

NCCS welcomes two new members to its family. They were admitted into its membership at the General Committee meeting held on 20 October. They are

1. **God's Kingdom Bread of Life Church (GKBOLC)** – a Congregational Member.
GKBOLC is a young and vibrant church with connections to other GKBOLC in Taipei, Hong Kong and Malaysia. The church believes that life transformation leads to family transformation which in turn leads to the transformation of the community and then the nation. The church places heavy emphasis on the importance of God's word and on cell ministry as the foundational pillars for pastoral care. GKBOLC currently runs two bilingual services on Saturday (Youth/Teens and Young Adult) and two bilingual services on Sunday to minister to the needs of their members and also to reach out to those in the community. GKBOLC being a local church, sees the importance of being part of the wider body of Christ in Singapore through its membership in NCCS. For more information about the church, do visit GKBOLC's [website](#).
2. **Biblical Graduate School of Theology (BGST)** – Associate Member.
Founded in 1989, BGST has been faithfully training Christians for the last 32 years. The school offers courses at different levels – Graduate Certificates, Graduate Diplomas and Masters degrees. BGST offers "Self-paced Learning" courses, which enables the busy laity to study at their own pace through pre-recorded lessons. To encourage lifelong learning, especially for busy Christians, it also offers micro learning courses through its online learning platform called "Theology for Life", where one can learn from various courses in bite-sized lessons. As BGST answers God's call to equip laity from all churches and denominations, it believes in the importance of being connected to the wider body of Christ through membership in NCCS. More information is available through this [video](#).

Note: The role of NCCS is to represent Christians appropriately in the public square. While it does not organise programmes and projects which are the purview of local churches, NCCS does offer its services from time to time, to facilitate the gathering of churches that have specific concerns. For example, just before the pandemic, NCCS gathered interested churches to discuss the importance of 'bidding rationally' for new church sites so as to avoid driving prices higher, which would invariably impact the lease renewal premium for churches.

Introduction of Article 156 (Institution of Marriage) into the Constitution. The Constitution of the Republic of Singapore (Amendment No.3) Bill seeks to introduce Article 156, to protect the current heterosexual definition of marriage, as well as the laws and policies based on this definition, from Constitutional challenge.

In introducing the Bill on 20 October, the Government said it supported the view "...that most Singaporeans still want to maintain the current family and social norms, where marriage is between a man and a woman, and children are brought up in such a family structure".

Article 156 has four subsections and, specifically, Article 156(3) and Article 156(4) protect the laws that define marriage as a union between a man and a woman; 156(3) and 156(4) also protect the laws and policies based on such a definition, from being invalidated under Part 4 of the Constitution (Fundamental Liberties). For example, the equal protection clause in Article 12 of the Constitution would not invalidate such laws and policies by reason that they are based on a heterosexual definition of marriage. For reference, see [Link](#).

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