



Date: 1st August 2022

Bishop's Circular 07/2022

Dear All,

A Blessed Trinity Season to you all!

1.0 Diocesan Assembly 2022

- 1.1 The Diocesan Assembly 2022 will be held on Friday 26th August 2022 at Christ Church Jinjang, Kuala Lumpur. The Vicar of the Host Church, Rev. Raymond Lai, has sent out invitations to all Clergy, Deaconesses and Lay Synod Reps, to indicate their attendance by completing an online Pre-Registration Google form. Invitations were also issued to the Diocesan Officers, Chairpersons of Diocesan Boards and Committees and co-opted Synod members.
- 1.2 Thanks to all of you who registered your attendance, and I would like to welcome you in advance to the Diocesan Assembly 2022. Although I may not be present physically at the Assembly, I will be joining via available online platforms for certain sections of the meeting.
- 1.3 The Diocesan Assembly acts as a follow-up to the three Regional Assemblies (Central & Eastern, Northern and Southern), to bring to a conclusion those matters that arose during the respective Regional Assemblies. Proposals to enhance ministry, administration and reporting will be discussed as well.
- 1.4 Some proposals were discussed during the Regional Assemblies and recommendations were made. We will be further discussing these matters during the Diocesan Assembly, and hope to bring them to a conclusion. The document "**Appendix 1: Recommendations of the Regional Assemblies**" is attached at the back of this Circular for your reference. As this Assembly is NOT a Synod Meeting, permanent decisions shall not be made. However, we will be able to determine the direction in which to move forward and prepare for the Synod Meeting in 2023.
- 1.5 The Google Feedback Form for the Recommendations of the Regional Assemblies can be accessed at the link below:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScxPQIDpi3lHD36y8QZv1DNjcgTWkSEzqEQaV_iOTRTXSRr5LA/viewform?usp=sf_link
- 1.6 Please take the Recommendations seriously. I would urge you to give your feedback using the Google Feedback Form, and submit to us by 15th August 2022, giving us ample time to process your feedback and comments. In this way, the discussion at the Diocesan Assembly will be better guided and our time more productively utilised. Priority will be given to those who have given feedback via the Google Feedback Form by the 15th August.



"Behold, I am making all things new"
Revelation 21:5



1.7 As mentioned in my previous circular (Bishop's Circular 06/2022, dated 21st July 2022), The Diocesan Clergy Handbook is being updated re-organised. The contents of this Handbook will be discussed more thoroughly during the Clergy & Deaconess Retreat that will be held just prior to the Diocesan Assembly. However, certain portions that are relevant to the General Body, such as administrative procedures, reporting and accounting policies, will be further discussed at the Assembly. The updated portions of the Diocesan Clergy Handbook will be made available via email in the first half of August. The corresponding Google Feedback Form will be circulated at the same time.

1.8 Agenda for the Diocesan Assembly 2022

The Agenda was prepared by the Diocesan Secretary and circulated to all the Clergy, Deaconesses, Synod Lay Reps and Synod delegates. It is also shared in this Bishop's Circular below:

9.30a.m. Registration at Christ Church, Jinjang, Kuala Lumpur

10.00a.m. Morning Prayer
Tributes

10.30a.m. **Session One**

- i) Church Planting**
(adopting the different models in the market)
- ii) Discipleship Training**
(AIM / TEE / ARM / other programmes)
- iii) Leadership Development**
(exposure / training programmes)
- iv) Vocation/ Full Time Ministry**
(programmes organised by the various language boards)
- v) Formation of English Ministry Board**
- vi) Campus Ministry / Chaplaincy for Schools**
- vii) Vestments and Anglican traditions**

12.30p.m. **i) Reports from the Diocesan Committees & Boards**
Discussion on proposals from the Ordination Committee)
(Highlights from Diocesan Committees / Boards)

1.00p.m. Lunch

2.00p.m. **Session Two**

- i) DSIC Proposals**
(Briefing on MOO/ data collection)
- ii) Administration Matters**
(Insurance / Constitution / Meeting Minutes & Accounts Statements/
Proposal to amalgamate the Middle Central & Upper Central Archdeaconries)



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- iii) **Accounts Matters**
(Accounting policies / Statement of Accounts as at 31.12.2021 / Budget 2023)
- iv) **Proposal to revert to have Annual Synod Meetings**
- v) **Safe Church**
- vi) **Responses from the Google Survey Forms**

4.00p.m. Any Other Business

4.30p.m. Thanksgiving Prayer / Evening Tea Fellowship

5.00p.m. Departure for Home

2.0 Google Feedback Form

- 2.1 If you have any comments or feedback for this circular, please fill up the Google Feedback form using the link below:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScvud1thHtJtAku4G8KSnIQB-MOV2BAaJXcLwQlhCTrgA3dZA/viewform?usp=sf_link

Veni Sancte Spiritus,



The Rt. Rev. Dr. D. Steven Abbarow
Bishop of West Malaysia



“Behold, I am making all things new”
Revelation 21:5



APPENDIX 1: RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLIES 2022

NO	RECOMMENDATIONS / PROPOSALS	BY
B.2	<p>Re-activate the Regional Protem Standing Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Regional Protem Standing Committee is a pre-cursor to the Area Diocese Standing Committee when the new Area Dioceses are formed. ➤ Establish Regional Boards & Campus Ministry & Other Chaplaincy Works ➤ Southern Region have already appointed Ministry key persons, e.g. Children’s Ministry, Women’s Ministry, etc. The key persons are mainly from SA and some from LCA, ➤ None of the Ministry key persons of the Southern Regional Board are from MCA thus further demonstrates the disconnect of MCA from the Southern Region 	Bsp. Jason Selvaraj
B.3	<p>Should we set up the English Language Board?</p> <p>YES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Language board is good for ministry (Chinese, Tamil, BM, Iban) . English speaking churches do not have a platform – struggling ➤ English Board will help focus the ministries carried out in English. We will know where and who to seek help for the specific ministry <p>NO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Shortage of clergy ➤ The Diocese can be considered as the English Board – complete structure and committees <p>GENERALLY NO OBJECTIONS. MORE THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION NEEDED</p>	<p>Mr. David Joseph</p> <p>Ven. Stephen Chan</p> <p>Rev. Eric Chan</p> <p>Dss. Ann Balasingam</p>
B.4	<p>Position of Lay Pastor (LP) – retain or remove?</p> <p>RETAIN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Need is still there ➤ Let the existing LP continue, but if there is no need, then don’t renew the license and stop licensing new ones ➤ The Title LP makes the person feel his responsibility to serve and work in the kingdom of God. Most have their own jobs and businesses, so no need to be paid by the church. ➤ The Chinese terms for Priest, LP and Lay Reader are quite different and the Chinese congregation will not be confused. <p>REMOVE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Should encourage more Lay Readers instead ➤ The term “Pastor” causes confusion and can mislead the people; we should use a different title or term. ➤ We should strengthen the office of Lay Reader. <p>MORE THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION NEEDED</p>	<p>Mr. David Chai</p> <p>Ms. Lydia Wong</p> <p>Mr. Lee Wai Kong</p> <p>Ven. Stephen Chan</p> <p>Mr. Lim Boon Kheng</p> <p>Rev. Eric Chan</p> <p>Rev. Issac Pandian</p>

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B.5	<p>Should the Synod Meeting revert to previous practice of ANNUAL meetings instead of every 2 years (started in 2019)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Long gap between meetings weakens the lay participation and contribution ➤ Many events occur within the 2 years ➤ Refresh and renew the bonds of fellowship <p>VOTE BY SHOW OF HANDS Retain once in 2 years: 27 Revert to every year: 20</p> <p>TO BE DISCUSSED AT DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY – FINAL DECISION LIES WITH DIOCESAN BISHOP</p>	Mr David Joseph on behalf of Mr Nanda Goban
B.6	<p>Vocation – how to get more people involved in full-time ministry?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Tamil Board holds Vocation Camp for identified young people; follow-up with the Pastor; encourage to join 2-for-Christ; some of them proceeded to go to STM ➤ Hold regional youth camp; encourage identified potential leaders to join the youth camp ➤ Look for young people to join discipleship training, e.g. ASOD, 2-for-Christ, AIM ➤ Let older people also be trained and join ministry. Don't just focus on young people only. ➤ 2-for-Christ is a good program, stepping stone to entering STM. Clergy has to guide them in every aspect. 	Rev. Issac Pandian Rev. Juining Babia Rev. Paul Khoo Mr. Lim Boon Kheng Ven. Stephen Chan
C	From Northern Regional Assembly (7 May 2022)	
C.1	<p>MOO (Ministry Operational Objectives) Survey</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Set a date for submission of data for MOO Survey. ➤ Develop an app to link the whole diocese at clergy and laity level ➤ Raise the status of evangelists so they will have the same respect and benefits of clergy ➤ Train full time social workers for social ministry rather than using priests alone 	Rev. Victor Arputham Rev. Soon Jun Jer
C.2	<p>Sekolah Alkitab Malaysia (SAM)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Running for 15 years, from 4 training centres in Penang, Ipoh, Kuala Lumpur and Johor Bahru. (Dss Dr Tan Swee Bee is in charge). Penang and JB have been inactive for the past few years ➤ From these 4 centres, 2 candidates have been ordained and 1 is a deaconess. ➤ Out of the 8 diplomas, 4 are pursuing degrees in STM and hope to get LOM ➤ CONSIDER RE-ORGANISING THE 4 CENTRES. 	Canon Dr. SK Teoh

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C.3	<p>Should we set up the English Language Board?</p> <p>YES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Compare progress made by other language churches; with coordination and support of the respective language board, there is more progress and growth ➤ Not only for rural but also for urban churches. Urban churches have different challenges – mainly outflow from Anglican to non-Anglican churches ➤ English Board can evaluate and plan for the English-speaking churches. ➤ Standardize the system for betterment of English-speaking churches which need help <p>NO</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ If English Board is formed, then there is no need for Diocesan Boards/ Committees which are basically “English Board”. English Board will only cater for English-speaking churches. ➤ The Diocesan Boards are already run in English and by members of English-speaking churches ➤ The English-speaking churches must constitute their English Youth Board, Women’s Board, Golden Circle Board, Children’s Board etc. Presently these are automatically Diocesan Boards. ➤ Tread with caution ➤ The Anglican Constitution may need to be changed, if we want to establish an English Language Board ➤ Better to have a Diocesan English Committee, <p>MORE THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION NEEDED</p> <p>Consider also OA Committee, to serve the Orang Asal IndigenHous people, and should be separate entity from BM Board.</p> <p>FURTHER THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION NEEDED</p>	<p>Rev. Tom Cherian</p> <p>Ven. John Kennady</p> <p>Rev. Victor Arputham</p> <p>Bsp. Moon Hing</p> <p>Bsp. Charles Samuel</p> <p>Rev. Jacob Bau</p>
C.4	<p>How to increase full time workers?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There is no concerted intention in Church Planting and Discipleship ➤ Anglican School of Disciple (ASOD by Chinese Board) and 2-for-Christ were developed to raise more workers ➤ Each church should intentionally target to send 1 person for full-time ministry per year. ➤ Have road show for In Campus Exposure (ICE) to encourage our youths/school leavers to experience seminary life for a few weeks. ➤ Deaconesses should be equally respected as their roles have evolved. They now have increased responsibilities and work independently. ➤ Suggest to extend retirement age to 70 and at the same time train new young leaders. 	<p>Bsp. Ng Moon Hing</p> <p>Rev. Steven Raj</p> <p>Dss. Puspathai Rani</p> <p>Rev. Victor Arputham</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Each church should target to send 1 person for full time ministry every 4 years. ➤ Have intentional mentorship – bring younger members (under 40) into committees for experience. ➤ Diocese has many LOM but they are not subject to transfer. Produce more full-time workers that can be mobilized to church plant locations. <p>MORE THOUGHT AND DISCUSSION NEEDED</p>	<p>Bsp. Stephen Soe</p> <p>Rev. Frank Lin</p> <p>Rev. Jacob Bau</p>
C.5	<p>Vesture of ordained and authorized ministers during divine service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Should wear appropriate vestment based on environment. ➤ More important how we present ourselves. ➤ Should have some flexibility within agreed guidelines. ➤ For online service, use cassock and cross. For onsite Holy Communion service, use stole as well ➤ If standard cassock is too warm, suggest to custom make your own using lighter/cooler material. <p>TO DISCUSS AT DIOCESAN ASSEMBLY. DIOCESAN BISHOP TO MAKE FINAL DECISION ON VESTMENTS</p>	<p>Mr. Daniel Soon</p> <p>Rev. Tom Cherian</p> <p>Rev. Stephen Vello</p> <p>Bsp. Stephen Soe</p>

The Google Feedback Form for the “Recommendations of the Regional Assemblies” can be accessed at the link below (also given in item 1.5 of this Circular) :

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScxPQIDpi3lHD36y8QZv1DNjcgTWkSEzqEQaVjOTRTXSRr5LA/viewform?usp=sf_link

-End of Appendix 1-