



# BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF W.A.

For the Testimony and Glory of Jesus Christ

September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2017

## SUNDAY COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE

### 1 The Lord Is in His Holy Temple

The Lord is in His holy temple, The Lord is in His holy temple: Let all the earth keep silence, Let all the earth keep silence before Him Keep silence, keep silence before Him. Amen.

Prelude/Preparatory Hymn Sharon Poon/Jason Tey

The Lord Is in His Holy Temple 1

Call to Worship

Deacon Joel Wong/Kong Vui Yip

\*Hymn

**HOP 14** Come, Thou Almighty King

\*Invocation/Gloria Patri 2

Responsive Reading

Psalm 137:1-9

Holy Communion

[Deacon Michael Lee, Deacon Adrian Cheng, Deacon Stephen Chia, Deacon Joel Wong, Robert Wong]

Hymn

**HOP 92** O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

**HOP 185** According to Thy Gracious Word

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

**HOP 432** Thanks to God!

\*Doxology 3/Offertory Prayer

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 1:19-23

Hymn

**HOP 245** More About Jesus

Pastoral Prayer/Message

Pastor Joseph Poon/Kong Vui Yip

### 2 Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost, As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

### 3 Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## Christ Is All in All

\*Hymn

**HOP 38** All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

\*Benediction/Threefold Amen

Announcements

\*The Lord Bless You and Keep You 4

\*Congregation Standing

### 4 The Lord Bless You and Keep You

The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord lift His countenance upon you, and give you peace, and give you peace, The Lord make His face to shine upon you, And be gracious unto you, And be gracious, The Lord be gracious, gracious unto you. Amen.



### THEME FOR 2017:

“... STAND FAST IN ONE SPIRIT, WITH ONE MIND STRIVING TOGETHER FOR THE FAITH OF THE GOSPEL” (Philippians 1:27)

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# PASTORAL LETTER

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## The Church Constitution and You

Dear BPCWAians, This week, we will begin distributing the Annual Congregational Meeting reports to members. Together with these reports, members will receive copies of the current BPCWA Constitution as well, since members who joined some years ago may not have an up-to-date copy of our Church Constitution. For our members who are predominantly Chinese speaking, we are providing a translated version and hope that this Chinese Constitution will help you have a better understanding of what is included in the Constitution.

**What is in a Constitution?** It is a governing document for the church. The Bible is the Supreme and final authority in the church, and the Constitution details organisational aspects about how the church is to be run based upon Biblical principles. The Constitution serves the Bible and explains how the church should do things. It reflects for example the doctrinal beliefs of our church and our Bible-Presbyterian church government. It states the purpose of the church, frequency of Session and Congregational meetings, and criteria and responsibilities for members and office holders in the church. It also provides safeguards and guidelines for unity and sound operating of the church. These matters should certainly be the concern of church members.

**Proposed amendments/changes in our Constitution:** Because of what it prescribes and that it is not a perfect document, there may be occasions when changes to the Constitution may be needed for improvements. At this upcoming ACM, the Board of Elders is proposing three changes to the Constitution. Amending constitutions is no small matter and these

will be filed with the Government subsequently. We would not do it unless it is necessary for us. It is important that members understand the rationale for these needed amendments to our constitution at this coming ACM. I would like therefore to take some time to explain why these changes are needed.

**Change #1) Attendance at Annual Congregational Meetings (Article 19.2).** Currently, our Constitution expressly permits non-members to attend our Congregational Meetings. It will be proposed that this clause be changed. At an ACM, matters are discussed which may be complex and at times even sensitive in nature. Financial reports of the church are also presented. The directions and plans of the church are also addressed. Hence, the following are reasons why we propose to amend this clause:

- a) Currently, outsiders and anyone can invite any outsider to sit in, record, and note details and decisions. While we have surely nothing to hide, yet it is prudent to avoid unnecessary situations of potential troubles that may arise from this.
- b) New comers and visitors and unbelievers who sit in may not fully understand and may misunderstand the discussions and be stumbled. Yet currently, we cannot stop them if they wish to attend.
- c) It is difficult to set guidelines to differentiate between which non-member has been with us “long enough” to attend and which are “too new” to attend.

For such reasons, it is a very common standard best practice and safeguard for churches to just have members attend the ACM. Moreover, since the ACM is intended to be for the update to the members of the church, the proposal is to allow the church to limit ACM attendance to members of BPCWA.

**Change #2) Requiring Elders to have two thirds majority vote (Article 15.1).** In our Constitution, the election and re-election of the Pastor requires a two thirds majority vote. However, at present, the election and re-election of an Elder requires only a majority vote, in other words it is fifty percent. It is proposed that votes required for the election and re-election of an Elder into office be the same as that for the Pastor. In other words, an Elder requires a two thirds majority vote as well. Here are the reasons:

- a) Since an Elder may assume the same responsibilities in the absence of a Pastor in the church, he should be expected to command the same level of confidence from the congregation
- b) Since an Elder may be appointed as the chairperson of the Session in a Pastor's absence if needed, it is important therefore that the church should have the same level of trust in him as in a Pastor.

Besides, it is also a usual expectation in other churches that the Elder and Pastor have the same threshold for election and re-election in terms of votes. This is especially important in a Presbyterian church government system. The proposal is hence to require Elders to also be voted in by two thirds majority vote, in line with that required for the election of a Pastor.

**Change #3) Correction to English typographical errors (in Articles 6.9, 7.6 and 20.3).** This amendment does not affect the intent of the respective clauses. Some errors have been made in the previous typing of the Constitution which needs to be corrected. This includes an incorrect Bible reference (in Article 6.9) as well as 2 other typographical changes (in Articles 7.6 and 20.3)

The above outline the three Constitution changes that will be voted upon at the ACM next month. In addition to the above, at this coming ACM, based on the Constitution requirements, an agenda item on the ACM is on the matter of trustees for the church.

**Appointment for Pastor Joseph Poon to be added into Trusteeship of BPCWA (Article 20.5).** Trustees of the church must be appointed at a Congregational Meeting. In view of prudent good governance, it is recommended that the Pastor of the church also be added to the existing number of trustees of BPCWA.

After BOE discussions as well as Session discussions, we have decided to propose the above three changes and the appointment of trustee for the responsible and careful running of BPCWA. We hope you understand the rationale put forth in this Pastoral letter and support the decision for the church God has put you in. Do submit any questions regarding the above or items in the Agenda by the 6<sup>th</sup> September so that the Session can prepare and provide answers to you either before or at the ACM.

Yours in our Lord's service

Pastor

# ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAISE & PETITION

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1. **Father's Day Tea Reception (Today, after worship):** There will be a tea reception after worship service. All are welcome to join and celebrate this occasion together.
2. **Annual Congregational Meeting Reports (Today, after worship):** (collect today) Members please collect your ACM reports today as well as a copy of the up-to-date BPCWA Constitution in the fellowship hall. We will also need to update your details for the membership roll. Please read through these reports.
3. **Submission of Questions for ACM (By 6 September):** Members who have questions and who will be present for the ACM meeting can submit questions for the ACM by email to [session@bpcwa.org.au](mailto:session@bpcwa.org.au) by 6th September. Instead of having AOB on the agenda, this process allows sufficient time for Session to prepare and check on any necessary information prior to responding to your pre-submitted questions fully and accurately. This helps us to have a more fruitful and focussed meeting.
4. **Church Combined Fellowship (This Friday, 8 September, 7:30 pm):** What happened after Luther nailed the 95 Thesis on the church door? How did Protestantism begin and how did it spread? What did the Reformers believe that caused the big division in Christendom? Come and find out the questions to these and more, at the 2nd session of the lectures commemorating the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. Interpretation is available, so invite your family and friends to come to learn together.
5. **Evangelism Training & City Evangelism (This Saturday, 9 September, 1:30 pm):** Evangelism Training Workshop will be held this Saturday to learn how to evangelise to friends, family and strangers. We will go out to the city for City Evangelism straight after the Evangelism Training Workshop. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Interpretation will be available.
6. **Husbands and Fathers Fellowship (Next Sunday, 10 September, 3:30 pm):** Pastor will continue to teach from Eph 5:25-26 on both the spiritual and the practical aspects of husbands loving their wives. We encourage all husbands and fathers to attend and learn God's Word together.

7. **Trusteeship:** In accordance with Article 20.5 of our Constitution, notice is given regarding the proposal to appoint Pastor Joseph Poon as one of the trustees of BPCWA at the upcoming ACM.
8. **Sunday Worship Service (Sunday, 17 September, 9:00 am):** In view of the ACM to be held later that day, Worship Service will begin at 9 am instead of 10 am. All members are required to attend the Triennial Elections and ACM which will be held after the Worship Service. Lunch will be served after the ACM.
9. **September 30in30:** If you have not collected your packs or would still like to register, please do so in the fellowship hall. Updates from the outreach can be found at [www.sept30in30.com](http://www.sept30in30.com).

#### 10. **Thanksgiving and Prayer Items:**

- Thank God for His guiding Hand over the Session meeting last Saturday. Pray for God's continued watch over the preparations for the Annual Congregational Meeting.
- Thank God for the sisters who came to learn God's Word together at Adelphi. Pray that they will continue to grow in the new series of study.
- Thank God for His help in the 1st session on the series on the Protestant Reformation. Pray that many will continue to come and learn the many lessons from this important event in church history. Pray for messages to strengthen BPCWA and every worshipper to continue in the spirit of the Reformation.
- Pray for the Evangelism training and City Evangelism that we will continue to bring the light of the Gospel to the people here in Perth. Pray for worshippers to use Sept 30in30 to speak to others about the Word of Life.
- Pray for the preparation of hearts and lives for those standing for election into Session. Pray for God fearing leaders that will uphold and defend the faith in the unity of truth at BPCWA, and live godly lives as examples.
- Pray for BPCWA to continue to serve God in truth, with unity of spirit and fervent hearts. Pray for physical and spiritual protection from evil.
- Pray for Yew Jinn to be able to complete his assignments well during the one week semester break at Far Eastern Bible College. Pray for the online students to catch up with their learning as well.

SERVICE DUTY	3/9 COMBINED - Holy Communion	10/9 COMBINED
Speaker/Interpreter	Pastor Joseph Poon/Kong Vui Yip	Pastor Joseph Poon/Kong Vui Yip
Worship Leader/Interpreter	Deacon Joel Wong/Kong Vui Yip	Deacon Adrian Cheng/Deacon Joel Wong
Preparatory Hymn	Jason Tey	Claude Yiu
Musician(s)	Sharon Poon	Karen Ee
Welcomers (Foyer)	Claude Yiu, Esther Yiu, Ellainne Cheng	Colin Tey, May Chee Tey, Yi Choong Liew
Offering Stewards *To Help Count Offering	*Claude Yiu, *Jason Tey, Edward Ee Pei Shion Chai, Benjamin Kan Mark Heath	*Yi Choong Liew, *Eddie Foo, Claude Yiu Caleb Cheng, Kenny Chia Alex Luu
Ushers (Sanctuary)	Edward Ee, Nancy Chai, Vincent Naing	Kenny Tan, Yi Mey Tan, Jay-son Lim
P.A. System	Yi Choong Liew	Albert Ho
Kitchen Duties	Yi Min Chieng, Phyllis Voun Shuin Ning Jong, Yi Jye Chieng Valerie Wan	Yung Tsing Mew, Andy Ho Lee Fung Fong, Ming Ming Th'ng Xuan Rui Yong
Transport	Allan Ang (0433 032 709) / Eugene Leong (0401 155 386)	

### Nursing Home Ministry

Subiaco	Pastor Joseph Poon (Sharon Poon)	Colin Tey (Benjamin Kan)
South Perth	A: Mark Heath      B: Allan Ang	A: Kenny Tan      B: Caleb Cheng
Berrington	Pastor Joseph Poon (Sharon Poon)	Kenny Tan (Hannah Th'ng)
Bull Creek	Mark Heath	Allan Ang

### APPOINTMENTS FOR TODAY AND THE WEEK

Tuesday	5/9	10:00 pm	Mandarin Bible Study
		7:30 pm	Prayer Meeting: Pastor Joseph Poon/Kong Vui Yip, Deacon Joel Wong, Hannah Th'ng
Wednesday	6/9	7:30 pm	Far Eastern Bible College Online Courses: Recess
Friday	8/9	7:30 pm	Combined Fellowship: The Spirit and Men of the 1517 Protestant Reformation
Saturday	9/9	1:30 pm	Evangelism Training & City Evangelism
Sunday	10/9	8:30 am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting
		9:00 am	Mandarin Sunday School/English Basic Bible Knowledge Class
		10:00 am	Sunday Combined Worship Service
		12:30 pm	Teens Q and A
		2:00 pm	Nursing Home: Concorde – 25 Anstey Street, South Perth Onslow Gardens – 39 Hamersley Road, Subiaco
		3:30 pm	Nursing Home: Berrington, Subiaco – 45 Bishop St, Jolimont Bull Creek – RAAFA Memorial Estate, 2 Bull Creek Drive, Bull Creek WA 6149 Husbands and Fathers Fellowship

### ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS (27/8)

Attendance: 192 (Combined-163; JSS-29); Prayer Meeting: 76

Offerings in Total: \$6,987.80; General Fund: \$6,987.80 (#4300-Men and Ladies Fellowship-\$53.00; #4301-\$200.70; #4302-\$116.00; #4303-\$95.00; #4304-Library-\$20.00; #4305-\$144.20)

**SHORTER CATECHISM: What is faith in Jesus Christ?** Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, (Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 4:16) whereby we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation, as he is offered to us in the gospel. (John 20:30-31; Galatians 2:15-16; Philippians 3:3-11)