



Children and Holy Communion

From The President's Desk

Pastoral Appointments

The New Quadrennium Team



37th Session Trinity Annual Conference
Swiss Garden, Kuantan 2012

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



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CHILDREN AND HOLY COMMUNION



Berita TRAC is a quartely newsletter of the Trinity Annual Conference. We welcome articles, contributions, comments and feedbacks that will edify the TRAC churches. The editor reserves the right to edit and publish selected submissions. Please forward all enquiries, comments and contributions to: admin@trac.org.my or call 03-7954 2836 website: www.trac.org.my

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Rev T. Jeyakumar
President, TRAC

There was a person in America by the name of George Exoo, who was paid to go around churches to see if the churches are worth attending. As he went to these churches he even rated the churches by giving them up to five stars. What qualifies the church to receive five stars? The church must be innovative, flexible, and friendly.

The leaders must be easygoing. The worship must be dynamic, and the programs must be easy-to-follow. And they must have trained greeters. In this rating system truth is not the most important requirement. Rather emotionally satisfying experience is more important. For example he praises a certain man for leaving a certain church because the church did not teach something that the man could agree with. What is wrong with this rating system? It fails to consider what the Bible teaches about the essential functions of a church.

At the recently concluded Executive Board retreat, it was decided that we will continue to focus on our Four Essentials: Lifelong Discipleship, Wholesome Families, A Voice to our Nation, A Vision For the World. We believe these are essentials found in the Bible and these are the essential functions of the church. These essentials are also in consonant with our General Conference theme which is "Spreading Scriptural Holiness, Transforming the Nation." Our main task is to disciple the believers and help them live holy lives. We believe one of the ways we can do discipling effectively is thru small groups. We pray that the trainings we offer will help churches in starting and strengthening the small group ministry in our churches. Discipling must also take place in children, youth, young adult, women, and seniors' ministry. As a result of our discipling efforts at church, we pray that discipleship can be reflected at home. We need to be exemplary disciples at home and lead our family members to Christ, and thru active discipling at home our children will become faithful disciples from young. We pray that our families will be wholesome families as a result.

We are aware we are not only disciples in church and at home. We are disciples of Jesus Christ our Lord in the marketplace, political arena, at school, in our neighbourhood and anywhere else we may be in. We need, therefore, to let our voices be heard in our beloved

nation and make our Christian views and contributions count. We need to consistently make our voices heard and our opinions known all the time and about all matters, and not only when we feel our rights are infringed upon. We must also be a voice to those who don't have a voice. Voicing out is not sufficient. Acting out our beliefs must happen daily. Also we must not lose our vision for the world. The Rev. John Wesley said, "The world is my parish." More importantly, we have been mandated by our Lord Jesus Christ with the task of taking the gospel to the ends of the world. Therefore, the disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ need not fear fulfilling this task. In today's world being faithful to the Great Commission may lead us to be branded as mad or even lead us to martyrdom. We embrace both without fear if that is the cost of discipleship for us.

If we take the Four Essentials seriously and work through them in our churches, I believe we can be a church that God wants us to be. We can be a faithful and relevant church. We can be a church that is built on biblical conviction and not compromise for the sake of numbers. For Exoo probably theology is not important. What is important is "sellability" – the ability to sell the church to the masses through entertainment means. Unfortunately many people choose church according to its ability to entertain their emotion and make them feel good. They are not worried about biblical teaching and the responsibilities of a disciple. For them the church has become an entertainment outlet where truth can be sacrificed at the altar (stage) of entertainment.

If we want TRAC to be a place that honours GOD, then our churches cannot be a place where we hide behind our masks and be entertained. The church must be a place to be disciplined and trained in the biblical truth. The biblical truth implanted in us will lead us to an encounter with God and a deeper knowledge of God. This encounter and further knowledge of God will lead us to renew our commitments to live lives of personal purity and be engaged in bringing about social holiness in our surroundings. This may not earn five star rating from church critics but it will be pleasing to God. What counts ultimately is what God thinks of our church!

My prayer for the TRAC churches is that we will not fail to be the church God desires for us to be. We will not fail in our discipling efforts. We will not fail our families, and the younger ones especially, as they look up to us. We will not fail to be a voice that is worthy of being heard in our nation, and we will not lose our vision and passion for the nations. I have faith in my heart that if we let God lead us and guide us, God by His grace will enable us to be the church after His own heart.

Te Deum Laudamus!

Children and Holy Communion

By Rev. Andrew Tan

INTRODUCTION

At the conclusion of the 10th session of the General Conference in October 2012, the decision was made to welcome the children who are baptized to receive Holy Communion without the restriction of age. Each of the Annual Conference was to use their discretion how best to implement it. The 37th session of TRAC decided to go ahead with its implementation as of January 2013. The existing ruling of the GCEC until then was that all those who have been baptized and reached the age of 12 years may receive Holy Communion. With the decision of the General Conference the age restriction is now removed, and the only condition for receiving Holy Communion is baptism.

With this change of practice, I hope to explain the basis for paedocommunion, and draw some pastoral concerns for churches and the families in our TRAC.

I. REASONS FOR PAEDO-COMMUNION

A. Biblical Perspectives

To bring the teaching of paedocommunion to its proper perspective, I need to bring in baptism because baptism is closely related to Holy Communion. First, baptism and Holy Communion are the NT sacraments that replace circumcision and the Passover which are the OT symbols.

In Col. 2:11-12, Paul states that as initiation rites, circumcision and baptism have the same meaning of removing the old nature. In doing so, he implies that baptism has replaced circumcision. In the upper room, Jesus changed the Last Supper which is the Passover meal to be the Lords' Supper which is our Holy Communion.

Second, baptism initiates one into the Holy Communion in the NT, just as circumcision initiates one into the Passover. It is clear that in Ex. 12:43ff, the Passover was practiced within the entire household (that included children, foreigners, and slaves). However, vv 43 and 48 make it very clear that only those who were circumcised can partake the Passover; those who were not circumcised must not share in it. Circumcision initiated them into the covenant community of God's people. Once initiated, they could then continuously share in the Passover which celebrates the exodus from Egypt. By celebrating the Passover, they continuously

affirm their identity as the covenant people of God whom He has saved.

Likewise, in the NT, on being initiated to be the covenant people of God through water baptism, we partake in the Holy Communion because it celebrates our exodus from sin by receiving salvation, and we affirm ourselves to be the people of God whom He has saved.

Notice that the Passover was a family meal celebrated by the entire family members which included children. In Exod. 12:26, children are specifically mentioned. There is no prohibition of age when it comes to partaking in the Passover provided they were circumcised.

Theologically, baptism initiates one into the Body of Christ. Holy Communion expresses and affirms the Body of Christ. Baptism opens the way for him/her to participate in the Holy Communion. It is, therefore, illogical to baptize infants and then withhold from them Holy Communion. If we accept baptized infants into the Church, we should also nurture them in the Church by letting them participate in the Holy Communion.

B. Early Church Practice

The Early Church fathers like Justin Martyr, Hippolytus and others linked baptism and Holy Communion together. To these Early Church fathers, it was

inconceivable that one could be initiated into the Body of Christ through baptism and not being allowed the Holy Communion.

The Early Church emphasized the essential unity of the two sacraments. They highlighted two key biblical texts in John 3:5 and 6:53: “Unless a man is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God” and “Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.” Baptism ushers you into the Kingdom of God, and Holy Communion nurtures you in the life of the Kingdom.

The Apostolic Constitutions is a compiled work in the 4th century, but its content is attributed to Clement of Rome who lived around 90AD. In this work, children are included in the Holy Communion. Cyprian, wrote and made clear allusions to paedocommunion in one of his books in 250AD. St. Augustine, who lived in the 4th C, is quoted in his writing, “Yes, they’re infants, but they are his members. They’re infants, but they receive his sacraments. They are infants, but they share in his table, in order to have life in themselves.”

Around the 6th century, the Syrian writer of The Ecclesiastical Hierarchy wrote these words in defence to the objection that children don’t understand baptism or Holy Communion. “The fact is that children not yet able to understand divine things become recipients of [baptism] and [Communion],....not all divine things can be comprehended by our intelligence, but many things unknown by us have reasons worthy of their divine character that escape us...” [paraphrased]

Ancient Church Councils include children for Holy Communion. Until at least the 13th century, almost all liturgical books prescribe that children be admitted to Holy Communion at baptism.

All these writings of the Early Church Fathers, Early Church Councils and the liturgies up to the 13th century support the theological position of linking baptism to Holy Communion, and accepting children for baptism and Holy Communion. A question is raised in our minds, “If the two sacraments were linked together for children, why did Holy Communion cease to be given to infants who were baptized after the 13th century?”

The doctrine of Transubstantiation caused the cup to be withdrawn progressively from the laity during the Middle Ages (5th to 15th century) because of the fear

of spilling the blood of Christ. The belief then was that Christ was present with either only the wine or the bread. With the fear of spilling the consecrated wine, the laity partook only the bread. Meanwhile, the infants, who had been communing with wine only, stopped receiving Holy Communion altogether. It was unthinkable that a consecrated wafer should be given to the very young ones lest they spit it out. So with the influence of the doctrine of Transubstantiation, paedocommunion ceased to be practiced altogether.

It is very instructive for us to observe the practices of the Eastern Orthodox Church, which separated from the Western Roman Catholic Church in 1054. They never went through the “Western” struggles over the doctrine of Transubstantiation. The Orthodox Church has an unbroken practice of uniting the two sacraments together. Even today in the Eastern Church, “immediately after receiving baptism, the child is admitted to Eucharistic communion.”

C. Psychological Insights

The strongest objection to paedocommunion is that children cannot meaningfully participate in the Holy Communion because they cannot understand what they are doing. While the Roman Catholic doctrine of Transubstantiation denied children the Holy Communion, the Protestant Churches requirement for understanding kept them away. The Reformed position is that the elements of the Holy Communion are only to be received by Church members who are old enough to examine themselves and receive the elements by faith. Intellectual comprehension was necessary.

So, how can you give Holy Communion to children who are not mature enough to understand it? Such a question would have puzzled the early Church Fathers. To them, it was a wrong question. Their question was, “How does our communal life manifest the meaning of what was given in baptism?” How do we live our life that has been initiated into by our baptism? The answer to that question is that children, youths, and adults of all ages are nurtured in the Holy Communion.

While our Early Church Fathers would not have asked such a question, our modern mind does, and the question begs to be answered. Psychologists assure us that children perceive relationships much long before they develop conceptual ways of knowing. A child as early as six months old can know what it is to be included or excluded. Long before they arrive at

the levels of analytical reason, children have profound understanding of relationships of love.

The five-year old granddaughter of a United Methodist bishop was asked why she went up to the Lord's Table. She replied, "To say hi to Jesus." You may think this is a casual language, but that comes closer to the truth than many adults can formulate using sophisticated language about the presence of Christ. Theologians can formulate meanings of the Holy Communion but the essential question is "How did you experience Christ at the Holy Communion?"

A child who cannot remember a time when he did not receive Holy Communion will have the experience that provides the pre-understanding necessary for obtaining meaning (Massey Shepherd). In other words, he experiences it first before he understands it. This unfolding of meaning becomes a life-long process of assimilating the riches of the gift of God's grace. It is a lifetime of continual dialogue between the affective experience of the Holy Communion with the cognitive reflection on that experience.

In our Age of Reason, we have too narrowly defined knowledge. We have in fact defined knowledge as 'over standing.' We think that it is possible to stand over (or stand outside) a subject in a detached, objective manner, and grasp all the information. Knowledge, however, requires us to 'stand under.' It is to 'stand under' a subject and learn. Understanding is a process of formation and dialogue. Even as adults, the Holy Communion continues to form us.

If this is our definition of knowledge, we should have no difficulty with a child coming for Holy Communion. A child can experience the presence of Christ even if he cannot articulate that meaning. So in summary, theology, history and psychology are reasons we advocate for paedocommunion.

II. IMPLICATIONS OF PAEDO-COMMUNION

A. Infant Baptism

Once paedocommunion is practiced in the Church, it will strongly give significance to infant baptism. For this reason, I want to share briefly why the Methodist Church believes in infant baptism and encourages parents to bring their children for baptism.

The basic reason for practising children baptism is covenant theology. When God made a covenant He

does so not only with Adam, Noah or Abraham but also with the generations to come. After Abraham was saved by faith, God commanded him to be circumcised as the sign that he had already received salvation by faith. At the same time God commanded his children to be circumcised. "For the generations to come every male among you who is eight days old must be circumcised..." (Gen. 17:12).

In Galatians, Paul argues that Abraham's experience of saving faith was to be the model for all Christian believers. If we are given the same salvation as Abraham (Gal. 3:9), and that baptism for us replaces circumcision, then it follows that believers and their children are also to be baptized to receive the sign of salvation.

The God of the covenant has not changed when it comes to the NT. Therefore, the sign of the covenant which is baptism must not be denied our children. It is for this reason that Peter on the day of Pentecost issued the invitation, "Repent and be baptized everyone of you... The Promise is for you and your children..." (Acts 2:38-39). Paul likewise declared to the Philippian jailer, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved – you and your household" (Acts 16:31).

B. Members of the Body

Holy Communion expresses the fullest sign of participation in the Body. When we see our children coming to the Lord's Table, I believe the consciousness that they are fellow members together with us will dawn on us in greater degree.

If children are to partake in the Holy Communion, it means that children are to participate in Sunday Service. Of course, children (and youths) may not fully comprehend all that goes on, but the most important point for them is not understanding, but meeting with God and knowing that they belong to the Body.

As a Pastor, I have for a long time intuitively felt that children and youths should participate in the main worship service of the Church – even before I have read any literature about paedocommunion. About six years ago I read an article about why youths leave our churches. The main reason is that they don't feel they belong. I was shocked to learn that the reason they leave the churches is because churches provide Sunday Schools and Youth Fellowships! With these provisions, our children and youths often don't attend the Sunday Service, and so they don't identify themselves with the rest of the Body, and so they don't belong. Our

convenience and our lifestyle dictate. For example, when there is only one service, often it is scheduled simultaneously with the Sunday Schools and Youth Fellowships. Even when there are multiple services in the church, children are still not encouraged to attend service.

We have good reasons to incorporate children in the life of the church: theology, history and psychology. As a church we should organize our community life in the church along such understanding. That means children and youths ought to be part of Sunday Service, Care Groups, and other activities in the church.

C. Preparing Our Children for Holy Communion

Parents need to explain to their children what Holy Communion means. Sunday School teachers will also help to explain it to them. Essentially we need to tell the children to prepare their heart to come to meet the Lord in His presence. They must confess to God their wrong doings, make right their wrong relationships, and renews their love and devotion to God. Receiving the elements of the Holy Communion is letting Jesus to live in us and empower us through His forgives, love and presence. The best way for children to come forward is come together with the family.

CONCLUSION

I hope that with care and explanation, paedocommunion will be smoothly implemented in our TRAC churches. And with the practice of paedocommunion, let us take advantage to do church that help our children and youths to belong.



Courtesy Picture by [formingfaith.wordpress](http://formingfaith.wordpress.com)

Raising Children For The Lord

*It's such a privilege
And a big responsibility,
God has given to us as parents
This wonderful opportunity
To raise our precious children
And instill into their lives
The wonder and amazement
Of the love of Jesus Christ*

*So they will learn to trust in Him
And worship and to pray
To love others with the love of God
And to honour and obey
As parents we've been entrusted
To raise them in God's love
To be there to encourage them
When they feel like giving up*

*And to be there just to listen
When life deals some painful blows
And comfort them when they feel afraid
And when tears begin to flow
To share with them those joyful times,
The precious moments in their lives
When doors begin to open up
And opportunities arise*

*Through everything they face in life,
Let's be there cheering them on
For we only have one chance at this
For childhood soon is gone
So let's rely on Father God
To raise them to become
Men or Women who trust in Him
And in His precious son.*

By M.S. Lowndes

Executive Board for 2013 - 2016



Rev T. Jeyakumar was elected as **President** at the 37th Session of the Trinity Annual Conference, held in Kuantan on December 1 - 4, 2012.

New Conference Lay Leader, Associate Lay Leaders and Conference Secretary

The 37th Session TRAC elected Datin Judy Chin as the new Conference Lay Leader. Datin Judy Chin worships at Ipoh Wesley. Dr Lim Kean Ghee from Taiping and Mr Yap Koon Roy from Melaka were elected as Associate Lay Leaders. Rev Yong Wai Yin was elected as the Conference Secretary for the new quadrennium.

Executive Board Members For 2013 - 2016

Besides the President, who is Chairman of the Executive Board, the following were elected as members of the TRAC Executive Board for the new quadrennium:

Ministerial Members

Rev Yong Wai Yin (Conference Secretary)
 Rev Dr Andrew Tan
 Rev Thomas Chin
 Rev Ricky Ho
 Rev Ting Moy Hong
 Rev Dr Timothy Ong
 Rev Paul Christie

Lay Members

Datin Judy Chin (Conf Lay Leader)
 Ms Jenny Qua (Finance Chairman)
 Dr Samuel Ong
 Dr Lim Kean Ghee
 Ms Rosalind Yong (MW President)
 Mr Yap Koon Roy
 Dr Ting Cheh Sing

District Superintendents for 2013

Eastern District
Northern District
Perak District
Federal Territory District
Selangor District
Southern District

Rev Woo Kit Sang
 Rev Paul Santosh Christie
 Rev Thomas Chin
 Rev Ting Moy Hong
 Rev Dr Timothy Ong
 Rev Joshua Hong

Pastoral Appointments for 2013

EASTERN DISTRICT

District Superintendent: Rev Woo Kit Sang

Bentong Christ MC	DS, Pastor Assigned
Kuala Lipis Wesley MC	DS, Pastor Assigned
Raub Wesley MC	DS, Pastor Assigned
Kuantan Wesley MC	Rev Woo Kit Sang, Pastor

NORTHERN DISTRICT

District Superintendent: Rev Paul Santosh Christie

Alor Setar Wesley MC	DS, Pastor Assigned
Sg. Petani Wesley MC	DS, Pastor Assigned
Kulim Wesley MC	Mr Chia Kim Khen, Pastor
Butterworth Wesley MC	Mr Andrew Yeoh Boon Lay, Part-time Pastor
Penang Wesley MC	Rev Paul Santosh Christie, Pastor Mr Wong Mun Wah, Assistant Pastor
Penang Trinity MC	Rev Yong Wai Yin, Pastor Mr Shearn Sya Seng Shen, Assistant Pastor
Parit Buntar Wesley MC	Rev Rev Yong Wai Yin, Pastor Assigned

PERAK DISTRICT

District Superintendent: Rev Thomas Chin Shen Loong

Ipoh Wesley MC	Rev Peggy Seow Kooi Nai, Pastor Mr Ong Chong Ghee, Part-time Assistant Pastor
Canning Garden MC, Ipoh	Rev Thomas Chin Shen Loong, Pastor Rev Yu Chiew Song, Associate Pastor
Taiping Wesley MC	DS, Pastor Assigned Mr John Baru, Assistant Pastor
Bercham MC, Ipoh	Mr Lim Chaw Leong, Pastor
Grace, Ipoh MC	Ms Elaine Low Chooi Ling, Pastor
Kampar Wesley MC	Rev Richard Leow Kok Khuen, Pastor
Teluk Intan Wesley MC	Miss Lucy Lee Siew Seng, Pastor
Sitiawan Wesley MC	Rev Henry Yong Wei Choong, Pastor Mr Leong Chick Seng, Assistant Pastor



Members congratulating the newly elected President and Bishop



Conference Speaker:
Dr Patrick Fung



Pastor Andrew Lim ordained
as Deacon

Datin Judy Chin, the new Conference Lay Leader congrat

Light moments



In appreciation of the retired pastors



37th Session Trinity



Break session with tea

Delegates



Meal time and sharing



Pastor Wong Mun Wah, Pastor Peter Ong & Pastor Ronald Yap with their families



Installing the new President and his family



Bishop Hwa Yung installing the new President



Bishop Ong & President



At Wesley Kuantan Church for Ordination Service

Annual Conference

FEDERAL TERRITORY**District Superintendent: Rev Ting Moy Hong**

Kuala Lumpur Wesley MC	Rev Ricky Ho Kim Hock, Pastor
Christ Ampang, MC	Rev Christopher Rao, Pastor Assigned
Faith Cheras, MC	Rev Buell Abraham, Pastor Assigned
Kepong Wesley MC	Ms Tan Chew Mae, Pastor
Grace Sentul, MC	Rev Buell Abraham, Pastor
Life Puchong, MC	Rev Christopher Rao, Pastor

SELANGOR DISTRICT**District Superintendent: Rev Dr Timothy Ong Seng Kee**

Petaling Jaya Trinity MC	Rev Dr Timothy Ong Seng Kee, Pastor Rev Ting Moy Hong, Associate Pastor
Damansara Utama MC	to be appointed
Emmanuel MC, PJ	Rev Dr Andrew Tan Kok Khoo, Pastor
Sg. Way/Subang MC	Dr Ng Swee Meng, Pastor
Subang MC	Mr Robert Khaw Hock Pang, Pastor
Klang Wesley MC	Rev Ashok Amarasingham, Pastor
Sungai Buloh Trinity Methodist Church	DS, Pastor Assigned
Whispering Hope, MC	Rev Dr Andrew Tan Kok Khoo, Pastor Assigned

SOUTHERN DISTRICT**District Superintendent: Rev Joshua Hong Kee Soon**

Johor Bahru Wesley MC	Rev Joshua Hong Kee Soon, Pastor
Segamat Wesley MC	Rev Bernard Yogaraj Lazar, Pastor
Melaka Wesley MC	Rev Andrew Lim Teng Siang, Pastor Mr Danny Chiew Hock Chwee, Assistant Pastor
Taman Asean MC	Rev Andrew Lim Teng Siang, Pastor Assigned
Seremban Wesley MC	Mr Ronald Yap Quan Nyian, Pastor
Taman Ujong MC	To be appointed

Special Appointments*** on behalf of Bishop**

Seconded to Faculty of Seminari Theoloji Malaysia*	Rev Dr Anthony Loke Yin Fai
Seconded to Council of Churches Malaysia	Rev Dr Hermen Shastri
Superintendent, Methodist Sengoi Mission	Rev Bah Uda Aman
Part-time Coordinator, Sengoi Workers Training Centre (SWTC)	Rev Bernard Yogaraj Lazar
Part-time Director, Methodist Seniors Ministry	Rev Hwa Jen
Prayer Director	Rev Christopher Rao
Prayer Retreat Director	Rev Peggy Seow Kooi Nai
Prayer Coordinator	Ms Thong Swee Mun

Conference Officers, Chairmen and Members of the Various Boards for the New Quadrennium

Conference: President	Rev T. Jeyakumar
Conference Secretary:	Rev Yong Wai Yin
Conference Statistician:	Mr Yee Eh Horng
Conference Treasurer:	Mr Gary Soh
Conference Lay Leader (2013-2014):	Datin Judy Chin
Associate Conference Lay Leaders (2013-2014):	Dr Lim Kean Ghee
	Mr Yap Koon Roy
Executive Board	
Chairman: Rev T. Jeyakumar	
Ministerial Members	Lay Members
Rev Yong Wai Yin (Conference Secretary)	Datin Judy Chin (Conf Lay Leader)
Rev Dr Andrew Tan	Ms Jenny Qua (Finance Chairman)
Rev Thomas Chin	Ms Roslind Yong (MW President)
Rev Ricky Ho	Dr Samuel Ong
Rev Ting Moy Hong	Dr Lim Kean Ghee
Rev Dr Timothy Ong	Mr Yap Koon Roy
Rev Paul Christie	Dr Ting Cheh Sing
Board of Appointments	
Conference President, Chairman	Members:
	District Superintendents
	Conference Lay Leader
	Chairman, Board of Finance
Board of Archives & History	
Chairman: Mrs Goh Phing Choo	
Members: Rev Hwa Jen	Mrs Hwa Tsyh Yong
Rev Joshua Khong	Ms Vicky Lee Geok Lan
	Mrs Susie Chin
	Mr Goh Keat Seng
	Ms Aileen Khoo
	Mr Lim Tong Juan
	Mdm Patricia Khaw
	Mr Bobby Lee
	Mr Chua Hong Khoon

Board of Christian Education

Chairman: Mrs Evelyn Lim

Members: Rev Andrew Tan

Ms Ng Wai Ling

Ps Elaine Low

Ps Wong Mun Wah

(+ Chairmen of District Commissions of Christian Education)

Board of Evangelism

Chairman: Ms Jeanne Cheong

Members: Rev Henry Yong

Mrs Dorothy Leong

Rev Paul Christie

Mr Lim Cheng Hin

Ps Robert Khaw

Mr Low Teck Chai

(+ Chairmen of District Commissions of Evangelism)

Board of Finance

Chairman: Ms Jenny Qua

Members: Ministers

Members

Rev Ricky Ho

Mr Gary Soh (Treasurer)

Rev Dr Anthony Loke

Dr Ting Cheh Sing

Rev Ting Moy Hong

Dr Mary Bien

Rev Thomas Chin

Mr Sam Tuck Wah

Datin Judy Chin

Mr Jeffrey Gan

Ms Mabel Chin

Conference Lay Leader

Conference MW President

(Ex-Officios without vote – District Superintendents)

Institute for Christian Ministry

Chairman: Ms Goh Kim Guat

Members: Rev Peggy Seow

Mr Goh Keat Seng

Rev Thomas Chin

Mr Stephen Cheah

Dr Herbert Tan

Board of Laity

Chairman: Conference Lay Leader

Members : Associate Conference Lay Leaders,

District Lay Leaders,

Conference MW President

Conference MYF President

Conference MYAF President

Conference Director of Youth Work

(Ex-officio Members: Conference President & District Superintendents.)

Board of Ministry

Chairman: Rev Dr Andrew Tan

Members: Rev Ting Moy Hong (Registrar)

Rev Thomas Chin

Rev Ricky Ho

Rev Dr Timothy Ong

Rev Paul Santosh Christie

Ex-officio Members: Conference President & District Superintendents.)

Board of Missions

Chairman: Mr Leong Pook Seong

Members: Rev Woo Kit Sang

Mr Yeoh Beng Keat

Rev Christopher Rao

Mr Alan Yong

Rev Yu Chiew Song

Mr Chan Weng Seng

Rev Andrew Lim

Mr Peterson Tamil Chelvam

Rev Joshua Hong

Ps. John Baru

Ps Danny Chiew Hock Chwee

Ps. Peter Ong Chong Ghee

(+ Chairmen of District Commissions of Missions)

Board of Nominations

Chairman: Dr Samuel Ong

Members: Rev Bernard Yogaraj

Mr Daniel Khoo

Rev Dr Timothy Ong

Mrs Lily Ch'ng

Rev Peggy Seow

Dr Sieh Mei Ling

Board of Presidency

Chairman: Mr Alan Yong

Rev Dr Timothy Ong

Mrs Evelyn Lim

Rev Dr Andrew Tan

Board on Property

Chairman: Mr Ngu Chie Kieng

Members: Rev Ting Moy Hong

Dr Ting Cheh Sing

Mr Aldrin Chan

Mr Soh Hong

Mr Eric Hue

Board of Social Concerns

Chairman: Mr Lim Chong Ho

Members: Ps Tan Chew Mae

Ms Veronica Ting

Dr Mallise Tong Mun Wah

(+ Chairmen of District Commissions of Social Concerns)

Board of Worship & Music

Chairman: Rev Yong Wai Yin

Members: Rev Ashok Amarasingham

Ps Lim Chaw Leong

Mrs Jane Khoo Siok Lyn

Ms Christabel Wong

Mr Charles Tan

Mr Kelvin Wee

Ms Michelle Chen

Ms Liew Cow Yuan

Board of Youth Work

Chairman: Dr Herbert Tan

Members: Rev Buell Abraham

Ps Leong Chik Seng

Ps Lucy Lee

Ps Shearn Sya

Ps Ronald Yap

Mr James Ong

Ms Ruth Wong

Ms Tan Ser Joo (GB rep)

Mr Alan Seow

Mr Kenny Voon Zhen Yi (BB rep)

Mr Jeremy Chew

Ms Chang Choy Quin, National Youth Director

MYF Representative

MYAF Representative

ICM Director

Ms Ng Wai Ling

National youth Director

Ms Chang Choy Quin

Prayer Director

Rev Christopher Rao

Retreat Director

Rev Peggy Seow

JANUARY			JULY		
01	Tue	New Year's Day	05-07	Fri-Sun	ICM Weekend Personal Discernment Retreat
02	Wed	School Term Begins	05-12	Fri-Fri	ICM 8-day Personal Discernment Retreat
02 - Feb 6		Jeremiah School	7-14	Sun-Sun	Social Concerns Week
08-10	Tue-Thur	CCM Head of Churches Meeting	09	Tue	Awal Ramadan
10	Thur	BOM Meeting?	12-14	Fri-Sun	ICM Women's Retreat: Finding your Plot in a Plotless World
11-13	Fri-Sun	TRAC Executive Board Retreat – Fraser Hill	13	Sat	Birthday of the Governor of Penang
14	Mon	Birthday of the Yang di-Pertua Besar of Negeri Sembilan	14	Sun	Social Concerns Sunday
18-25		Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	19-20	Fri-Sat	TRAC Missions Consultation
20	Sun	Birthday of Sultan of Kedah	26	Fri	Hari Nuzul Al Quran
24	Thur	Prophet Muhammad Birthday	26-28	Fri-Sun	Christian Vocational Series #2
27	Sun	Thaipusam			
FEBRUARY			AUGUST		
16-24		Jeremiah School (break: 07-15)	02-04	Fri-Sun	ICM Beginner's Retreat
01	Fri	Federal Territory Day	07-18		Mid-Term Break
10-11	Sun-Mon	Chinese New Year	08-09	Thur-Fri	Hari Raya Puasa
13	Wed	Ash Wednesday	13-15	Tue-Thur	TRAC MOT/ASP Retreat
15	Fri	Statistical Return to be sent to Churches	16-17	Fri-Sat	GCEC
22-23	Fri-Sat	GCEC	16-18	Fri-Sun	TRAC BB/GB Consultation
			17-21	Sat-Wed	Camp 18UP
MARCH			24	Sat	LGT Module 3: Discernment, Knowing & Doing the Will of God
01-03	Fri-Sun	Christian Vocational Series #1	31	Sat	National Day
04	Mon	Anniversary on Installation of Sultan of Terengganu			
05-07	Tue-Thur	President/DS's Retreat	SEPTEMBER		
09	Sat	Board of Evangelism Meeting	05	Thur	BOM Meeting?
15	Fri	Statistical Return to reach Statistician	06	Fri	President / DS's Meeting
16-17	Sat-Sun	Organisational Leadership module (OLM) - Selangor District @ SSMC	06-08	Fri-Sun	TRAC Joint Bd./ Ex. Bd. – PD Meth. Centre
19	Tue	CCM Board of Management Meeting	16	Mon	Malaysia Day
23-26	Sat-Tue	Youth Prayer Conference			
23-31		Mid Term Break	OCTOBER		
28	Thur	Maundy Thursday	08-11	Tue-Fri	TRAC MSF Annual Camp - Meth PD Centre
29	Fri	Good Friday	12-15	Sat-Tue	TRAC MW 38th Session/Women's Convention
31	Sun	Easter	12	Sat	Birthday of the Governor of Melaka
APRIL			12-13	Sat-Sun	ICM Organisational Leadership module – FT District @ KL Wesley
05-07	Fri-Sun	ICM Beginner's Retreat – Knowing God and Knowing Self	15	Tue	Hari Raya Qurban
09-13	Tue-Sat	PDMS	19	Sat	LGT Module 4: Becoming Friends on the Journey
15	Mon	Declaration of Melaka as a Historical Day	20	Sun	MSF Sunday
18-21	Thur-Sun	BOYW Retreat	24	Thur	Birthday of the Sultan of Pahang
19	Fri	Birthday of Sultan of Perak	25-27	Fri-Sun	ICM Year-End Reflection Retreat
20	Sat	LGT Module 1: Prayer & Hearing the Voice of God - Trinity Penang			
22-23	Mon-Tue	CFM Biennial Assembly	NOVEMBER		
23	Tues	Dedication Service of CCM Ecumenical Center	01-08	Fri-Fri	ICM 8-Day Individual Directed Retreat
24-26	Wed-Thur	CCM Triennial Assembly	02	Sat	Deepavali
26	Fri	Birthday of Sultan of Terengganu	2-5	Sat-Tue	GC Youth Council Conf.– PD Meth. Centre
26-28	Fri-Sun	ICM Educator's Retreat – Renewed to Teach	4-6	Mon-Wed	24th PMSM Session
MAY			05	Tue	Awal Muharam
01	Wed	Labour Day	11	Mon	Birthday of the Sultan of Kelantan
07	Tue	Hari Hol - Pahang	16-19	Sat-Tue	38th Session TRAC
07-11	Tue-Sat	ICM 5-Day Individually Directed Retreat	16-Jan 01, 2014		Year End Break
12	Sun	Mother's Day	22	Wed	Birthday of the Sultan of Johor
17	Fri	Birthday of Raja Perlis	26-30	Tue-Sat	TRAC National Youth Missions Trip
24	Fri	Wesak Day			
25 -09 June		Mid-Year Break	DECEMBER		
JUNE			1-3	Sun-Tue	TRAC National Youth Missions Trip
01	Sat	Birthday of Yang Di-Pertuan Agong	11	Wed	Birthday of Sultan of Selangor
06	Thur	Israk & Mikraj	11-15	Wed-Sun	YLDP
07	Fri	BOM Meeting/Retreat?	13-15	Fri-Sun	Parents Weekend (YLDP Track)
08	Sat	2nd Executive Board Meeting	20	Fri	Hari Hol - Johor
15	Sat	ICM Movie Retreat	25	Wed	Christmas
16	Sun	Fathers' Day	31	Tue	New Year's Eve/Watch Night Service
29	Sat	LGT Module 2: Life Giving Practices to Renew Habits of the Heart			
29	Sat	Board of Evangelism Meeting			



INSTITUTE FOR CHRISTIAN MINISTRY
TRAC • Methodist Church in Malaysia

The Institute for Christian Ministry (ICM) is a training arm for Trinity Annual Conference (TRAC) which began in March 2008 with the aim of strategically consolidating the training needs of the TRAC churches in the areas of spiritual formation, leadership development and practical skills for ministry. We are committed to building the life of God's people and their leaders for the long haul in ministry and a deepening life in Christ.

ICM seeks to develop courses that are relevant, integrated and practical to meet the needs of the local churches and the Conference. We pray that these equipping avenues will 'prepare God's people for works of service, so that the Body of Christ may be built up until we reach the unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.' (Eph 14:12-14).

The ICM 2013 brochure presents various equipping and renewal opportunities for you, your leaders and your congregation. ICM invites you to set aside, as part of your regular rhythm of life in Christ, time for the renewing and strengthening of your soul, spirit and body.

Organizational Leadership Module (OLM)

FOR LEADERS IN LCEC & MINISTRY HEADS

March 16 - 17, 2013 (Sat - Sun)
Venue: SS Methodist Church
Target: Leaders of Selangor District Churches

Oct 12 - 13, 2013 (Sat - Sun)
Venue: Wesley Methodist Church, KL
Target: Leaders of FT District Churches

The TRAC OLM is a joint-initiative by the Board of Ministry, Board of Laity and the Institute for Christian Ministry. This 4-session module seeks to provide a platform for leaders and pastors to engage on matters related to organizational leadership issues in the local churches. A framework of theological, biblical and Methodist understanding of church governance and related issues will be discussed. The OLM Module covers:

THEMES / TOPICS

Session 1 : The Church - The Big Picture of the Body of Christ

Session 2 : The Church - The Rhyme and Rhythm of the Heart in Spiritual Leadership

Session 3 : The Church - The Nuts & Bolts of the Organizational Structure

Session 4 : The Church - The Handles of Life-Giving Meetings & Decision-Making



Life-Giving Tools Series (LGT)

CULTIVATING THE INNER LIFE FOR ALL DISCIPLES OF CHRIST

Host Church : TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH, PENANG

The Life-Giving Tools (LGT) Series seeks to equip a disciple of Christ with four life-giving tools for the long haul of life and ministry.

This inner-life series will help you carve out a rhythm that will cultivate a posture of attentiveness to God in everyday life so that you may experience the reality of a loving God who is All-Present and All-Knowing. Out of this centeredness in Christ is where our active life in the family, church, marketplace and the world shall spring forth from.

Fees - RM150 for the whole series of 4 modules;
RM40 per module;
Early Bird - Before and on 28th Feb 2013 - RM130 per person



Contemplative and Silent Retreats (CSR)

SPIRITUAL FORMATION FOR BEGINNERS & MATURING CHRISTIANS

Contemplative & silent retreats are designed for those who desire to experience or be exposed to the contemplative tradition of prayer. These retreats integrate extended periods of silence, solitude & scriptural meditation. Retreatants will follow the guidance and direction of a Retreat Director. Different amount of input/teaching sessions will be provided depending on the type, theme and length of the retreat.



DATES/VENUE	RETREAT THEMES	RETREAT DIRECTOR	FEES
April 5-7, 2013 (Fri - Sun) PD Methodist Centre	Beginners' Retreat – Knowing God Knowing Self <i>This beginners' retreat is designed for those who are new to the contemplative & silent retreats. You will be guided gently into the process of scriptural meditation, prayer, journaling and reflection and finding God in the quiet.</i>	Rev Dr Chew Tow Yow	RM300 per person (twin Sharing)
April 26-28, 2013 (Fri-Sun) R. Methodist Frasers (Co-organizer: TCF)	Educators' Retreat – Renewed to Teach <i>Teaching is a calling and years of faithful labor may sometimes leave us feeling tired or tiresome. This is a time to revisit our calling, deepen our intimacy with God and renew our vocational call in the company of fellow teachers and travellers.</i>	Rev Dr Chew Tow Yow	RM280 per person (twin Sharing)
May 7 – 11, 2013 (Mon-Fri) Chefoo Methodist Centre	5-Day Individually Directed Retreat <i>This extended retreat integrates scriptural meditation, prayer and daily one-on-one session with the Retreat Director. The focus of the retreat is to be attentive to the movements and invitations of God.</i>	Bishop Dr Ong Hwai Teik	RM650 per person (single room)
June 15, 2013 (Sat, 3 – 9 pm) Host Church: Wesley Methodist Klang	Movie Retreat <i>Watching a movie and prayerfully reflecting on the experience can be a spiritual discipline. Movies are a rich form of contemporary storytelling and often present metaphors about life in all its beauty and fragility. We are invited to approach the movie hospitably, with 'eyes to see and ears to hear', even to recognize the possibility of a divine encounter as the Spirit speaks to us through a film.</i>	Dr Lilian Koh & Cheong Seng Gee	Refer to WMC Klang for details (03-3381 2116)
July 5-7, 2013 (Fri-Sun) R. Methodist Frasers	3-Day Personal Discernment Retreat <i>This weekend retreat introduces personal discernment dynamics and helps retreatants to understand & begin practicing the discernment principles and process in seeking direction and hearing God's invitations.</i>	Rev Peggy Seow	RM280 per person (twin-sharing)
July 5 – 12, 2013 (Fri-Fri) R. Methodist Frasers	8-Day Personal Discernment Retreat <i>This extended retreat begins with the foundations of principles of discernment and continues with on-going guided spiritual direction with the Retreat Director on a particular issue for discernment and clarity of direction.</i>	Rev Peggy Seow	RM950 per person (single room)
July 12 – 14, 2013 (Fri-Sun) PD Methodist Centre (Co-organizer: TRAC MW) Evelyn: 012-4211525	Women's Retreat: Finding Your Plot in a Plotless World <i>A retreat using LifeMap as a Tool for Reflection/Prayer - for those who are interested to look at their personal history, trace the hand of God in the past and prayerfully gain a discerning heart to live fully in the present as one hears His invitations for the way forward.</i>	Ng Wai Ling & Lim Siew Lan	RM300 per person (twin-sharing)
August 2-4, 2013 (Fri-Sun) Chefoo Methodist Centre	Beginners' Retreat - Prayer as Relationship <i>This beginners' retreat is designed for those who are new to the contemplative & silent retreats. You will be guided gently into the process of scriptural meditation, prayer, journaling and reflection and finding God in the quiet.</i>	Dr Voon Choon Khing	RM280 per person (twin-sharing)
Oct 25 – 27, 2013 (Fri-Sun) Majodi Centre, Johor (Co-organizer: WMC JB)	Finding God in All Places - My Reflection on the Year <i>This 3D2N retreat gives an opportunity for retreatants to review their year as it draws to the final quarter. It will be a time of reflection and learning to notice God's presence, invitations and transforming work in the ordinary and the 'not-so-ordinary' part of the year. Retreatants will learn the discipline of review, gratitude and embracing the mystery of His presence in all places.</i>	Dr Alex Tang	RM260 (twin-sharing); RM300 (single room)
Nov 1 – 8, 2013 (Fri-Fri) Chefoo Methodist Centre	8-Day Individually Directed Retreat <i>This extended retreat integrates scriptural meditation, prayer and daily one-on-one session with the Retreat Director. The focus of the retreat is to be attentive to the movements and invitations of God.</i>	Dr Voon Choon Khing, Dr Lilian Koh & Ng Wai Ling	RM950 per person (single room)

LGT-M1 : Prayer & Hearing the Voice of God

Introduction to the contemplative tradition of prayer through the disciplines of silence, solitude & scriptural meditation. How can we cultivate a rhythm that helps us pay better attention to His voice and His invitations to us? (Rev Dr Chew Tow Yow & Dr Lilian Koh)
April 20, 2013 (Sat) • 10 am - 4 pm

LGT-M2 : Life-Giving Practices to Renew Habits of the Heart

What is the role of spiritual disciplines and practices in the spiritual life? How can these spiritual practices open our hearts to be attentive to God so that the Holy Spirit can do His work of transformation and recreate new habits of the heart? (Dr Voon Choon Khing & Rev Yong Wai Yin)
June 29, 2013 (Sat) • 10 am - 4 pm

LGT-M3 : Discernment, Knowing and Doing the Will of God

How do we discern the voice of God in the midst of the many voices within us and around us? What is discernment in light of our decision-making & life choices? What is the role of discernment in helping us clarify, listen and obey the 'will of God' in our lives? (Rev Peggy Seow & Mr Cheong Seng Gee)
Aug 24, 2013 (Sat) • 10 am - 4 pm

LGT-M4 : Becoming a Friend on the Journey

How do we create space in our hearts so that we can host another in deeper conversations that will benefit the soul and help others pay attention to what God is doing? What does it mean to be a companion and a friend on the journey? (Alvin Ung & Ng Wai Ling)
Oct 19, 2013 (Sat) • 10 am - 4 pm

