

NCCS Update (January 2023)

NCCS Office Dedication Service. The NCCS office has been operating at #06-15 Peninsula Plaza since August 2022 while the premises was undergoing renovation works, some of which had to carried out after office hours. The new office was finally dedicated on 3 January 2023. Attended by members of the Executive Committee and Investment Committee, the simple service included the unveiling of the Dedication Plaque. Immediately after the service, the Exco held its first meeting of 2023 in the new premises. Here is a fuller report of the Dedication Service: Report Photos

US Navy Chaplains visit NCCS. Responding to a request from the US Navy Chaplains who were in Singapore recently, NCCS hosted a meeting on 9 January 2023. The 10 US Navy Chaplains were from the Anglican, Baptist, Presbyterian, Seventh-Day Adventist, Pentecostal, Non-Denominational and other Christian communities. NCCS also invited their local church counterparts to the meeting, which was an opportunity for both parties to learn much from each another.

The Navy Chaplains, led by Commander Jason Constantine shared about the nature of their ministry on board navy ships as well as on shore appointments. In many ways, Chaplains in the Navy could be regarded as missionaries as they have to leave their homes for long periods at a time to provide pastoral care and counsel to their 'parish' that is confined to a ship. With the limitations they encounter in their ministry, Navy Chaplains set an example of learning to work together and share resources across church and denominational lines to attend to the spiritual needs of their 'parish'. Photos

Regarding Virtual Meetings: The Covid-19 (Temporary Measures) (Alternative Arrangements for Meetings) Orders which enabled charities such as churches to convene, hold or conduct meetings through electronic means will soon cease. Singapore has progressively transitioned towards living with Covid-19, thus meetings can now take place physically. As such, the authorities will revoke the Meeting Orders on 1 July 2023. This gives churches six months' notice to resume meeting arrangements in accordance with written law or their governing instruments. For more details, please visit this LINK

Public Charitable Fund-Raising Appeals. Churches and Christian organisations that hold public fund-raising appeals are requested to take note of the updates on the disclosure regime. You may refer to the details in this <u>LINK</u>

Chosen Nation? Many Church leaders may have come across this idea that America is a Christian nation, and thus are God's chosen people. But is the idea of a Christian nation sound and does it have basis on Jesus' teaching? Reading the New Testament, we learn that Christians in this world are described as sojourners, exiles and resident aliens (1 Peter 2:11). How do we reconcile the idea of a Christian nation with what the Bible teaches? We invite you to explore the topic at Ethos: <u>Chosen Nation? A Critique of Christian Nationalism</u>