

National Day Thanksgiving Service: It was in the spirit of thanksgiving that the National Council of Churches of Singapore (NCCS) convened the National Day Thanksgiving Service (NDTS) on the evening of 19 August 2021, in the nave of St Andrew’s Cathedral. In the face of the ongoing battle with the viral pandemic, the need for our churches to come together and pray as one united body could not have been more timely and needed.

The NDTS is an annual event to celebrate Singapore’s National Day through worship and prayer. Each year Christians from all walks of life, including church leaders, pastors, and those in political leadership have often joined us at the NDTS. Here are the links to the [NDTS Report](#) and to the [Live-Stream Recording](#).

Covid-19 and Its Impact on the Church: The coronavirus pandemic, which has ravaged the world for twenty months, has brought a number of profound theological and ethical issues to the surface. These issues range from the question of the sovereignty of God to ethical questions regarding the production and distribution of Covid-19 vaccines. An important issue that has arisen in the wake of the pandemic has to do with the relationship between the Church and the State. More specifically, it relates to the authority of the State, the scope of its jurisdiction and legislative power, and the extent to which Christians must submit to its mandates. Here is the link to an Ethos Institute article on “[The Warrenton Declaration: A Case of Chronic Trust Deficit?](#)”

The NCCS Book: “*Homosexuality, the Bible and the Church*” was officially launched at the NDTS on 19 August. NCCS would like to thank the authors and many others whose contributions made this publication possible. We also thank our donors who helped make the book more affordable. It is a book written primarily for the Christian community. More than a valuable guide for Christian life and discipleship, the contents of the book represent our churches’ commitment to family values in a challenging postmodern world. So far 445 copies of the book have been sold. You may place your orders [here](#).

Preparing for transition out of Phase 2 (heightened alert). With the nation on track to achieve 80% vaccination target by early September, the Multi-Ministry Taskforce (MTF) announced further easing of Phase 2 control measures on 6 August. MCCY after the MTF announcement released a new [advisory](#) on 7 August allowing more religious activities to resume. As requested by MCCY, NCCS hosted another video conference session on 11 August to allow churches to clarify any queries they have on the latest advisory from MCCY. More than 450 participants from 232 churches attended the session. However, due to the overwhelming number of questions submitted before and during the session, MCCY subsequently consolidated the questions and provided the [answers](#) which were forwarded by NCCS to all churches on 13 August.

Strengthening Marriages and Family Relationships: The Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) recently announced the formation of an Alliance for Action (AfA) to Strengthen Marriages and Family Relationship. The AfA seeks to actively bring stakeholders, community partners and Singaporeans together to co-create and implement solutions to nurture an ecosystem that strengthens marriages and families. MSF acknowledges that many faith groups are already doing good work in this area and it hopes to encourage them to join the AfA and consider sharing and learning more from one another. NCCS will be engaging with MSF to find out more about the AfA.