



新加坡长老会伯特利堂
BETHEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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BETHEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (BPC)

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN SINGAPORE

2020 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING (ACM)

Frequently Asked Questions

FAQ 1. Why can't we conduct our ACM when we physically return to Bethel?

Ans.: In the near future, we do not know when the government will advise physical return to a place of worship. ACM has to be conducted to fulfil the accountability of the church leadership to the congregation and also to the nation. Conducting ACM anytime beyond 30th September 2020 will require the approval from our Communicant Members. On 7th of June, EDC has deliberated and approved for the holding of eACM on 25th of July 2020.

FAQ 2. How do I know if I am an Active Communicant Member of BPC?

Ans.: In our Constitution under 5.2.4 "Application and Qualifications for Communicant Member", the member would have taken part in a service of baptism, confirmation or transfer of membership, as the case may be. In Constitution under Section 5.4 "Rights of Communicant Members", Communicant Members above the age of 21 will have the right to nominate, vote and be elected to office in BPC.

As a rule of thumb, i) members who are above the age of 21; ii) being baptised, confirmed or transferred membership to BPC; iii) and in good faith, have been an active worshipper in Bethel for the last 12 months, are deemed Active Communicant Members eligible for participating at this eACM.

Pertaining to Overseas Communicant Members who are above 21 years of age, they are considered active if they have been onsite and online worships in the past one year. During this period of time, consider if the member has gathered in onsite or online fellowship & CG with us. A combination of the above are worthy to be deliberated by the service working committee, whether or not the member qualifies as an Active Communicant. In the church of Post Covid-19 era, this could be the new norm in defining "Active Communicant Member".

Worshippers amongst us are welcome to join us as observers without rights to proxy, vote and query.

FAQ 3. What is a proxy instrument?

Ans.: BPC Constitution does not allow for proxy. But, due to social distancing as a countering measure against Covid-19, Ministry of Law enacted a temporary measure Act to allow for



proxy. The proxy instrument allows the members of the charity, in our case BPC, to appoint the Chairperson of the ACM to attend, speak and vote for the member at eACM.

FAQ 4. What happens if I do not submit my proxy?

Ans.: By not submitting the proxy, it does not affect your membership status in BPC. That being said, we encourage our members to discharge their duties by understanding and holding BPC accountable for what has been done and is planning to do. It is critical to fulfil quorum of 150 for eACM to be recognised. If proxy is not submitted, quorum may be affected and potentially holding eACM a week later.

FAQ 5. Can I not submit the proxy instrument but vote personally at the eACM?

Ans.: In the Alternative Arrangement Section 6 of Temporary Measure Act, it is stated that “A member may not vote at the meeting otherwise than by way of appointing the chairman of the meeting as the member’s proxy.” This excludes voting by any means at the eACM.

FAQ 6. What if I do not have an email address?

Ans.: In the Alternative Arrangement Section 8(a) of Temporary Measure Act, it requires registered societies to communicate with members through email and website. You may set a new email address to communicate with BPC. You may adopt the email address of your family and trusted friends as a conduit for the information flowing from BPC and Chinese Presbytery (CP) to you. You may contact the administrator of your congregation for more information. We understand that you may not be able to do so after exhausting all possible avenues. As a Communicant Member, you are still welcome to attend the eACM.

FAQ 7. Can my family members consolidate in one email and communicate with BPC?

Ans.: A family may have active communicant members from the **same** congregation in BPC. The assigned contact person of the family can send the required personal particulars of all family members to the unique email address of the congregation. A name list of the congregation is built over time and will be used for identification and verification later. Through the same family email, the completed and signed proxy of every individual member can be sent to the unique congregational email. The administrator should receive the same number of proxy forms based on the number of active communicant members in the family.

A family may have active communicant members from **different** congregations in BPC. The assigned contact person of the family can perform the same tasks as described above. The difference is to communicate with the administrator of the appropriate congregations. In other words, the contact person sends the personal particulars of the family members to the



congregation where he or she was baptised, confirmed or transferred to. The assigned contact person of the family should also send the completed and signed proxy forms to respective congregations. As a result, administrator of different congregations may find a common email address of the assigned contact person appearing in their lists.

For some reasons, if the assigned contact person of the family mistakenly sends the proxy forms to the wrong congregation, our vigilant administrators are tasked to verify all the proxy forms anyway. The administrators will transfer the proxy forms to the relevant congregational administrator for processing. Their diligence will minimise the possibility of mistaken grouping. Your careful cooperation is sincerely requested.

FAQ 8. What can I do if I have never log onto a Zoom platform?

Ans.: You may want to download the Zoom apps onto your preferred electronic platform, either your computer or your mobile hand phone. Alternatively, you may contact the administrator of your congregation for more information and assistance. During the eACM, a hotline is set up to assist members who may face technical issues logging on.

FAQ 9. What can I do if I have queries on the reports?

Ans.: You may use the same congregation specific email to post your questions. The cut-off date is 11th July 2020. You may call the administrator to post your questions and seek assistance. If the questions are beyond the administrators, they will refer the questions to the moderator for follow up. Should your questions be deemed necessary to amend the resolution or be brought up during the eACM, moderator will do so with the agreement from EDC. Questions raised, and along with fitting replies, may be made available at our website.

FAQ 10. What if I want to raise questions at the eACM?

Ans.: In the Alternative Arrangement Section 4 of Temporary Measure Act, any matter that “is substantial and relevant and sent within a reasonable time before the meeting, is to be responded to at or before the meeting by electronic means”. As much as possible, we urge our members to read the reports and pray for us. Any questions resulting constructive consequences are welcome. We encourage members to raise them early and submit to BPC before 11th July 2020, so that relevant parties can respond dutifully. However, if questions are to be raised during the eACM, albeit with an inherent, ever-present technical difficulty, we will still try our best to respond appropriately.

FAQ 11. What happens if I could not attend the eACM?



Ans.: We will miss you. We understand that unplanned matters do get into our way, making adjustment necessary to our schedule. However, the proxy you have submitted are still counted towards the quorum and voting. In essence, the eACM will continue and your votes are accounted for. Nevertheless, we want to strongly encourage our members to attend the inaugural eACM of our life time. We may not know for sure whether this will set a precedence for future eACM, but we can gather in His name for His kingdom.

FAQ 12. What if the day of General Election (GE) occurs on the same day?

Ans.: It has been widely speculated that GE may fall on the 25th of July 2020, the same day as our eACM. The voting for GE may take place over a certain time period of the day. BPC eACM will continue as planned. Members can stagger their timing to fulfil both obligations.

FAQ 13. Why is there 1 set of email for eACM and EDC election, and another addressed to Chinese Presbytery (CP) for Associate Minister Election?

Ans.: The additional email received from CP is specific to the Associate Minister election of Pr Xie Weiguang. In a physical setting, the usual practise of such an election is conducted by the representatives of CP Executive Committee (CP Exco). Due to the unusual current circumstances, proxy instrument is adopted instead, similar to how BPC eACM is conducted. Only and solely CP Exco representatives will account for the quorum and voting for the election of Associate Minister.

FAQ 14. How long will the eACM take?

Ans.: Most of the contents in the various reports will not be read out. An overview may be given, instead. Quorum and voting results to the resolutions and elections will be announced. Important questions, if any, may be replied at eACM. Don't be surprised if it turns out to be the shortest ACM you have attended in BPC. Notwithstanding the fact that all the hard work is done leading up to our first eACM.



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长老会伯特利堂（简称‘堂会’）

新加坡长老大会

2020 年堂会年议会

常见问题解答：

问题（一）：为什么我们不能等到恢复实体崇拜时才召开堂会年议会？

答：短期内，我们不知道政府什么时候会指示恢复实体崇拜。我们务必召开堂会年议会，以履行教会领导层对教会和国家的责任。若在 2020 年 9 月 30 日之后召开堂会年议会，则需获得洁名会友的同意。长执会于 6 月 7 日议决于 2020 年 7 月 25 日召开堂会年议会。

问题（二）：我如何确定我是长老会伯特利的活跃洁名会友？

答：根据堂会法规第 5.2.4.项里的“洁名会友的申请和资格”，会友须参与洗礼、坚信礼和移民会。堂会法规第 5.4.项里的“洁名会友的权力”指明，凡超过 21 岁的洁名会友都有权力提名、投票和被选担任堂会长执会的职位。

总原则：i) 会友超过 21 岁；ii) 于伯特利受洗、坚信或是转会至长老会伯特利堂；iii) 过去 12 个月里活跃参与堂会崇拜，皆可视为活跃会友，并有资格参与此堂会年议会。

关于 21 岁以上的海外洁名会友，若在过去一年里参与实体或是线上崇拜，皆可被视为活跃会友。在此特殊期间，可考虑会友是否与参与我们的实体或是线上团契及堂会的小组聚会。上述因素的组合都由崇拜事工委员会审议可否视此会友为活跃会友。在后新冠疫情的教会中，这可能是定义“活跃洁名会友”的新常态。

我们欢迎本堂的敬拜者列席观察，但他们没有权力代理、投票和发言。

问题（三）：什么是代理表格？

答：堂会法规不允准代理。然而，由于社交距离作为新冠疫情的安全防范，新加坡律政部颁布了一项临时措施法案，允许委任代理。慈善机构的成员（在我们的例子既为长老会伯特利堂）通过代理表格委任会议主席出席会议、发言和代表该会友投票。



问题（四）：如果我不提交代理表格，会发生什么情况？

答：不提交代理表格，不会影响您身为堂会的会友资格。话虽如此，我们鼓励会友履行其职责，理解并对堂会已完成和计划的事工问责。堂会须达到 150 人的法定人数，方能召开堂会年议会。这一点至关重要。若不提交代理表格，法定人数可能受到影响，并可能延后一周后才召开堂会年议会。

问题（五）：我是否可以不提交代理表格，而是亲身在堂会年议会上投票？

答：您必须提交代理表格。根据(临时措施)(替代安排)法案的第 6 项中，规定"成员不得在会上投票，但可委任会议主席为成员的代理人。除此之外，会友不能以任何其他方式在会上进行投票。

问题（六）：如果我没有电子邮件的帐户，该怎么办？

答：根据(临时措施)(替代安排)法案的第 8(a) 项中，要求注册社团通过电子邮件和网站与成员沟通。您可以设置新的电子邮件地址，以便与长老会伯特利堂通信。您可以采用您家人或可信赖朋友的电子邮件地址，作为从长老会伯特利堂和长老会华文中会传递给您的信息渠道。有关信息的详情，您可联系所属的崇拜行政同工。我们理解，在用尽所有可能的途径后，您可能无法这样做。我们仍欢迎您参加-堂会年议会。

问题（七）：我的家庭成员能否共用一个电子邮件与长老会伯特利堂沟通？

答：一个家庭可能有来自堂会 同一个 崇拜会的活跃会友。家庭指定的联系人可将所有家庭成员的个人资料发送到所属崇拜的个别电子邮件地址。该崇拜的会友名单随着时间构建，稍后将用于识别和验证。通过同一家庭电子邮件，每个会友已完成和签名的代理表格可发送到该崇拜会的电子邮件地址。行政同工应根据家中活跃成员的人数，接收相同数量的代理表格。

一个家庭可能有来自堂会 不同 崇拜会的活跃会友。家庭的指定联系人可以执行上述相同的任务。区别在于与各属的崇拜行政同工沟通。换言之，指定联系人将家庭成员的个人资料发送给该成员所受洗、坚信或转移的崇拜会。指定的联系人还应将已完成并签名的代理表格发送给各成员所属的崇拜会。因此，不同崇拜会的行政同工可能会在名单上发现联系人的电子邮件地址重复出现。

如果基于某种因素家庭的指定联系人错误地将代理表格发送到错误的崇拜会，我们的行政同工会细心验证所有的代理表格。并将代理表格转交给相关的崇拜行政同工处理。他们将竭尽所能减少失误的可能性。在此恳请您给予通力的合作。



问题（八）：如果我从未登录 Zoom 会议平台，该怎么办？

答：您可以下载 Zoom 应用程序到您首选的电子平台上如电脑或手机。或者，您也可以联络您所属崇拜的行政同工，了解更多讯息和寻求协助。会议进行间，我们将设立热线，以帮助面临技术问题的会友登录。

问题（九）：如果我对报告有疑问，该怎么办？

答：您可以使用您所属的崇拜特定的电子邮件来提交问题。截止日期为 2020 年 7 月 11 日。您也可以拨电给行政同工提问并寻求协助。如果问题超出了行政同工的范围，他们会将问题提交给主理牧师跟进。如果您的询问关系到要修改决议或在会议上提出，主理牧师将在长执会的同意下提出。预先提出的问题以及适当的答复将会发布在本堂的网站。

问题（十）：如果我想在堂会年议会上提出问题，该怎么办？

答：在(临时措施)(替代安排)法案的第 4 项中，"任何实质性和相关的事项，并在会议前的合理时间内发送，应在会议之前以电子方式给予答复"。我们吁请会友尽其所能阅读附上的报告，并为我们祷告。我们欢迎任何有建设性的问题。我们鼓励会友及早提出问题，并于 2020 年 7 月 11 日前向堂会提交，以便负责人能够尽职地作出回应。然而，如果要在会议上提出问题，尽管存在固有的技术挑战，我们仍将尽力作出适当回应。

问题（十一）：如果我无法参加堂会年议会，该怎么办？

答：我们会想念你。我们理解意料之外的事会发生，并影响您们的日程安排。不过，您先前提交的代理表格仍会纳入法定人数和投票计算。本质上，堂会年议会将继续进行，您的投票将被计入。不过，我们大力鼓励我们的会友参加我们毕生首次的电子堂会年议会。我们不确定这是否会为未来的堂会年议会设定先例，但我们可以奉主的名为祂的国度聚集。

问题（十二）：如果全国大选在同一天举行，怎么办？

答：外界猜测全国大选日期可能在 2020 年 7 月 25 日举行，即与我们的堂会年议会同一天。全国大选的投票可能在当天的某一时段进行。我们的堂会年议会将继续按计划进行。会友可以错开时间履行此两个义务。



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问题（十三）：为什么有 1 封电子邮件用于电子堂会年议会和长执选举，而另一封电邮是要发送给华文中会的同理牧师选举？

答：另外一个由华文中会发送的电邮，事关谢伟光传道的同理牧师选举。在以往实体崇拜情况下，此选举是由华文中会常委会的代表主持。基于目前的特殊情况，我们采用代理表格，类似于长老会伯特利堂的年议会的方式。同理牧师选举由华文中会代表全权负责法定人数和同理牧师选举之投票。

问题（十四）：堂会年议会需要多长时间？

答：会议里不会宣读各报告中的大部分内容。我们将提供报告概要。会议将公布决议和投票结果。会议也将回复重要的问题。如果此会议是您在长老会伯特利堂有史以来最短的年议会，请不要感到惊讶。那是因为会前做足了艰辛的筹备工作，促使长老会伯特利堂第一次的堂会年议会能顺利进行。