

**On Lease Renewal of Church Premises:** In our June e-newsletter, we mentioned the 'revised place of worship land allocation and pricing framework' by the government. It was a major change of policy for religious organisations such as churches wishing for a place of worship (PW) in HDB estates. The revised framework means that new PW sites will be offered at a fixed price and will be awarded through the balloting system.

The policy change will also reduce the cost of the lease renewal premium of churches approaching the expiry of their 30-year lease period. In fact, a few churches have already been offered much lower lease renewal premiums by the authorities. Without the need for intense fund raising, we are pleased that churches will be able to focus more on Christian ministry and service.

**Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA):** The Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) would like to seek the assistance of pastors and church leaders to encourage church members to promptly make their Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) and Advanced Care Planning.

1. Here are some information extracted from [Lasting Power of Attorney/Mental Capacity Act \(msf.gov.sg\)](https://www.msf.gov.sg) :
  - Percentage of people who have made LPA and are 60 years and above as of 2021 – 17.8%
  - Percentage of people who have made LPA and are 50 years and above as of 2021 – 40.7%
2. NCCS, in partnership with MSF, is organising a sharing session with church representatives to be held on **12 January 2024 at St Andrew's Cathedral from 8.30am to 11am**. The sharing session will include the following:
  - The importance of making an LPA
  - How to make an online LPA
  - What churches may consider when organising their own talks and certification sessions
  - Resource package that churches may use to organise their own talks and certification sessions.

We welcome your church representatives to attend the sharing session. Please register at this [LINK](#).

**The ROM has digitalised the entire marriage process:** Our Marriage Journey (OMJ) portal was launched by the Registry of Marriages on 25 Sep 2023.

1. The OMJ has digitalised the entire marriage process, from application to the issuance of a digital Certificate of Marriage (COM) to couples who have registered their marriages with ROM. In addition to the digital COM, ROM will provide couples with the option of a Ceremonial COM, where couples can choose to sign this certificate during their solemnisation ceremony for keepsake.

2. Since 1 Aug 2023, ROM has organised a series of training sessions for our Licensed Solemnisers to prepare them for the change in civil marriage process. The training is mandatory to all Licensed Solemnisers as there are significant changes to the civil marriage process which will affect them and the couples. These changes are statutory in nature and would require the Solemnisers to have working knowledge in order to carry out their duties and responsibilities as a Licensed Solemniser.
3. To register for the training session, Solemnisers can visit this link – <https://omjsupport.com>. Should you require any clarification or further information with regard to the training sessions, please contact ROM at 6338 7808 or email ROM at [MSF\\_ROM\\_LS@msf.gov.sg](mailto:MSF_ROM_LS@msf.gov.sg).
4. The ROM also wishes to inform all pastors and churches that the appointment of a Solemniser is based on their nomination under a specific church or nominating board. If the Solemniser will be leaving the pastoral team or the employ of the church, the person should notify ROM as soon as possible before the last day of service. Your kind attention to the above will be much appreciated.