



UNITED CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

## SOUTH AFRICA SYNOD

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16 MARCH 2020

TO: ALL REGIONAL COUNCILS  
ALL LOCAL CHURCHES  
ALL MINISTERS

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

**REF.: SA SYNOD – UCCSA’S RESPONSE TO CORONA VIRUS**

Greetings of the Lent Season from the Office of SA SYNOD-UCCSA!

The Leadership of the SA SYNOD-UCCSA held a special teleconference earlier today to discuss what could be the possible best way for our church to respond to the outbreak of COVID19 (corona virus).

The World Health Organization declared COVID19 a pandemic. The state president, His Excellency Cyril Ramaphosa, declared the outbreak of COVID19 as a national disaster. In consultation with the General Secretary the drastic measures have been taken in order to augment our government's efforts to minimize the outbreak of COVID19 and to preserve lives. The SA Synod Leadership therefore resolved as follows:

- (1) All SA SYNOD's small, medium and large meetings including inductions, recognition and ordination services, conferences are **suspended with immediate effect** until further notice.
- (2) Local church councils and ministers are beseeched to put steps aimed at **limiting number of church members attending services** to not more than 100 people. For example, services can be split into two or three services on a Sunday or use of social media.
- (3) We encourage all ministers and local church councils to strictly stick to the **congregational way of serving holy communion**, that is, use of individual small cups
- (4) We urge celebrants (ministers) and servers of Holy Communion to **wash hands**
- (5) Each local church should have **hand sanitizers** at the entrance door for all members to sanitize their hands before entering church sanctuary.
- (6) We encourage all church members including ministers who suspect that they may have flu to practice caution by **self-isolating themselves and seek medical attention**

More detail will follow after the SACC's meeting on Thursday. Please note that this drastic decision has not been easy but was prayerfully reached by the Leadership of SA SYNOD-UCCSA in order to preserve lives. We thank you for understanding. We pray God's protection upon your lives (Psalm 91).

Yours in Christ's service,

**Rev Thulani Ndlazi**  
(SYNOD SECRETARY)

**“Reaching New Frontiers: Hope & Healing”**

Prophetic Pastoral Professional

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