

**Praying for Ukraine:** Since the Russian invasion on 24 February 2022, the situation in Ukraine has been deteriorating daily. The UNHCR has estimated that more than 2.5 million Ukrainians have fled their homes. Families have been disrupted and lives have been lost. Many are praying daily for a peaceful resolution to the war in Ukraine.

Let us continue to pray for the following:

1. For the refugees who have been caught in the crossfire, for their protection, safety and reunification with families.
2. For the various world leaders involved, whether directly or in diplomacy over Ukraine, that God's peace and justice will prevail.
3. This is an especially challenging time for Christians in the military. Pray for God to guide them as their faith is being tested in new ways.
4. For the Church, that there will be repentance, forgiveness, and unity within and across all denominations and traditions.

**Churches and Lease Expiry:** We understand that the land agencies are still reviewing pricing of land for places of worship, and MCCY has conveyed the concerns from religious organisations to them on the affordability of land leases. In the meantime, churches with upcoming lease expiry can contact the Singapore Land Authority (SLA) to apply for a short-term tenancy of up to 3+3 years. This interim measure would entail a lower upfront payment, and the place of worship can consider applying for a longer lease after the review is completed.

If churches are anxious about their lease expiry, they can always contact the MCCY person in their IRCC or directly to MCCY where officers would be happy to help them get in touch with SLA.

**Invitation to “Religion, Public Policy and Nation Building”:** Religion is sometimes seen as a private matter, having to do only with an individual's relationship with God. This, however, is a reductionistic view. What one believes has profound impact not only on the person, but also on his or her community. What is the contribution of religion to public policy and nation-building in the Singapore context? This is the focus of this year's *Ethos Conversation* which will be held on Wednesday 23 March 2022, from 7.30 to 9.00pm via Zoom.

We are privileged to have two eminent speakers address this important topic: Mr Edwin Tong, Minister of Culture, Community and Youth and Second Minister for Law, and Rt Revd Dr Titus Chung, the Bishop of Singapore (Anglican). If you wish to attend this event, please register at: [ethosinstitute.sg/conversation2022](https://ethosinstitute.sg/conversation2022).

**Minister K Shanmugam's speech in parliament:** On 3 March, Minister K Shanmugam gave a parliamentary address regarding the Court of Appeal Ruling on the Repeal of Section 377A of the Penal Code. The media reported on NCCS' statement in response to the Minister's speech in parliament. If you would like to read the full statement by NCCS, here is the [NCCS statement](#).

Other Christian groups also responded to Minister Shanmugam's parliamentary speech. Here are the links to the statements by [APCCS](#), [LoveSingapore](#) and [Evangelical Alliance of Singapore](#)

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*NCCS would like to thank you for your positive feedback on its monthly e-newsletter. We encourage you to share the e-newsletter with other church leaders and members of your congregation for their information.*