer is God's gift to us and we now come obediently before Him in supplication.

God Bless

**Bishop Barry Wood OMI  
CHAIRPERSON**