

Meeting with Ministers: Minister Desmond Lee and Minister of State Sun Xueling would like to brief pastors and church leaders on various matters, including the Women’s Charter amendments, Alliance for Action on Strengthening Marriages and Family Relationships, and other MSF initiatives such as ComLink and PEERS network. The latter are social services and efforts that are aimed at certain issues such as homelessness, low income; and MSF hopes that the wider faith communities can play a role in partnering them in these areas of service.

The meeting with Ministers will be held virtually on Tuesday, 19 October, from 1.30pm-3pm. NCCS will facilitate the meeting and we will invite you to register in a separate email at the appropriate time.

NCCS Membership 2021. We would like to share with you information on the membership of NCCS. This was reported to the General Committee meeting recently as an update. We thank member churches who contribute annually to the ministry of NCCS through membership fees (@ \$1 per member). We also welcome churches to consider joining the NCCS family even if they are already associated with other Christian organisations.

Categories of Membership	Churches & Organisations*	Distinctiveness of NCCS Membership
Founder Members	123	Comprising 7 Traditional Denominations (Anglican, Methodist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Salvation Army, Mar Thoma Syrian Church in Singapore and St Thomas Orthodox Syrian Cathedral)
Full Members**	14	Comprising 2 Denominational Churches (Evangelical Free Church of Singapore and Church of Singapore)
Congregational Members	65	Independent Churches (ranging from 100 members to several thousands of members)
Associate Members	15*	Christian Organisations and Institutions
Total Membership	217	Representing more than 200,000 Christians in Singapore

***44 Assembly of God churches withdrew as Full Members from NCCS on 12 June 2018 taking with them 15,787 members to form the APCCS.*

Who are our Associate Members? They are Christian organisations and institutions which are part of the NCCS family. Our constitution does not accord them voting privileges as strictly speaking, they are not local churches. The 15 associate members of NCCS who continue to be involved in Christian ministry and service are: *Alpha Singapore, Celebrate Christmas in Singapore, Christian Counselling Services, Fellowship of Evangelical Students, Metropolitan YMCA, New Redeemer’s Fellowship Society, Prison Fellowship Singapore, St Luke’s Eldercare Ltd, St Luke’s Hospital, The Bible Society of Singapore, The Turning Point, Trinity Theological College, Young Men’s Christian Association, Young Women’s Christian Association & OMF International (IHQ) Ltd.*

NCCS Book Sold Out. “Homosexuality, the Bible and the Church” was officially launched at the National Day Thanksgiving Service on 19 August. NCCS printed 1000 copies and 750 books have been sold out. The remaining 250 books were given as complimentary copies to donors, authors, editors, endorsers, 68 Christian and Catholic mission schools, 9 theological institutions (including the Catholic

seminary), and Christian politicians, among others. NCCS is now working on a reprint of the book in response to the overwhelming demand. Thank you for all your encouraging support.

NCCS and the IRO. The NCCS is not a member of the Inter-Religious Organisation (IRO), although some pastors are individual members of the organisation. Its website says that “it is a non-governmental organization founded by leaders of diverse faiths to work together for religious harmony in Singapore”. Membership of the IRO is on an individual basis and therefore any Christian who is a member of IRO does not necessarily represent one’s church, denomination or the Christian community.

However, Christian individuals who are members of the IRO do contribute to building bridges of understanding among faith communities in Singapore and this initiative on their part ought to be appreciated. Former Lutheran Bishop Terry Kee who was previously NCCS President, continues to participate in the leadership of IRO and has helped other faith groups better understand Christianity in Singapore. Indeed, we thank all Christians who are involved in one way or another in the deepening of goodwill and understanding in Singapore society.