

**NCCS AGM:** On 20 April, the Annual General Meeting elected the new Executive Committee (Exco) to serve from April 2023 to April 2025. The duties of the Exco include acting on behalf of the Council in the interim between the meetings of the General Committee. Some of the priorities of the Exco are to facilitate good working relationships among churches, and also to represent the Christian community responsibly in the public square. It is also tasked to engage government agencies on behalf of the Council. [AGM photos](#).

The new President of NCCS is Rt Rev Lu Guan Hoe, Bishop of the Lutheran Church in Singapore. We wish to thank Rt Rev Dr Titus Chung for his service and leadership, and as immediate past president, he will remain in the Exco as one of three Vice-Presidents. Here is the leadership team of NCCS [LINK](#).

**NCCS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** Singapore churches, especially the traditional denominations and some older churches were part of the Malayan Christian Council (1948), and the Council of Churches of Malaysia and Singapore (1963). These church councils played special roles during an era when Singapore was not yet an independent nation.

After 9 August 1965, it was deemed appropriate for churches of our sovereign nation to form its own National Council of Churches of Singapore, which was registered on 24 July 1974. Since then, NCCS has been representing Christians in Singapore in the public square, addressing many concerns that are unique to our church and society. Our journey together has had its challenges as well as achievements and it is with gratitude to God that NCCS will celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 24 July 2024. Every member church and organisation will be represented at the dinner celebrations. Planning is underway and we will share more details in due course.

**Registry of Marriages:** NCCS continues to serve all churches in Singapore that require its recommendation to the Registry of Marriages (ROM). As partners with ROM, we assist churches applying for the Licence to Solemnise Marriages (LSM), and the renewal of existing Licences. We would like to share the following information with churches.

- It is normally a one-year cycle from application to approval.
- For a new LSM application, please submit the complete set of documents to NCCS for endorsement by the end of the calendar year.
- For renewal of LSMs, this will depend largely on when ROM provides the list of those due for the renewal. NCCS office will then follow up by informing those on the list to submit the relevant documents within a month of notification.
- ROM would usually release the results of approved new applications and those for renewal, sometime in the middle of the year.
- Since January 2023, NCCS has received 17 new applications for LSM, and 34 applications for the renewal of existing LSM. The final decision to grant new licences or to renew existing licences rests with ROM.

**Sharing on the Revised Code of Governance:** We are pleased to invite you to join us in an engagement session which will facilitate the sharing of the key changes to the revised Code and governance best practices. This is also an opportunity for you to seek clarification, provide feedback and discuss practical concerns with the organisers, Commissioner of Charities (COC), Charity Council, National Council of Churches of Singapore (NCCS) and Singapore University of Social Sciences directly. This session will be held on 17 May 2023 from 8.30am to 11.30am at St Andrew's Cathedral. Breakfast will be served. If your church/organisation has not registered for the engagement session, you may do so here [LINK](#).