

Bethel Presbyterian Church 2023 Ministry Report

Organization Identification Number: T12SS0064B

Registered Address: 12 Jalan Lateh, Singapore 359110

Church Board: The Church Board of Elders and Deacons Court consists of Ministers, Elders and Deacons, elected, and appointed annually in accordance with Bethel Presbyterian Church's Constitution. The members of the Board of Elders and Deacons are as follows:

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|-----|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. | Rev Lim Tau Wei | Moderator |
| 2. | Dn Tan Hui Fern | Hon Secretary |
| 3. | Dn Ng Teck Hui | Hon Asst. Secretary |
| 4. | Dn Alex Lim | Hon Treasurer |
| 5. | Dn Sylvia Koh | Hon Asst. Treasurer |
| 6. | Rev Carol Ling | Member |
| 7. | Rev William Heng | " |
| 8. | Rev Eugene Yeo | " |
| 9. | Rev Tan Mui Kiang | " |
| 10. | Rev Xie Wei Guang | " |
| 11. | Rev Andrea Ong | " |
| 12. | Eld Andrew Tan | " |
| 13. | Eld Lee Shee Koeng | " |
| 14. | Eld Wong Soon Fen | " |
| 15. | Eld Matthew Fong | " |
| 16. | Eld Ng Keok Boon | " |
| 17. | Eld Quek Swee Kiang | " |
| 18. | Eld Goh Poo Seng | " |
| 19. | Dn Sherina Low | " |
| 20. | Dn Roger Tan | " |
| 21. | Dn Felicia Poh | " |
| 22. | Dn Ko Hui Yun | " |
| 23. | Dn Samantha Tan | " |
| 24. | Dn Michelle Hua | " |

Trustees: We have entrusted to Trustee Presbyterian Church Registered (TPCSR) as our corporate trustee. A resolution supporting it was passed at the ACM 2015.

Church Bank Account: Development Bank of Singapore

Auditor: SS Ang & Co Certified Public Accountants

Office Staff:

- a. Senior Pastor: Rev Lim Tau Wei
- b. Associate Pastors: Rev Carol Ling
Rev William Heng (Part-time)
Rev Eugene Yeo (Unpaid leave)
Rev Tan Mui Kiang
Rev Xie Wei Guang
Rev Andrea Ong
- c. Honorary Pastor: Rev Wong Shyun Jye (Part-time)
- d. Preacher: Preacher Sun Lei
Preacher Lam Wee Kian
Eld Chia Swee Long (EDC appointment for BTS; Part-Time)
- e. Church Manager: Brother Melvyn Heng
- f. Administrative Staff: Sister Karen Lian
Sister Jemaine Heok
Sister June Goh
Sister Yeo Guet Hoon
Eld Chua Hung Seng (Part-Time)
Dn Michelle Hua Jue (Part-time)
- g. Church Worker: Azli

Ministry's Committees: The following are committees that were approved by the Board of Elders and Deacons to assist in governing the church.

1. Constitution Committee
2. Finance Committee
3. Personnel Committee
4. Facilities Management Committee
5. Preschool Management Committee
6. Mission Concern Committee
7. Social Concern Committee
8. Worship Working Committee (Teochew, English, Mandarin, Bilingual)
9. Children Youth Ministry Committee
10. Worship Ministry Committee
11. IT Committee
12. Anti-Covid Committee

Bethel Presbyterian Church 2023 Annual Ministry Briefing**1. Church's Annual Ministry Theme and Mission**

2023 was the final year of the church's running of the [Vision 123] ten-year plan. We resumed most of our physical services for All Saints Home and our church's seniors. As for foreign immigrants, we maintained contact with them through a combination of online and on-site settings, particularly through English lessons. We supported a needy church under the Chinese Presbytery (CP) and since 2020, hosted no less than 80 stayers in the Safe and Sound Sleeping Place Ministry (S3P).

The five worship services continued to lead members and friends in worship and service of the Triune God in Teochew, English and Mandarin. All worship services used the Epistle to Ephesians as the main preaching text, where we wanted to “make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace” (Eph. 4:3)

The following are the highlights of the ministry report:

2. 2023 Elders and Deacons Court: Office Holders

- a. Chairman : Rev Lim Tau Wei
- b. Secretary : Dn Tan Hui Fern
- c. Treasurer : Dn Alex Lim
- d. Vice Treasurer : Dn Sylvia Koh

3. 140th Anniversary Celebration and Remembrance

- a. Bethel celebrated 140th anniversary with the theme **Celebrating our Church History, Uniting our Life Journey**. This is to strengthen members’ awareness and sense of belonging to the church history of Bethel and to build a springboard for the new ten-year vision. The committee conducted a series of activities:
 - 1. Family Day on 18th March: Nearly 300 members turned up for worship, games on reenacting old photographs in Bethel, quiz on Bethel history, and photo booth.
 - 2. 140km Commemorative walk on 17th June: 2 groups of 20 worshippers covered 7km from Prinsep St. PC to Bethel, while another 2 groups of 4 worshippers covered 35km together, linking churches and institutions linked to Bethel.
 - 3. Thanksgiving Worship on 5th Aug: Representatives from the Synod, Seminaries, Day Care Centres, ASH, ASMC, Community and Ministry partners were invited. A commemorative plaque was unveiled.
 - 4. Heritage Trail on 19th August: Members set off after Missions Sunday, to different locations and food associated with Bethel and her heritage of Teochew. Participants returned to church for indoor games and warm fellowship.
 - 5. Thanksgiving Dinner on 29th December: Grateful to God for the past 10-year Vision with songs, skit, video clips and good dining company. The Enhanced Vision of Healthy Church was shared and the continuing of the Vision Fund was announced. We appreciated and honoured the selfless service of retiring pastors Rev Wong Shyun Jye, Rev Tan Mui Kiang and Rev Daniel Teh.
 - 6. A commemorative publication that captured the last 20 years of ministry and church life was given to every member household, guest, member churches of Presbyterian Church of Singapore.

4. Enhanced Vision of Healthy Church (2024-2033)

- a. Two Focus Groups were set up for a year-long exploration. One looked into **Caring for Our Future Generation** and the other, **Strengthening our Relationship with God**.

1. Caring for Our Future Generation:

- i. To establish a church-wide Future Generation Worship Ministry for our youth and young adults to transition to the main services.
- ii. To formulate Christian Education Curriculum and Mentoring framework.
- iii. To explore virtual and physical space conducive for inter-generational activities.
- iv. To bridge external Future Generations into Bethel.

2. Strengthening Our Relationship with God:

- i. To prepare for God's Word before, during and after worship service.
- ii. To promote retention of Word with reflection, journalling, discussion, and action.
- iii. To teach elements and flow of worship service.
- iv. To equip all personnel serving in worship service.

5. The Great Commission of the Church

- a. Bethel supported the teaching ministry of Rev Dr Jimmy Tan and Dr Yee Chin Hong at Trinity Theological College (TTC).
- b. Bethel supported Rev. Dr Samuel Lee and Dr Violet Lim as missionaries of Cru.
- c. Bethel upheld the missionary work of our predecessors and continued to reach out to the Teochew speaking community.
- d. Bethel supported local seminaries (TTC & SBC), Christian organizations and overseas missionaries through prayer and financial assistance.
- e. In October, Ps William went to Kuantan as part of a Chinese Presbytery mission exploratory team.
- f. In December, Ps William Heng led a group to Baan Orn for short-term mission.
- g. An online English class of Vision 2A was led and facilitated by Pr Sun Lei.

6. Church is a Part of Society.

- a. All Saints Home (ASH):

Bethel is the founding church of ASH, where four nursing centres are in Yishun, Jurong East, Tampines and Poh Huat Road. ASH has a high occupancy rate, exceeding 90% in all; the number of people served by the other three elderly day care centres is slowly returning to pre-pandemic level. ASH bears a huge financial burden, and the board and management actively strengthen the sources of income and watch expenses to ensure healthy finances. ASH was recognised with many awards and one of which was at the Singapore Health Quality Service Awards with 127 Silver and 3 Gold individual awards. The Home at Jurong East was awarded the "Request for Proposal" (RFP) with another 9 years.

- b. All Saints Memorial Chapel (ASMC):

The church supported the bereavement and caring ministry of ASMC. Onsite Monthly Memorial Services (MMS) resumed to help believers and family friends to commemorate their predecessors. When necessary, the chapel was used as a venue for bereavement service. ASMC supported missionaries such as Rev. Dr Samuel Lee and Dr Violet Lim, as well as local seminaries (TTC & SBC). ASMC also supported Trinity lecturers, namely Rev. Dr Jimmy Tan and Dr Yee Chin Hong. Some pastors and children of pastors from member churches were given bursary to support their formal or theological education.

c. Infant Care/Pre-School/Day Care:

The set up for Infant Care was completed in February and dedicated on 25th March. On 28th March, ECDA approved for a capacity of 35, while the Preschool was given 73. We were able to introduce Infant Care because of a 1-for-1 grant offered by the “Jesus The Light” Fund.

Applying for the same Fund, Preschool and Day Care underwent revamp that enhanced the visual and functional aspects of the centres. The purpose of these expenditures is to remain relevant and appealing to parents and children, so that church can reach out to them. The curriculum and teaching faculty welfare will continue to be improved.

d. Boys’ Brigade (BB) and Girls’ Brigade (GB) Ministry:

The church continued to support youth ministry in the community through the Boys’ and Girls’ Brigades. We guide and shape them into young people with character and discipline. Chaplains, Captains, Officers and Volunteers are all committed and involved in it seriously, and we thank God for their selfless efforts and fruitful results.

Leadership renewal is important for the sustainability of the ministry. Captain Lam Wee Woon has served in his capacity since 2015 and handed over his baton to Chin Joon Yew in February. Last year, BB and GB had 11 and 15 new recruits respectively. At the Enrolment Service, 12 parents and 2 grandparents of the boys and girls came.

We rejoice with GB for winning gold and silver for the 2 teams they sent in for the drill competition. The BB boys came in 10th position out of over 100 teams in the BB Blaze competition. The company also clinched ‘High Distinction’ for the JM Fraser (Best Unit) for assessment year 2022. Both GB and BB achieved a well-deserved Gold honour roll.

7. Striving to be a faithful and good steward:

- a. The Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) Serangoon Class started using Bethel as a teaching venue. They conducted their teaching mainly online, while onsite gathering of 250 adults and 50 children occurred once a month. So far, facilities and traffic are well managed.
- b. Since 2015, Bethel has been in a co-agreement with Community for Spiritual Formation (CSF) to serve the spiritual community. CSF is housed in the parsonage and has blessed leaders and believers from corporate sectors, seminaries, churches, and parachurch organisations. The renewal in 2024 will be looked at by the EDC.
- c. Ever since Covid hit in 2020, Bethel has not had a church camp. Members were excited about the prospect of having one. EDC set up a church camp committee to organise

one in June '24. The speaker Rev Dr Caleb Soo gladly accepted our invitation and the hotel venue was secured. Many aspects were gradually looked into and we can expect a splendid time together at our combined church camp, once again.

8. Summary statistics for Y 2023:

Adult baptism: 7

Infant baptism: 3

Confirmation: 0

Transfer-in: 8

Transfer-out: 3

Passed on: 11

Written by Rev Lim Tau Wei, translated by Deacon Ng Teck Hui @ 12 Apr 2024. Proofread by Eld Wong Soon Fen @ 22nd Apr 2024.