



BIBLE-PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF W.A.

For the Testimony and Glory of Jesus Christ

September 2nd, 2018

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/Deacon Eugene Leong
The Lord Is in His Holy Temple 1

Call to Worship Deacon Adrian Cheng/Deacon Joel Wong
*Hymn **HOP 5** The God of Abraham Praise

*Invocation/Gloria Patri 2
Responsive Reading Proverbs 12:10-16

Holy Communion [Deacon Adrian Cheng, Deacon Eugene Leong, Deacon Joel 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 5:11-13

Hymn **HOP 305** Hold the Fort

Pastoral Prayer/Message Pastor Joseph Poon/Yew Jinn Chieng

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.

Reprove Unfruitful Works

*Hymn **HOP 309** Yield Not to Temptation

*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, be gracious, The Lord be gracious, gracious unto you. Amen.



THEME FOR 2018:

"...what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul," (Deuteronomy 10:12)

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PASTORAL LETTER

Constitution Amendments

Dear BPCWAians, The Annual Congregational Meeting (ACM) is an important event in the church calendar, and members should mark this in their calendars and attend the meeting. Today, members will collect the Annual Congregational Report and the Agenda for our ACM which will be held later this month on the 16th. The respective fellowship and ministry reports are provided to give all members an update of what has been done over the past year and how you can support these activities. Do remember that these write ups are to inform you of the church's activities in the past year and also to update you on what are some of the ministries' focus so that you will come and attend them. Importantly, these reports also highlight the challenges that you can support in prayer. As such, all members must take the time to read through them. You will also notice that there is an item in the agenda of the ACM proposing to make amendments to our church's Constitution. What are these changes and why are we proposing an amendment?

Trusteeship is no longer essential as an Incorporated Association. The matter of trusteeship was brought up during the last ACM (see ACM minutes, page 9). The purpose of this change is to ensure that there will be no necessity to transfer any church funds or properties into personal accounts of the trustee and to continue to ensure that no one can make decisions on church properties and possessions on their own. Trustees are individuals appointed to act on behalf of the church in event of acquisition (Article 20.1) of property. Associations can be incorporated, or unincorporated. An unincorporated association is not a separate legal entity. It is simply a group of people who come together to pursue a common purpose. Since unincorporated associations cannot make contracts, own land, or hold assets, trustees are appointed to hold assets for the unincorporated association. Hence, trustees are people who are thoroughly familiar with the association's matters and closely involved in the ongoing running of the association. This is because they must have an up to date knowledge of the association in order to act in the relevant interest of the association.

BPCWA was registered as an incorporated association on the 22nd July 1986. As an incorporated association, this means that BPCWA is a legal entity (like a “person”) that can buy and hold assets on its own without needing it to be held under an individual’s (ie, trustee’s) name. This means that all of the church’s properties and assets are under BPCWA’s name, not a church member’s name. And this has been the case since then. So as a legal entity, the guiding principles for buying and holding property will be determined by the Articles of our Constitution. As an incorporated association, there is no necessity for BPCWA to have this function performed by individuals acting as trustees. Hence, it is our recommendation that the section on trustees (Article 20) be removed from our constitution as it is better for BPCWA itself (as a legal “person”) to administer our own property, rather than to have trustees act on our behalf in such matters.

In a later clause in our current Constitution, in event of dissolution, remaining funds of the Church are actually “given or transferred to the trustees” (Article 27.2) to manage. Since these trustees are individuals, it means that these charity funds are managed in the trustees’ individual accounts until a final use for these funds is determined. Even with the best of intents, such a transfer lends itself to the risk of mixing charity and personal money together. Since we are an incorporated association, this is an unnecessary movement of funds and also lends itself to risks. In fact, this is a good reason why unincorporated associations often eventually move to be incorporated wherever possible. As an incorporated association, we believe that the best governance would be for the funds to continue to be kept under BPCWA’s name without the need for physical transfer of the funds to the personal accounts of trustees. This is the advantage of incorporated associations which makes trustees not essential. For incorporated associations, the management committee, which in our case will be the Board of Elders and Session, will be responsible to the association members. No funds or properties will ever need to be transferred to any of their personal accounts. Hence, our proposal is for these funds to be distributed by the Board of Elders (instead of the trustees) by removing trustees from our constitution. Please note that even for these changes, how the Board of Elders of BPCWA will distribute these funds (which will be out from BPCWA’s account, not their individual accounts) will be still be determined at a Congregational Meeting. As mentioned earlier, the final situation of this change is that no one can decide as they wish, and that there will be no necessity for funds to move out of BPCWA’s account in any situation.

BPCWA's management committee is appointed by the vote of our members every 3 years. The vote is a sign that the members trust these men to make decisions on their behalf. This must include a trust of them administrating the church and its possessions. That is why, for incorporated associations, it is critical that only men of good character and honesty are voted into the management committee. As members, you have control over this and must follow Biblical principles in voting, and not simply vote for them because of your relationships and friendships with them. While the Session is voted in triennially, this is not the case with trustees. There is no triennial election of trustees where members have control over their staying as trustees or not. You do not need trustees to watch over the management committee because you, as a member, are directly observing them and their actions and decisions every week and have direct voting rights, should any fail in their role according to Biblical and constitutional expectations of them.

Compliance with new government regulations. In addition to the above, we are proposing 4 amendments to our Constitution to comply with the Associations Incorporation Act 2015. 1) *Add BPCWA's Financial Year.* There is now a requirement to state "the day in each year on which the financial year of the incorporated association commences". For many years, it has been BPCWA's practice to begin our financial year on the 1st of July every year. Now that there is a need to state it in our Constitution, we are simply formalising the process by adding this statement. This change has no impact on our existing financial processes. 2) *State when the ACM will be held.* While there was a statement in our constitution as to when the ACM would be held, the month was actually blank. Five of our Annual Congregational Meetings over the recent past seven years have been held in September. Hence, we are proposing that future ACM's will be held in September. As far as viable, we do not hold ACM's during school holidays, as we wish to have a date that is convenient for most, if not all, members to attend since it is expected for members to do so. Even in the secular world, Annual Meetings are deemed to be important events. I hope that as church members, each of us will feel the same way and make our best efforts to be present at every Annual Congregational Meeting. 3 & 4) *Voting for Constitution amendments.* The Act requires a three-quarter majority vote before changes can be made to the Constitution. Since our current Constitution requires only a two-third majority, there is a need for us to change this, so that we are compliant with governmental requirements. This affects two Articles, namely 19.9 and 25.2, of our Constitution.

Since the Incorporations Act is already in force, all the above changes will only be passed if three-quarters of eligible members vote for these changes. We have discussed these revisions over several Session meetings, and we believe that they are changes that are in the interest of BPCWA and hope that every member will understand why these Constitutional amendments are being proposed.

Rom 13:1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

Yours in our Lord's service
Pastor

ANNOUNCEMENTS, PRAISE & PETITION

1. **Fathers 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. **Beyond Tracting (Today, after Worship):** Go beyond tracting and be more intentional with the Gospel. Participants can collect their packs today in the fellowship hall and those that have not registered can do so as well.
3. **Church Combined Fellowship (This Friday, 7 September, 7:30 pm):** "Biblical Separation – Good or Bad?". Biblical Separation brings about spiritual usefulness. Then why do some Christians even say that it is bad? What are some erroneous arguments against this doctrine? Are there right and wrong ways in its practices? How do I know how to decide? Come and learn and ask questions regarding this critical and often misunderstood subject.
4. **Chinese Care Group (This Saturday, 8 September, 10:30 am):** The meeting will be held in Church. We will continue with the series on the "Milk and Meat". Yew Jinn will be speaking on "Leaving the Milk Doctrines" taken from Hebrews 6:1. Kindly bring a dish to share over lunch after the meeting. All are welcome to attend and learn God's Word together.

5. **Husbands and Fathers Fellowship (Next Sunday, 9 September, 3:30 pm):** Pastor will continue to teach on how to honour our wives based on 1 Peter 3:7. All husbands and fathers are encouraged to come and learn God's Word together.
6. **Annual Congregational Meeting (Sunday, 16 September, 11:30 am):** Members please obtain a copy of the agenda and ACM reports from Deacon Adrian today. All members are required to attend the ACM which will be held after the Worship Service. Please note also that worship service will commence at 9 am that Sunday. Members who wish to submit questions for the ACM can email them to session@bpcwa.org.au by the 7 September.
7. **Baptisms, Affirmation of Faith and Membership Transfers (Sunday, 14 October, during Worship):** Those who have completed the full course of Basic Bible Knowledge and wish to be baptised, affirm their faith, or have their memberships transferred to BPCWA can collect a copy of the necessary forms from Deacon Joel. To facilitate the arrangements for interview by the Board of Elders, completed forms, together with their testimonies, must be submitted to Deacon Joel by Sunday, 9 September.
8. **Thanksgiving and Prayer Items:**
 - Thank God for His faithful and gracious provision for His church and our daily needs.
 - Pray for Church Combined Fellowship this Friday to continue to strengthen all worshippers' conviction on the importance and need for everyone to practice Biblical Separation.
 - Pray for preparations for and discussions at the Annual Congregational Meeting, bringing praise God for His continued guidance and preservation, and the privilege to be part of His work here.
 - Pray that Beyond Tracting will encourage every Christian to be ambassadors for Christ in seeking out the lost through personal evangelism.
 - Pray for wisdom in the next steps of the Church Extension Project, and that worshippers will return to the Lord for this work through giving to the Building Fund.
 - Pray for those who are seeking God's will regarding choices in life to put His Kingdom first.

SERVICE DUTY	2/9 COMBINED - Holy Communion	9/9 COMBINED
Speaker/Interpreter	Pastor Joseph Poon/Yew Jinn Chieng	Pastor Joseph Poon/Sonny Lim
Worship Leader/Interpreter	Deacon Adrian Cheng/Deacon Joel Wong	Deacon Eugene Leong/Yew Jinn Chieng
Preparatory Hymn	Deacon Eugene Leong	Deacon Joel Wong
Musician(s)	Sharon Poon	Winnie Lim
Welcomers	Kenny Tan, Carol Wee, Albert Ho	Jonathan Woo, Bonnie Woo, Yi Choong Liew
Offering Stewards	Claude Yiu, Edward Ee, Colin Chng Pei Shion Chai, Stephen Chia, Wei Yan	Terry Chong, Allan Ang, Caleb Cheng Eddie Foo, Kenny Tan, Yi Choong Liew
Ushers	Yi Choong Liew, Ellainne Liew, Edward Ee	Kenny Tan, Yi Mey Tan, Nancy Chai
Audio Visual	Kenny Chia	Soo Jin Kang
Kitchen Duties	Lee Lian Yong, Victoria Lew Christine Chia, Mable Soon, Lee Chin Yong	Yung Tsing Mew, Andy Ho, Lisa Ho Ming Ming Th'ng, Xuan Rui Yong

APPOINTMENTS FOR TODAY AND THE WEEK

Tuesday	4/9	10:00 am	Chinese Bible Study
		7:30 pm	Prayer Meeting: Yew Jinn Chieng/Kong Vui Yip, Deacon Eugene Leong, Yung Tsing Mew
Friday	7/9	10:00 am	Mothers Fellowship: Genesis
		7:30 pm	Church Combined Fellowship
Saturday	8/9	10:30 am	Chinese Care Group
Sunday	9/9	8:30 am	Pre-Service Prayer Meeting
		9:00 am	English Basic Bible Knowledge Class/Chinese Basic Bible Knowledge Class
		10:00 am	Sunday Combined Worship Service
		12:30 pm	Teens Q and A
		2:00 pm	Nursing Home: Concorde/Onslow Gardens
		3:30 pm	Nursing Home: Berrington/Bull Creek Husbands and Fathers Fellowship

LAST WEEK'S ATTENDANCES & OFFERINGS

Attendances - Sunday Worship: 214 (Combined: 182; CSS: 32); Prayer Meeting: 81; Church Combined Fellowship: 104
Tithes and Offerings - Sunday Worship: \$7,267.30 (#4489: \$110.00; #4490: \$387.70; #4491: \$176.65); Church Combined Fellowship: \$602.60; Designated Love Gift (Benjamin Kan: \$400.00)
Building Fund - Last Week: \$4,530.00; To Date: \$91,053.29; Gap: \$1,208,946.71

WESTMINSTER CONFESSION OF FAITH - CHAPTER ONE: OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES

5. We may be moved and induced by the testimony of the Church to an high and reverend esteem of the Holy Scripture, and the heavenliness of the matter, the efficacy of the doctrine, the majesty of the style, the consent of all the parts, the scope of the whole (which is to give all glory to God), the full discovery it makes of the only way of man's salvation, the many other incomparable excellencies, and the entire perfection thereof, are arguments whereby it doth abundantly evidence itself to be the word of God; yet, notwithstanding, our full persuasion and assurance of the infallible truth, and divine authority thereof, is from the inward work of the Holy Spirit, bearing witness by and with the word in our hearts.

