

Transition Phase to Covid-19 Resilience: On 28 January, nearly 400 pastors and church leaders participated in a virtual meeting to seek clarification on the latest updated advisory for religious activities. Facilitated by NCCS, the staff of MCCY shed light on the latest SMMs, including the VDS for congregational worship services. As for the unvaccinated, we note that Religious Organisations “*can continue to allow one group of up to 5 persons (regardless of vaccination status) at any one time to conduct private worship in the place of worship*”.

For those who were not able to attend the virtual meeting, MCCY has provided some details for your reference. Please visit this [link](#). May God continue to guide us as we travel along a bumpy road while living with the virus.

Associate General Secretary: As part of succession planning, NCCS Exco has appointed Rev Edwin Tan Weng Keong as the Associate General Secretary. The appointment was endorsed by the General Committee at its meeting on 27 January 2022. The initial appointment is for two years and during this period the Assoc Gen Sec will work closely with the Gen Sec to better understand the work of NCCS.

Rev Edwin Tan is presently serving as the Vicar in St Andrew’s City Church (Anglican). A graduate in Business Administration, Edwin holds a MDiv from Trinity Theological College. He is also currently pursuing a Doctor of Ministry in Spiritual Formation and Soul Care from Biola University, Talbot School of Theology. Being involved in discipleship training and programmes over the years, he says that “my passion is to shepherd the members of the parish and others on this slow but exciting journey of spiritual transformation”. Let us pray for Edwin as he takes up this new responsibility.

NCCS Office: Our office has two full-time staff members. They are, Manager, Mr Simon Ng who has been with NCCS since January 2020. We recently welcomed Ms Jeannie Cheang, our Administrative Executive, who joined us in December 2021.

NDTS 2022: This year’s annual National Day Thanksgiving Service will be held on Thursday, 18 August at St Andrew’s Cathedral. The speaker will be Vice-President, Bishop Dr Gordon Wong. It is our hope that more people will be allowed to worship at NDTS 2022.

NCCS Membership Fees 2022: Last year had been a challenging year but we thank all NCCS members for their financial support which encouraged NCCS to continue in its service to the larger Christian community in Singapore. We hope and pray that 2022 will see Singapore and the rest of the world gradually overcome the Covid-19 pandemic. NCCS practises responsible stewardship and keeps expenses within its annual budget. However, if your church or organisation is not yet a member of NCCS, and you feel moved to bless NCCS to further its ministry, we will gratefully welcome your love gift.

Office Re-location: NCCS General Committee passed a resolution on 27 January 2022 to sell its NCCS office at 1 Coleman Street, #B1-27, The Adelphi. The reasons for the relocation are that the current office does not have sufficient space and is situated in the far corner of the basement, which is less than conducive for NCCS meetings and events. We shall update you on further developments for relocation.

Bequest to NCCS: NCCS has been blessed by the generous bequest of a former parishioner of the General Secretary. The General Committee decided that the gift of \$2.4 million from the Estate of Mrs Gertrude Mary Looi be divided into two portions:

- 1) \$1.2 million will be bucketed into the Capital Reserve, to supplement the future purchase of a new office.
- 2) The remaining \$1.2 million will be used to set up an endowment fund – the NCCS Ethos Endowment Fund which has been set up by NCCS to support the work of Ethos Institute with

a Legacy from the late Mrs Gertrude Mary Looi. The Fund welcomes further donations from the Christian community and like-minded members of the public.

Women's Charter: Regarding the changes to the Women's Charter on "divorce by mutual agreement of irretrievable breakdown of the marriage", NCCS continues to uphold the sanctity of marriage and encourages pastors and leaders of our churches to do so, and to support our congregational members who may be contemplating divorce.

NCCS understands that MSF has invited church leaders to be Resource Persons to Christian couples who agree and wish to have religious guidance and support as they undergo either a) Mandatory Parenting Programme (which is for divorcing couples with minor children), b) court-ordered counselling, or c) any voluntary marital counselling under the Strengthening Families Programme@Family Service Centre (FAM@FSC) or at Divorce Support Specialist Agencies (DSSA).

Such Resource Persons would join a counsellor-led session by a FAM@FSC or DSSA agency. They should be: (i) endorsed by their church and (ii) have more than 5 years' experience providing support for couples. Nominees who do not meet the criteria may still be surfaced to MSF for consideration.

MSF is also inviting trained counsellors working in churches who are (i) endorsed by their church and (ii) have more than 5 years of counselling experience to offer themselves for FAM@FSC/DSSA agencies to refer Christian couples for marital counselling if the couples agree.

See the NCCS updated [Statement on changes to the Women's Charter](#)