

NEWSLETTER

December 2025

NCCS Statement on the Bondi Beach Shooting in Sydney: The National Council of Churches of Singapore (NCCS) expresses its profound shock and sadness over the tragic events that unfolded on 14 December 2025 at Bondi Beach, Sydney, where a Hanukkah festival was attacked, resulting in the loss of innocent lives and injuries to many others. See full statement here LINK

Nanjing Union Theological Seminary (NJUTS): NCCS was honoured to host a distinguished delegation from NJUTS for a dialogue on 28 November. The visiting team was led by Rev Wu Wei (吴巍牧师), President of the China Christian Council of the Protestant Churches in China, and Principal of the Seminary. They were warmly received by Bishop Philip Lim (NCCS President) and members of the Exco. The NJUTS delegation included:

- Rev Huang Jinbin (黄金斌牧师) Director of Students' Ministry Office; Associate Professor of Church History
- Rev Tang Yongquan (唐勇权牧师) Administrative Director
- Ms Zhao Jingwen (赵静文女士) Director of Research and Publication
- Dr Zhang Lixia (张丽霞博士) Lecturer of Chinese Church History
- Mr Zhou Xuebin (周学斌先生) Staff Member of the Overseas Relations Desk

During the meeting, Rev Wu provided an insightful overview of NJUTS. Established in 1952, it holds a unique position as the only nationwide theological institution among China's 22 Protestant seminaries, drawing students from across the country. The Seminary currently has an on-campus student body of some 460 students, including those in research and PhD programmes. The dialogue provided a valuable opportunity for both delegations to share perspectives and exchange ideas on common areas of interest, including church development and nurturing Christian growth in their respective contexts.

NCCS was represented by Bishop Philip Lim, Rt Rev Dr Caleb Soo (Vice-President), Bishop Anthony Loh (Vice President), Elder Kevin Lee (Treasurer), Rev Edwin Tan (Associate General Secretary) and Mr Eden Liew (Executive). See PHOTOS

An Invitation to Prayer and Reflection. Let us come to pray together as God's children. The theme of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2026 is *One Body and One Spirit just as you are called to One Hope of your calling*. (Ephesians 4:4)

只有一个身体和一个圣神,正如你们蒙召同有一个希望一样。(厄弗所书 4:4)

The four prayer services include one in Mandarin for the first time, will be held at the following venues. No registration is required.

- Bible House (Mon, 19 Jan @ 12pm)
- Armenian Apostolic Church of St Gregory the Illuminator (Wed, 21 Jan @ 8pm)
- Blessed Sacrament Church (Thur, 22 Jan @ 8pm)
- Queenstown Lutheran Church (Fri, 23 Jan @ 8pm) Mandarin service

You are also invited to a Heritage Gallery Tour of the Armenian Apostolic Church of St Gregory the Illuminator on 21 Jan @ 7.15pm prior to the service. Please register for this tour. For more information, see <u>LINK</u>

NCCS Church Online Directory. We are pleased to announce that the Church Online Directory now has a fresh new look with smarter features:

- Map feature Locate churches and Christian organisations with ease
- Service times Find out when and where to worship
- Smart filters Search by denomination, language, or service timing

Churches are encouraged to update their church information in the directory by clicking "login" with email address. See Directory Link

The General Committee of NCCS issued a statement on 27 October 2025 in response to recent open letters and criticisms of the Council via emails, website postings and YouTube videos. After the statement was shared with churches, NCCS was contacted by the Assemblies of God Singapore (AOG) on 30 October 2025. In its request for correctness, the AOG addressed the ordination credentials of a former AOG pastor mentioned in paragraph 5 of the statement. Therefore, in the interest of accuracy and transparency, the Council has amended paragraph 5 accordingly, based on the information provided by the Assemblies of God Singapore.

Original Statement
Amended Statement (see paragraph 5)

Notice Board. NCCS would like to share with you the following upcoming events and other matters that may be of interest to members and friends (details are found in the relevant links):

- NCCS Statement on collapse of roof of Buddhist Monastery in Sin Ming. See LINK
- An invitation to the Alpha Partners' Dinner. On 12 March 2026, we will gather under the
 theme "Thriving On New Ground" to celebrate what God has done through Alpha and
 the lives touched across churches, workplaces, families, and communities. This dinner
 is a time to give thanks, deepen relationships, and align hearts around the mission
 ahead.

Alpha Singapore invites churches and friends to see how their prayers, generosity, and partnership are creating safe spaces for people to explore faith and encounter Jesus. More information at this LINK

- <u>Licence to Solemnise Marriages</u>. The Registry of Marriages (ROM) digital platform for this year's New Application process for the License to Solemnize Marriages in Singapore is still going through it's final phase of testing by MCCY. Please email to <u>shalynn@nccs.org.sg</u> and we will notify you once the link is available. Note that there is an administrative fee of \$100 for applications from churches that are not members of NCCS.
- Ministry of Home Affairs reminds churches and religious organisations to update changes within their governing body and/or changes to its Constitution, Memorandums, Articles of Association, Trust Deeds, or other equivalent instruments which directly/indirectly affect the religious group's size or composition (or both) of its governing body. To make changes login to this LINK.
- MCCY Charity Council: Christians are encouraged to practise safer giving. For details see <u>LINK</u>
- <u>The Evolution:</u> If your church or organisation is in need of more space, you may consider rental of Auditorium/Hall of premises at Sin Ming. See <u>LINK</u>