



National Council of Churches of Singapore

新加坡基督教會協會

சிங்கப்பூர் திருச்சபைகளின் தேசிய மன்றம்

Date: 27 October 2015

Dear Members of NCCS,

URA Guidelines and Places of Worship

I bring you greetings from the NCCS Office.

We understand that several churches have been affected by the URA guidelines issued on 12 Jun 2012 with regard to the restricted use of Industrial premises for Place of Worship (PW). Some of our churches have been evicted from these Industrial premises by their landlords and have had to look for new places of worship. Others which are still located at Industrial premises are concerned that their stay may soon be terminated by landlords acting on those guidelines.

We wish to inform you that a small delegation of the Executive Committee members met with officials of the Ministry of National Development (MND). We shared the concerns and the plight of churches facing these uncertainties. At the meeting, we were assured by MND that

- 1) For churches which have leased the Industrial premises **prior** to the release of URA guidelines on 12 June 2012, URA is prepared to consider extending the grace period, taking into account the specific circumstances of each case (e.g. the need for more time to comply with the current guidelines; whether attempts have been made to comply with the guidelines; no disamenities caused in the meantime).
- 2) For churches which have leased the premises **after** 12 June 2012, they are to comply with the guidelines.

We would like to suggest that if your church is affected by the above difficulties, please do write in to MND or URA to present your case and make your appeal as soon as possible. Meanwhile, MND is working towards implementing the Multi-User facilities pilot-run so as to ease the space crunch for PW sites.

We shall keep all member churches informed of further developments as the authorities continue to work with NCCS on addressing other major concerns of our churches. Thank you.

Yours in His Service,

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Gen Sec, NCCS

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