

**Minutes of the 3rd Council Meeting of the
Singapore Baptist Convention held on 25 July 2017
7.30 pm @ Thomson Road Baptist Church**

Chairman: Rev Dr Anthony Yeoh
Secretary: Rev Lawrence Yam
Present: Refer to Attendance List

NO. DESCRIPTION

1.0 Scripture Reading/Opening Prayer

Rev Dr Bobby Lee (Convention) referred to Colossians 1:24-29, where Paul explains how the mystery of Christ has been revealed in the Church/His saints. With that passage in mind, he encouraged members churches to rally one another to work together in partnership with the Convention for the advancement of the Gospel.

Rev Dr Bobby Lee opened in prayer.

2.0 Approval of Agenda

Rev Yorie Ito (Japanese Baptist Church) proposed the acceptance of the Agenda.
Pr Joshua Shoo (Acts Baptist Church) seconded the proposal.

3.0 Confirmation of Previous Council Meeting's Minutes on 24 April 2017

Rev Richard Loh (Eternal Life Baptist Church) proposed confirmation of the minutes.
Rev Lawrence Yam (Queenstown Baptist Church) seconded the proposal.

4.0 New Matters Arising

4.1 NextGen Leadership

The meetings are currently in recess while the group deliberates on how to move forward.

4.2 Reformation Concert

Due to a lack of interest garnered from member churches, there will be no concert planned.

4.3 Potential Member Churches

Rev Dr Bobby Lee is currently in discussion with the leadership of the 2 potential member churches regarding membership with the Convention. Results of the discussion will be shared at the next Council Meeting.

5.0 **Mission Update**

5.1 **Riau Islands (Batam & Bintan)**

- The Riau Islands mission has been ongoing for 20 years.
- Nagoya Baptist Church had been planted during the initial stages of the mission, and has quickly become independent within a few years.
- The mission's main focus will shift from Nagoya (Batam) to Kijang (Bintan), relocating the base from Nagoya to Kijang with the intention of church planting.
- The base at Batam will continue to be maintained with a partnership with Nagoya Baptist Church.
- Out of the 4-staff stationed at the Batam base (where one is a missionary subconded from Hong Kong Baptist Convention), 2 will be deployed to the new base at Bintan.

Pr Andrew Tjang explained how churches can be involved with the mission work in Bintan, and to contact him if any are interested in becoming partners/sponsors with the Convention.

Mr Kuan Kok Pui (Grace Baptist Church) asked for the number of members worshipping at Nagoya Baptist Church.

Pr Andrew Tjang answered that the church currently has a membership of around 50-60 people.

Mdm Tan Lin Lin (Singapore Baptist Church) inquired as to whether there are bible study groups being conducted at the Batam base.

Pr Andrew Tjang explained that the work focuses mainly in outreach ministry: house visitations, tuition centres and orphanages. Through these avenues, mission workers minister to the children & youths, and eventually to their families.

Mr Kuan Kok Pui (Grace Baptist Church) questioned why the work in Bintan, though it has already been running for 7 years, did not see as much progress as the work in Batam.

Pr Andrew clarified that the mission effort in Kijang was given secondary priority to Batam, thus most of the work had been to test the soil for church planting. With the main focus now shifting to Bintan, the work can progress into development stage.

5.2 **En Guang Project**

The ministry has observed a significant drop in attendance due to the major reduction of the hiring of mainland Chinese workers in Singapore. The ministry is experiencing difficulties in adjusting to the drastic change of status quo, with the financial budget mainly affected. Recommendations were to maintain the ministry by readjusting the budget accordingly, and to seek for churches willing to sponsor and/or adopt the ministry under them.

Rev Richard Loh (Eternal Life Baptist Church) suggested that the ministry leadership meet together offline with the Convention and supporting churches with the purpose of reassessing the budget objectively and make decisions where necessary for the interest of the ministry's continuation. Results of the discussion can then be shared to all at the next Council Meeting, where the final decisions can be voted on.

As there was no further discussion, the Chairman agreed with the suggestion and will arrange for the meeting and report back to the Council.

5.3 **The Journey (Wycliffe Singapore)**

A total of 210 participants have registered for the event, hitting maximum capacity. The committee gives thanks to God for the overwhelmingly positive response.

6.0 **BTS Update**

Jan/Jul 2017 New Students:

English Programme: 5 (Full-time), 4 (Part-time); Total: 42

Chinese Programme: 15 (Full-time); Total: 37

Current Total Enrolment: 79

Dr Daniel Wu, the new president of BTS, had begun his term with the seminary in July. Invitations have been sent out to the Baptist community to attend the Inauguration Ceremony of the 7th President of BTS on 19 August, 10.00 am at International Baptist Church.

7.0 **Financial Report (1 September 2016 – 30 June 2017)**

7.1 Convention-General Fund

Budget: \$312,570

Receipts: \$198,665

Expenses: \$191,797

Surplus (Deficit): \$6,868

7.2 Mission-General + Designated Fund

Mission-General Fund

Budget: \$103,748

Receipts: \$80,550

Expenses: \$67,091

Surplus (Deficit): \$13,459

Mission-Designated Fund

Budget: \$148,370

Receipts: \$71,380

Expenses: \$86,910

Surplus (Deficit): (\$15,530)

7.3 Contribution from Churches (1 Sep 2016 – 30 Jun 2017)

27 (73%) churches gave \$159,239 to Convention-General Fund

17 (46%) churches gave \$103,283 to Mission-General Fund

Rev Richard Loh, Treasurer, highlighted that although the Convention-General Fund appears to be in surplus, a quick extrapolation will show that it will be in deficit in 2 months if there is no additional income received from churches who have yet to contribute. He pointed out that this may be due to churches having a different financial year than the Convention, and thus their contributions may arrive late in respect with Convention financial year (which closes at the end of August).

8.0 **Any Other Matters – NIL**

9.0 **Feedback/Announcement/Calendar of Events**

9.1 Baptist Pastors' Day Dinner 2017

The Baptist Lay Leaders Network is hosting a dinner for our Baptist Pastors on 19 November, 7 pm at Qian Xi Restaurant. Registration is at \$45 per person; open to all church members.

9.2 Church Ministry Assessment (CMA)

There will be a 'Talking Point' dialogue session on 26 August, 10 am at the Baptist Centre. Highlights include model templates for CMA; resistance, benefits & necessities of CMA, and how it can help the Leadership Team.

10.0 Adjournment and Closing Prayer

Rev Dr Anthony Yeoh closed the meeting in prayer.

Minutes prepared by: Danielle Donovan (SBC) on behalf of Convention's secretary

Date: 28 July 2017