



Pacific Conference of Churches

MEMORANDUM

TO:	Heads of PCC member churches General Secretaries of the National Councils of Churches
FROM:	PCC General Secretary: Fe'iloakitau Kaho Tevi
DATE:	18/10/10
SUBJECT:	Prayers for the democratic process and for the people of Tonga

Warm Christian greetings from the secretariat of the Pacific Conference of Churches;

On the 25th of November this year, the people of Tonga will elect their respective representatives to Parliament under the new electoral structures. The background information on this election is here-below. The purpose of this message is to request for your prayers and support for the people of Tonga and especially for the leadership of the member churches and national councils of churches in Tonga:

Rev. Dr. Ahio: President of the Free Wesleyan Church in Tonga
Rev. Dr. Tevita Havea: General Secretary
Fr. Siketi Tonga: General Secretary, Tonga National Council of Churches
Venerable Tuineau Finau: Vicar General, Diocese of Polynesia, Tonga.

I would like to invite you to share this prayer with your churches as we draw nearer to this historic time in Tonga's journey. We stand in solidarity with our Tongan sisters and brothers and pray that peace and unity may prevail:

**Eternal and Ever living God,
Your love comforts and lifts us
as we encounter times of change in our lives.
Your Mercy guides us
to be good stewards of your peace and your people.**

**We pray for the nation and people of Tonga.
May your Love remain with them,
and may justice and peace continue to prevail.
We welcome change as an indication of life.
We welcome change with discernment and foresight
that would assure people of the benefits from this change.**

**Empower Your people to see Your hand in this change.
Through this change, may they come closer to You O Lord.**

**Where there may be pain, give them your peace,
where there may be doubts and uncertainties,
release a renewed confidence to work and find Peace, Unity, and Solidarity.
Teach them to be flexible and adaptable to any change, fully aware that once change stops for
them, they will no longer be alive on this earth.**

**O Lord, bless our leaders with the courage to affirm this change
and the leadership to see your people through this period of uncertainty.**

Amen

Background Information on the elections in Tonga

Early **general elections** under a new electoral law will be held in Tonga on November 25, 2010.

The early elections were announced by the new King George Tupou V in July 2008 shortly before being crowned on 1 August 2008 and will be preceded by a programme of constitutional reform.^[4]

In April 2010 the Legislative Assembly enacted a package of political reforms, increasing the number of people's representatives from nine to seventeen, with ten seats for Tongatapu, three for Vava'u, two for Ha'apai and one each for Niuas and 'Eua. All of the seats are single-seat constituencies, as opposed to the multi-member constituencies used before. These changes mean that now 17 of 26 representatives (65.4%) will be directly elected, up from 9 of 30 (30.0%).

Voter registration closed on 31 August, with approximately 40,000 voters registering. Candidates will be registered in October. Each candidate will be required to pay a \$400 pa'anga registration fee and present the signatures of 50 eligible voters in support of their candidacy.

Pacifically Yours

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Fe'iloakitau Kaho Tevi', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mr. Fe'iloakitau Kaho Tevi
General Secretary