

VISION SUNDAY 2025

Address by Pastor-in-Charge

I. INTRODUCTION

Every year, I begin the PIC Address reminding you of our calling, that we are a family blessed to bless the community and the nations. As leaders, you can probably recite this statement even without consciously thinking of the words. Nevertheless, it is important that we are constantly reminded of the reason for the existence of PLMC. I am thankful that PLMC has not lost our calling to be a blessing to the community and the nations, that we are still seeking to save souls for God's kingdom. Not only are we seeking to save souls, but we are also seeking to train these saved souls to join us to save others.

Notwithstanding where PLMC is today, there are many things that we do in the course of ministry that may distract us from our calling. These things may be good, but they are not the best because they are not God's assignment for PLMC. As a people who desire to be led by the Holy Spirit, we want to be a people on God's assignment. Hence, everything that we do must be sieved through the grid of our calling. So, as we begin to reflect on the past year and chart the directions for the coming year, will you please stand and with intentionality and conviction, declare our calling in one voice?

We are a Family Blessed to Bless the Community and the Nations.

II. CELEBRATING 2024

1. The Year of Engagement

We have much to thank God for in 2024, our Year of Engagement. Though the soft launch of The Year of Engagement was in October 2023, PLMC's engagement of the community began way before that, with outreach to the community, to the migrant workers, and to the Friends of Jesus.

With the 40 Days of Blessing in 2021, we intensified our efforts to be a blessing to the community. Project Safe Place taught many of us how to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit and step out in faith to bless the people He led us to. This season also marked the shift from being a church that does specific organised acts of blessing to seeking to become a blessing movement that blesses others wherever and whenever the Holy Spirit directs us.

The year 2021 is also the year when we began a shift in our paradigm for ministry, where everything we do is to make disciples. So, in outreach, we sought to stop making converts and start making disciples. When you apply this approach to where you work or study, to your family, to your outreach efforts, it changes how you relate with people. People will not be a project that is completed with their conversion but a relationship to learn how to live in the kingdom of God together.

It was very encouraging to see the organisers of PLMC's 90th Anniversary in 2022 putting together many events that blessed the community including our migrant worker friends. Our church family also lived out our calling as a family who is blessed by giving away more than S\$2.2 million to the community and the nations.

Even as we celebrated the 20th Anniversary of PLMC being a Cell Church in 2023, we lived out our calling by sending our cell groups out to bless more than 1,000 households in the Lorong Ah Soo community. This whole-church effort laid the groundwork for the Palm Sunday 2024 outreach to the Lorong Ah Soo and Woodleigh Link communities. More than 980 people in 108 cell groups went out as one church family to bless the two communities with a blessing bag and a heart to bless the people they met. Our Filipino community went to the area near the church to bless many who are far away from their home country, the Philippines. A new outreach work in Buangkok Crescent was also started in 2024, with cell groups committed to visit the community once a month, building relationships of discipleship.

A bedside ministry began in ECON Medicare Centre in October 2023. A couple of months later, Christmas parties were organised by various cell groups for migrant workers, the people in the Hope Student Care Centre, and St Luke's Eldercare Centre (Serangoon) and the residents of Blocks 201-210 Serangoon Central. The Wise Steward Programme (a savings programme) was launched with the residents of Block 223A Serangoon Central. Every Friday night as part of the Migrant Worker Street

Ministry, PLMC members and worshippers can be seen blessing and befriending the migrant workers in the Shaw Road dormitory vicinity.

Many of you eat at the coffee shop in Block 204 Serangoon Central before or after the church service. When we went out to bless the community, one couple from our church family went beyond what was organised to bless one of the stall holders in that coffee shop. I believe that they did so in obedience to the leading of the Holy Spirit. This couple extended an invitation to the stall holder to come to our Easter Service and she came. May the seeds of blessings sown into her life bear fruits of righteousness in Jesus.

Our ministry to the ECON Medicare Centre began with a cell group made up of seniors. When they first went to visit the residents in the home, they were wondering what they were to do. That didn't stop them from going every month, rain or shine. They prepared songs to sing with the residents but after some time, some of them felt that this wasn't very meaningful work and considered stopping their visits. God, knowing how they felt, sent one of the nurses to tell them, "Do you know you all are doing a great job? The residents are so happy to see visitors. No need to do anything with them also make them very happy!" God also sent a number of younger ladies who decided to bless the residents of ECON Medicare Centre by painting their nails. One of these younger ladies shared,

There was this auntie who reminded me so much of my grandma and her first words to me were, "I don't need to paint my nails. I am so old. I am just waiting to die. Why waste your polish on me?" Now my nail polishes may not solve world hunger, but in the moment when we sat with her, loved her with our presence and conversation, and reminded her of her beauty, she was filled with a sense of happiness, that someone sees her beauty, values her and desires to listen to her.

There are many other stories coming out of our engagement of the community. If you have any to tell, do share with the church office so we can encourage each other and celebrate the Lord's work in The Year of Engagement.

Thus far, all I have been talking about is engaging the community. Though 2024 is The Year of Engagement, engaging the community is not the only thing that happened in the church family.

2. Praying Together

We continued with our Corporate Prayer Meeting, gathering to seek God's face, to seek His renewal and revival in our church and the nation. I thank God for those of you who are committed to pray with us every first Wednesday of the month. At the same time, I lament that not more of you were present to seek God's face together. We know that unless the Lord builds His house, we labour in vain. So, will you commit to join us in prayer on the first Wednesday of every month? Make that your commitment for the new year.

The most important work that we do is not going to the community door to door. The most important work that we do is on our knees. The strongholds that we need to overcome are great in the community. It will be even greater in the nations. If we don't pray and seek God's face together, we may have many activities, but God will not be in it. So, will you commit to pray with us?

3. Seeking God's Face Together

From 9 to 12 June 2024, more than 820 persons gathered at Hatten Hotel, Melaka for the church camp, a camp focused on seeking God's face together. Many hearts were touched and renewed by the Holy Spirit through the ministries of Pastor Dr Philip Lyn, Pastor Eunice Choo, and David & Cynthia Leong.

Looking at the number of people coming forward for ministry, reading the responses from the feedback forms, and conversations with different campers, I thank God for His presence with us at the camp. Though we hunger for even more from the Lord, we are thankful for the seeds He has planted in many campers. May we see these seeds mature into good fruit hosting God's presence everywhere they go.

4. Growing Together as a Cell Church

In 2023 when we celebrated our 20th year as a cell church, we had 1,750 people in 147 cells. As of today, we have 1,801 people in 125 cells (excluding the youth cells). In 2024, we saw the appointment of Apprentice Cluster Leaders. We also had one of the newly appointed Apprentice Cluster Leader respond to God's call to serve as our Director of Cell Ministry.

5. Caring Together

An exercise led by Pastor Vincent and Soo Hoong was conducted to look into the provision of pastoral care to 659 members of PLMC who are aged 65 years and older. Though 503 seniors were reached, 156 were uncontactable. Out of the 257 contactable persons who are worshipping at PLMC, 104 are attending church onsite, 95 attending online and the rest of the 58 indicated attending onsite and online. Those not attending PLMC include those who have died, gone to other churches, and who are not attending any church service. Efforts are being undertaken to minister to those not attending any church service. Pastoral and homebound visits and connecting to a cell group are some of the ministries extended to these seniors. For those who were uncontactable, we will continue to try to contact them to at least ascertain their well-being and whereabouts.

6. A Safe Place Together

We continue with our learning to be a safe place for all. A team guided by the paper 'Embracing Inclusivity', which you will find in the Appendix, was formed to help our church family and all the ministries to not only receive persons with disabilities but also to include them in their lives and ministries. This is an ongoing work as we seek to change our mindsets and learn how to relate with persons with disabilities.

7. Worshipping Together

Our Celebration Services are the weekly occasion when the entire church family is gathered together in Jesus' name, albeit at different times and locations (English, Filipino, Mandarin, Peranakan, Youth, and Children). Though every celebration service is an opportunity to host God's presence and experience an encounter with the living God, the service is not about us and what we want but about God and His will for us.

I thank God that our church family is open and willing to accommodate the different generations worshipping together. To those who are seniors, thank you for your willingness to learn new songs to express worship to God. To honour you, we have asked our worship teams to include at least one hymn or a familiar song of your generation during the celebration service. Thank you too for your willingness to be led by our youth worship teams. The opportunity to lead in the Celebration Service not only

helps them grow in their ministry capacity and capability, but it also helps raise a new generation of worship teams for the future. To those of you who are far from being seniors, thank you for being sensitive to the different generations in the Celebration Service, restraining your desire to move too far and too fast ahead of others in our church family.

To help us render the most excellent expression of worship in song to the Lord, many clinics were held to train our musicians and vocalists. These clinics were also platforms to identify and call people to serve in the Worship & Music ministry.

Despite the demands of this ministry, our Worship & Music Director, Paul Seow, and his team have prepared and made available to the cell groups worship sets that they can use in their cell meetings. If you need help in using these worship sets or have suggestions to improve them, please do speak with Paul or our Worship & Music Executive, Blessing Oo.

Aside from the Worship & Music Ministry, one other group of people who serve practically every single weekend are those in the Children's Ministry. Led by Carolyn Lee with Chia Shi Ying and Elsie Ng, they do an amazing job of blessing our children.

One significant shift in our worship ministry occurred when our then Mandarin Service Director, Judith Ng, left us in July to follow the Lord's leading to minister beyond PLMC. We thank God for her 19 faithful years of ministry in the Mandarin Service. The Mandarin congregation grieves the departure of their shepherd whilst rejoicing in her expanded ministry. Personally, I mourn the loss of a colleague in ministry, especially one whom I have great chemistry with as my interpreter when I preach in the Mandarin Service. In God's time, I hope we will have her back in ministry with us.

8. Leading Together

We continue with our leadership renewal, seeing many long serving leaders stepping out of the LCEC. We continue to bring in younger leaders whilst maintaining a good balance of older experienced leaders in the LCEC. We continue to have Young Adult Observers in the LCEC, which we pray will translate to some of them taking on leadership roles in the LCEC in the near future.

I have served with many different leaders in TRAC churches as Pastor-in-Charge and District Superintendent over the years. I want to commend our LCEC

leaders for their grace and generosity of heart. Their heart to serve the pastors and staff so that the pastors and staff can serve Jesus faithfully is a model worth emulating. I believe that these attitudes stem from their focus on Jesus in all that they do, including being leading servants in God's church. May the leaders who follow them imbibe these values into their lives and so steward this legacy of leadership to the glory of God in His church.

Outreach, praying, church camp, growing, caring, being a safe place, worshipping, and leading together are some of the activities that took place in 2024. There are many others that we can and should thank God for. These activities will continue into the years ahead.

III. THE CHALLENGES BEFORE US

Nevertheless, with the changing landscape of our world, though the essence of these activities will remain the same, the approach and execution may change if we are to continue to be relevant and bless the community and the nations. In particular, there are seven future challenges before the church which I feel are critical for us to address if the church is to flourish into the decade. Though we will not address all of them in the coming year, it is important to begin thinking and praying about our response to these challenges.

- 1. Secularism**
- 2. Religious Fervour**
- 3. Liberalism**
- 4. Legalism**
- 5. The Silver Tsunami**
- 6. Unthinking Generation**
- 7. Artificial Intelligence**

We are not going to come up with life changing responses immediately nor in the coming year, but it is important to begin thinking and praying, bringing our concerns to the One who can lead us to respond to these changes in the future.

IV. DIRECTIONS 2025

In light of what God is doing in our church family these past years and keeping the future challenges before us, let me present the directions for 2025. 2023 is The Year of Empowerment. 2024 is The Year of Engagement. The coming year 2025 is

THE YEAR OF EXPANSION

The Year of Expansion is the season when we emphasise our calling to bless the nations. Two Scripture texts anchor The Year of Expansion:

Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18-20 NIV)

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. (Acts 1:8 NIV)

You may remember that Matthew 28:18-20 (commonly called The Great Commission) was one of the key verses for the Year of Engagement. We were seeking to shape our minds with the truth of Scripture that as we go about engaging the community, our goal from the very first point of contact is to make them disciples of Jesus. And along the way, that will include leading them to surrender their lives to Jesus as their Master and Lord. This truth must be carried into the Year of Expansion, that as we seek to bless the nations, we are from the very onset seeking to make disciples of the people we serve.

That Matthew 28:18-20 are key verses of both the years of engagement and expansion reminds us that the ministry of blessing the community and the nations is one continuum in the life of a Christian. Blessing the community and the nations are

not two separate events. They are intertwined as one calling to bless the people outside the church. This is clearly expressed in Jesus' words recorded in Acts 1:8, that we are to go to Jerusalem (Singapore), Judea and Samaria (the nations around Singapore), and the ends of the earth (the nations beyond this region).

1. THE COMMUNITY BEYOND

We are to be Christ's witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth. For us in PLMC, our focus is on the nations from Singapore to Jerusalem by way of South Asia. Yes, there are many other nations of great need for the Gospel, but our calling is to these nations. Hence, our primary effort and resources must be directed to these nations.

Judea and Samaria are the regions outside Jerusalem where the people are contextually different and yet have some cultural and historical affinity to the people of Israel. In our context, these will be the people in the nations around Singapore, especially the ASEAN nations. As we reach out to the ends of the earth, we must not forget Jesus' command to reach out to our Judea and Samaria too.

Judea and Samaria are also found in the community around the PLMC church building. These are the people in the community who are culturally different to the PLMC church family. These include those in the lowest financial or social strata of society, our Friends of Jesus, and the migrant workers working and living near us. These people have been our focus in The Year of Engagement. In The Year of Expansion, we are enlarging our vision to embrace the engagement of the people to the ends of the earth. Hence, the goal of expanding to the nations is the same as our engagement of the community, to make disciples of the people God brings into our paths.

Though engagement and expansion are one continuum, there are significant differences that pose challenges to us fulfilling Christ's command to be witnesses to the ends of the earth. That we see the community around the church building every time we come to church is a constant reminder of our calling to bless the community. This is not the case with the nations beyond Singapore. The expense and effort to bless the community around the church on a regular basis is less daunting than blessing the nations. Therefore, intentional effort must be undertaken to live out our

calling to bless the nations. Greater effort to prepare and more financial resources are required to bless the nations. The catalyst that will spur us to a lifelong commitment to bless the nations with our resources and efforts is receiving the heartbeat of God for the nations.

From the first book to the final book of the Bible, there are direct and indirect teaching that God loves every single person of every culture in every ethnic and language group. If this was not true, you and I who are not Jewish will not be sitting here worshipping God and seeking to discern His will for our lives in the world.

Many of us know this truth in our minds. We know that God loves the world. The most famous verse of the Bible, John 3:16, declares that truth; for God so loved the world. Yet, most of us in the PLMC family are not engaged in a regular outreach to the nations. This is true for pastors and leaders too. The Bible in James 2:18 (NIV) reads, *'Someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.'* It is not sufficient to say that we believe in blessing the nations. We must be involved in blessing the nations.

For some among us, that involvement is to go as missionaries to the nations. We thank God for our missionaries who have since retired. We thank God for the couple who is presently serving in Indochina. We praise God for the three couples who are preparing to be commissioned within the next few years as missionaries sent by PLMC. We need and must pray for more missionaries to be sent out by PLMC in the coming years.

Notwithstanding that, the command Jesus gave in Acts 1:8 is not only for missionaries. The command is for every Christian. However, not every Christian is to be a missionary serving in another nation. If that were true, who will be left in the church to pray and support the missionaries? So, how is the majority in the church going to obey the command of Jesus?

Jesus said that 'you will be my witnesses'. He didn't say that you are to be my missionaries. That's the calling for some. The calling for all is to be Christ's witnesses. A witness is someone who tells what he saw or experience. Every Christian is to tell others what they saw and experience with Jesus. Every Christian is to be a witness to the people living 'in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.' And note that this is not a one-time expression. You are to be a witness for Jesus

to the ends of the earth all the days of your life. Being a witness for Jesus in every context is God's will that must be fulfilled by every Christian.

In the Great Commission of Jesus, the word 'go' may suggest that you are to make a deliberate effort to go and make disciples. However, the tense of the Greek word often translated as 'go' is a participle. This means it is best to translate that word as 'going' or 'as you go'. So, as you go to your Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth, you are to be witnesses for Jesus. This is the truth that we are seeking to inculcate in the PLMC family, that you are to be a blessing wherever you go. As you go, you listen and discern the leading of the Holy Spirit, and in obedience, bless the people He directs you to.

Imagine that this has become a reality of the PLMC family: Everyone is blessing someone as directed by the Holy Spirit. When that happens, a blessing movement has been ignited, and revival will be experienced in PLMC. Soon, it will ignite God's people across the nation and beyond, bringing the fires of revival into every church in the nation. This vision can be a reality when all in PLMC catch the heartbeat of God for all peoples in all nations.

This leads to a most important question: How is the PLMC family going to catch and receive the heartbeat of God for the nations? We read in John 5:19-20 (NIV),

Jesus gave them this answer: "Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does. For the Father loves the Son and shows him all he does. Yes, and he will show him even greater works than these, so that you will be amazed."

Jesus did what His Father was doing. And because of the Father's love, Jesus was shown what the Father was doing so that Jesus can do it with Him. As children of God our Father, He wants to show us what He is doing, and He is inviting us to do it with Him. That means, when you receive the revelation of what God the Father is doing, that's an invitation to join the Father in what He is doing. Hence, a simple answer as to how to catch God's heartbeat for the nations is to experience what God is doing in the

nations. To experience what God is doing in the nations, you must be there where God is working.

This leads to the main thing we are going to do in The Year of Expansion. We want to send the entire PLMC family to the nations, to experience what God is doing in the nations. When you see what God is doing, you will be confronted with a choice, to join God in His work in the nations, or rationalise your non-participation. You will be confronted with the decision to obey or find a reason for your disobedience. To create this opportunity of God-encounter, our missions department is putting together Mission Exposure Trips (METs) and Short-Term Mission Trips (STMs) for the PLMC family to go to the nations.

I gave the missions department the goal of sending out 80% of our church family on missions trips beginning from 20 October 2024 till 31 December 2025. Why 80%? Besides being a number that I received, when we send out 80% of our church family, the tipping point of having PLMC catch the heartbeat of God will likely be reached. Moreover, sending out 80% of our church family will require us to think out of the box in motivating and organising the people. Most important of all, it will require us to pray like never before.

Based on the average attendance of our church family, the missions department came up with the goal of sending out 2,000 people in 14 months. If each missions trip has 10 persons, that will require 200 mission trips in The Year of Expansion.

Some of you are thinking that since you have not been on missions trips, you can't lead one. You may be right if it is you leading the trip. But if God is the one leading you as you lead your team, will you be able to lead the trip? The answer must be a resounding yes because God is able to empower you to do more than you think or imagine. So, it is a question of faith whether you will go or even lead a missions trip or not.

Of course, our missions department will do their part in preparing you. Please take note of the dates given in the Appendix. Also, note that there is a material called MomentumYes (the link is also given in the Appendix) that your cell group can go through that will better prepare your cell for your missions trip. And be encouraged that you will probably be serving together with partners in the field. So, you are not entering entirely virgin territory where there are no churches or Christians.

Let me end this part of the directions for 2025 by reminding us that The Year of Expansion is not the end goal. The end goal is to receive God's heartbeat for the nations. Hence, after The Year of Expansion, we are looking to every cell group committing to one community beyond Singapore. On a yearly basis, send a team to serve that community. Those who are unable to make the trip can help to prepare, pray, and participate in providing for the ministry that will take place on the missions trip.

In a church that I led many years ago, one team went to serve a church in a neighbouring country. They had never been there before, but God paved the way for them to make that trip. Since then, different people from that cell group had gone to serve that church annually. Those who remained behind prayed and helped in the team's preparations. Through joining in on what God was doing in that community, three new churches were planted.

When the first church was planted, the trip leader told me that they were given the privilege to name the church. So, he came asking me to name the church. I told them that since God is the one who led them there, God is the one who planted the church, with their partnership. They should then ask the Lord for the name of the church. So, they did and what joy they had in naming the church.

This is the kind of joy I want every PLMC worshipper to experience, the joy of partnering with God to impact people and communities for eternity. You can have this joy, when you faithfully and regularly serve God in the nations. When you make serving on missions trips an annual commitment, you are obeying Jesus' command to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth. Then your joy will be full!

2. THE COMMUNITY WITHOUT

Likewise, as you continue to engage the community in Singapore, you are obeying Jesus' command to be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea and Samaria. Some of our current regular outreach that will continue in 2025 include:

- Block 208A Woodleigh Ave Joint Singles Scheme (JSS) Units (every 1st Saturday)
- Block 999A Buangkok Crescent JSS Units (every 2nd Saturday)
- Block 223A Serangoon Ave 4 food distribution (every 3rd Saturday)

- Block 8 Lor Lew Lian food distribution (every 4th Saturday)
- Block 201-210 Serangoon Central needy families food distribution (every 4th Saturday afternoon)
- St Luke's Eldercare (Serangoon Centre every 2nd Tuesday; Hougang Lor Ah Soo every 3rd Tuesday; Hougang Meadow every 4th Tuesday)
- ECON Medicare RR (every 2nd Saturday morning; 3rd Saturday afternoon)
- Hope Student Care Centre (every 4th Friday afternoon)
- Anglican Family Centre (every 3rd Monday night – WSCS)
- Families of the Incarcerated (Angel Tree Project – November/December 2024; Home Visits)
- Migrant Workers (street ministry every Friday 8pm – 9.30pm except 1st Friday; English class every Sunday 11am – 12.30pm; outings: ad hoc usually on Public Holidays)
- Friends Of Jesus (every Tuesday night except 1st Tuesday)

I list this to remind you of the many ministries that are being done by our church family in the community. Though we are doing much, much more can be done. We regularly receive invitations to new opportunities to bless the community. Please pray for the outreach department as they discern whether these opportunities are God-directed ones. Please also pray that many more in our church family will join in blessing the community. As with expanding to the nations, every cell should be engaging a community around PLMC regularly, being Christ's witnesses and making disciples for Jesus.

To support the cell's engagement of the community, we will have a church-wide project to bless the community in 2025. We will host a Christmas Market from 19 to 21 December 2025 (tentative) on our church premises. This is an opportunity for your cells to build and deepen your friendships with the people whom you have been connecting with in the community. This will also be an opportunity for those in PLMC who have yet to engage the community to have a simple entry level experience to bless the community.

3. THE COMMUNITY WITHIN

Making disciples of the Community Beyond and Without demands the making of disciples of the Community Within. As we engage with the Community Beyond and Without, a corresponding engagement of the Community Within must take place. This is not a case of 'either or' but 'both and'. The Apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians 4:11-13 (NIV),

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach 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.

Among the many things these verses tell us, Paul is expressing the symbiotic interaction of serving and maturing in Christ. As the church is being built up, she goes forth to fulfil her calling to be a blessing to the community and the nations. As she blesses the community and the nations, she is being built up.

Let me highlight a few key endeavours in 2025 to build up the community within.

3.1. Growing in Christ

In an increasingly complex world, we need Christians to be able to think and reflect biblically and theologically. Anecdotally, I have encountered too many Christians who appear to love the Bible and yet are unable to articulate a cogent and sound theological response to the challenges of modern society.

As I mentioned last year, in every church I have pastored, there will be that person who says that they are not being fed. My response is always the same. My primary role as your pastor is not to feed you but to teach you to feed yourself. To do that, besides encouraging you to cultivate a regular discipline of reading and responding to the Bible, we are developing the Ezra Lay Institute (ELI) to equip and develop leaders with basic theological, biblical, and ministry skills. Modules offered by ELI will be designed with PLMC's unique characteristics from a Wesleyan perspective. Please see a brief write-up about ELI in the Appendix.

3.2. Growing Our Cells

According to the data that we have received to date, over 50% of our church members are in a cell group. Praise the Lord! Nevertheless, if we call ourselves a cell church, we must continue to motivate more of our church members to join a cell.

The encouraging trend is that there is an increasing number of people who want to join a cell group. The largest group of these people are parents with young children. The challenge is that only about 10% of our present cells are cells with young children. We will need to multiply more of these cells to receive new members into our cells. That means raising more cell leaders to lead cells with young children.

Platforms to encourage worshippers to join a cell include our Baptism & Membership Class and the Welcome Lunch for visitors to PLMC. The process to have the interested person visit a cell is being streamlined so that connections can be made earlier. One thought we are considering is that those who want to enrol for the Baptism & Membership Class must have been a member of a cell group for at least six months. Membership in the church will then require the sponsorship/endorsement of the cell leader. Please pray with us as we discern whether this is the way to go forward.

Growing our cells is not just about increasing the number of cells and increasing the number of people in the cells, it is also about growing strong and healthy cells. For strong and healthy cells, we need healthy cell leaders. Hence, all cell leaders are encouraged to participate in the Companions in Christ course, or, better still, run the course in their cell meetings. Cells are also encouraged to go on a silent retreat together. The course and retreat will be helpful in cultivating a soul attuned to Christ. Married cell leaders are encouraged to attend The Art of Marriage organised by our Family Life Ministry to strengthen their marriages. Cell leaders with marriages that are growing in strength will not only bless the couple personally, but they will also bless and inspire their cell members.

3.3. Growing as a Safe Place

We continue to seek for PLMC to grow to be a safe place for all. After the church-wide survey in October 2024 to get data for intentional and focussed planning, a process will be developed to support cell groups with members with disabilities. Let me

remind you that there is ready curriculum for cell groups to learn how to be inclusive of persons with disabilities in your cell group. Consider using it in your cell meetings.

We have developed a document on our pastoral response to people with same sex attraction. We have ministered and are ministering to people and families where this is an issue of concern to them. However, as a church, we are still not fully ready to receive persons with same sex attraction (SSA). Much more education is required. More persons who are willing to walk with these brothers and sisters with SSA are in demand. If you have a God-given burden on this issue, will you step forward and identify yourself to Pastor Joey or Jonathan Lim? You will strengthen the team to help PLMC go further in becoming a safe place for people with SSA.

Being a safe place also means the removal of the social stigma of seeking the ministry of a counsellor. We thank God for our counsellor on staff, Emmeline. We also thank God for the six lay counsellors that we have in PLMC, many of whom are also heavily involved in other ministries in the church. If you have the requisite training, will you consider joining our staff team as one of our counsellors? When the Lay Counsellors Training is next offered, will you take the training and be one of our lay counsellors? If you know of someone with the passion, personality, and gifting to be a counsellor, will you encourage them to serve in the counselling ministry of PLMC?

Though counselling is an important part of care, we want to provide care upstream. Hence, different events and workshops in collaboration with different ministries will be offered in 2025 to raise greater awareness on mental health issues in children, youth, cells and others. Look out for them to learn and grow.

3.4. Growing our Ministry

For the third consecutive year, I remind us of the biblical pattern of ministry that we find in Ephesians 4:11–13 (NIV):

So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach 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.

According to the apostle Paul, the job of equipping the people for ministry is assigned to *the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers*. And the job of ministry belongs to the people of God.

I thank God for every co-worker (staff and worshipper) who is serving God in PLMC. At the same time, I want to see more church members actively engaged in ministry. The Year of Engagement has created opportunities for many in our church family to serve God by blessing the community. The Year of Expansion is another opportunity for our church family to serve God by blessing the nations. As mentioned above, our engagement of the community and expansion to the nations do not end when the emphasis ends that year. Serving God by blessing the community and the nations is a fundamental expression of our life together in Jesus. When all of us are serving God by blessing others, we will be a community where the ministry to the people inside and outside the church is by the people in the PLMC family. Then, we will have fulfilled the pattern of ministry given in Ephesians 4.

3.5. Growing our Leadership

John Maxwell is famously quoted for declaring that everything rises and falls on leadership. Whether you agree with this axiom doesn't reduce the critical importance of leadership. I will venture to affirm that leadership is critical to the church if she is to fulfil her full redemptive potential.

You have been encouraged in the last two leadership retreats to take the asynchronous online training programme by the International Leadership Institute (ILI). The link to the training is <https://connect.iliteam.org> or you may go to their website at <https://iliteam.org/> to explore what ILI is about. When you have completed the training, please inform me or the ILI Asia-Pacific leaders, Paul Low, Edward Lo and others. ILI Asia Pacific would certainly like you to join them in using your learning to train leaders in the Asia Pacific region. In training others, you will be better placed to live out the lessons you learnt in the ILI online training programme.

3.6. Growing our Families

Families are a very important part of the life of the church. Hence, the Family Life Ministry has begun putting in place the various components that will make up the Family Journey, an initiative that was mooted last year. The pre-marital and marital programmes are very helpful means to enable couples to experience what God intended for marriage. Likewise, good resources through the family life programmes are available to those who need them to raise their children. These resources will have limited impact until the church becomes a safe place where families in PLMC are willing to be open about the challenges they face as married couples or in parenting their children. So, becoming a safe place for all has direct implications for our families.

3.7. Growing Generations Unbroken

When we think of serving God by serving others, it would imply that we serve together regardless of age or background. Of particular concern is the learning we need to do in serving together across the generations. From what I have observed in the past months of this year, though many are cognisant and willing to serve across the generations, we lack the mindset or skills to do so efficaciously. The older generation are afraid to relate to the younger generation and the younger generation are likewise afraid to relate to the older generation. Both generations have a measure of pride that needs to be broken. The older generation needs to be delivered from thinking that they know best, and the younger generation needs to stop assuming that they are more passionate spiritually. To facilitate this learning and humbling process, at the initiative of two of our younger adults, the Bridge Builders Team comprising the two younger adults and two senior adults are looking into how to build bridges across the generations. When they roll out those opportunities of learning and bridge building, will you give them your full support? Joining the initiatives will help you to build bridges across the generations.

Building bridges across the generations is not only a biblical way of life, but it is also necessary as society enters new frontiers of technology and innovation. We need the wisdom of the generations to anchor our roots biblically and theologically. We need the insights and skills of the generations to understand and navigate the technological

and sociological developments to ensure that we will always present the Gospel in relevant and appropriate ways.

3.8. Growing our Physical Facilities

Most of the land on which our buildings rest is leasehold. This lease will expire in 2027. As many of you are aware, the work concerning the lease renewal began some years ago. This year, a significant step forward was taken. A formal application to renew the leasehold land on which PLMC stands was made on 27 June 2024. We are now awaiting a response from the Singapore Land Authority (SLA) which we expect to receive before the end of 2024.

In anticipation of a favourable response from SLA, we must begin looking into the redevelopment of our church premises. Project Ezekiel, led by Soh Fong Jin, will begin with envisioning workshops to bring our ministries and leaders together to seek the Lord and brainstorm ideas to further and deepen our spiritual impact in the community. This will require a whole-of-church effort, and I trust that all of you will step up when you are approached to be part of what God is doing and will do in the next three decades.

I have told our leaders that whatever we develop must be able to meet the needs of PLMC and the community at least 10 to 15 years from the time we start the physical redevelopment of the church premises. That means discerning a vision that is at least 15 to 20 years from today. Since only God knows the future, we will need to have insightful discernment that gives us a clear vision of what the future facilities of PLMC should look like. So, please begin praying for all of us to know what God wants to build on this land.

V. CONCLUSION

I believe that it is no coincidence that the redevelopment of our church facilities after the lease is renewed is called Project Ezekiel. Fong Jin drew inspiration from Ezekiel 40-48 for the foundation of the redevelopment. You would remember that for years now, we have looked at Ezekiel 47 again and again to remind ourselves of how

the fulfilment of our calling can happen and what the outcomes are when we have been faithful to our calling.

The man brought me back to the entrance to the temple, and I saw water coming out from under the threshold of the temple toward the east (for the temple faced east). The water was coming down from under the south side of the temple, south of the altar. He then brought me out through the north gate and led me around the outside to the outer gate facing east, and the water was trickling from the south side. As the man went eastward with a measuring line in his hand, he measured off a thousand cubits and then led me through water that was ankle-deep. He measured off another thousand cubits and led me through water that was knee-deep. He measured off another thousand and led me through water that was up to the waist. He measured off another thousand, but now it was a river that I could not cross, because the water had risen and was deep enough to swim in—a river that no one could cross. (Ezekiel 47:1-5 (NIV))

The river begins in the temple, reminding us that any blessing we receive or extend begins with God. Only in God's presence will we be truly blessed and empowered to bless the community and the nations. When we host the presence of God to bless the community and the nations, there will be fruits of nourishment and healing of broken lives. Everything will live where the river goes, and our prayer is that everything will live where the people of PLMC goes. May this be our journey in 2025. Amen!

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam!
For the Greater Glory of God!

~ END ~

APPENDIX 1: EMBRACING INCLUSIVITY

(For People with Disabilities and Special Educational Needs)

Preamble

The primary aim of embracing inclusivity in PLMC is to foster a space where our differently-abled brothers and sisters can be actively disciplined and taking on the role of disciple-maker. The Church as the Body of Christ must include all peoples who express faith in Christ and allegiance to his kingdom.

1. Introduction

PLMC as a spiritual organism and community-oriented organisation, holds the responsibility to extend its pastoral care to all members of the Body of Christ, including those with disabilities and special educational needs. Every member of the Body is essential and integral to the growth and health of the Body of Christ. In alignment with the core values of love, compassion, inclusivity, justice, and mercy, it is imperative that PLMC actively engages in fostering an environment that our differently-abled brothers and sisters are being actively disciplined and take on the role of disciple-maker. They should not be alienated from the wider congregational community. Thus, PLMC must embrace inclusivity in her pastoral care and extend support to people with disabilities and special educational needs, their families, and caregivers in the congregational community.

2. Theological Basis

The basis for embracing inclusivity is deeply rooted in Christian teachings that emphasise love, compassion, inclusivity, justice, and mercy. Below are some key theological considerations that underpin our motivation to embrace inclusivity.

a. Image of God (*Imago Dei*)

We affirm and assert that every person is created in the image of God, regardless of physical or cognitive abilities. *Imago Dei* emphasises the inherent and intrinsic dignity and worth of a person, forming the basis for rejecting discrimination and promotes inclusion of individuals with disabilities and special educational needs in our congregational community.

b. The Body of Christ (The Church)

The Church is the *Body of Christ* which means that every member is essential and integral to her growth and health. Every member, regardless of physical and cognitive abilities, belong to the Body of Christ. This underscores the importance of a diverse and inclusive community. Apostle Paul speaks about the diversity within the church which encourages us to value the unique contribution of every member, including people with disabilities and special educational needs. Inclusivity, then, essential and imperative for the church's calling to be a community of God where differently-abled people are cared for and disciplined.

c. Love and Compassion (The Great Commandments)

Central to Jesus' teaching is the commandment to love God and to love one's neighbour. The commandment to love one's neighbour calls for an expression of love and compassion towards every member of our congregational community. Inclusivity must be rooted in love as we extend support to people with disabilities and special educational needs. We must also recognise and respect their unique challenges while fostering a sense of belonging.

d. The Ministry of Jesus

The Gospels show that Jesus' ministry was inclusive, and he advocated for those who were relegated to the margin of society. His ministry served as the model for the church and should inspire us to actively engage in supporting and alleviating the pains of individuals with disabilities and special educational needs. We must also recognise and address the societal barriers and prejudices they face. We are called to act justly and love mercy, contributing to a more just, equitable, and inclusive community.

In summary, these Christian teachings are the foundations for our motivation to include our differently-abled brothers and sisters in our congregational community. We aim to create a space where they can be actively disciplined and actively participate in the life of the congregational community.

3. How Are We Going to Do This?

To fulfil this call and invitation from God, PLMC will implement the following strategies:

a. Movement, Not Ministry

We will not be establishing a standalone Inclusive Ministry. We want to create a movement within PLMC where every member sees inclusivity as his personal responsibility and expression of their discipleship. Bill High (2005) uses the idea of a virus to illustrate the concept of a movement. A virus spreads easily because all it typically needs is proximity. It does not need organisations, buildings, programs, new funding, or charismatic leaders. It just happens because viruses are contagious. A biblical picture is the yeast which leavens the whole dough. John Lederach (2005) explains that the essential to start a movement is to look for the critical yeast that is, a small set of the right people involved in the right places. Thus, we invite you to join us to answer God's call to be the agents who will form the critical yeast and influence the larger community towards making PLMC a safe place for differently-abled brothers and sisters.

The limitation of an Inclusive Ministry is its dependence on a LEADER. A total dependency on a leader will lead to a natural death when he or she is absent or removed. Ori Brafman and Rod Beckstrom (2008) illustrate this with the difference between a spider and a starfish. The spider dies if it is decapitated. Whereas a starfish continues to survive even if we cut off its legs. The place of the amputated leg will grow a new one. On the other hand, the severed leg can grow into an entirely

new starfish. It has the ability to duplicate itself is important for the sustainability and continuity of its survival. This same principle applies to PLMC's aim to embrace inclusivity. The invitation to be an inclusive community must be embraced by every member of PLMC so that we can fulfil this call from God to be a church and a Body of Christ.

A second danger of an Inclusive Ministry is the potential for unintentional exclusion and isolation of our differently-abled brothers and sisters from the wider congregational community. This could potentially exclude and isolate them, their families, and their caregivers from the wider community. Instead, we want to inspire every PLMC member to cultivate an innate motivation to embrace inclusivity. We are not ignorant of the challenges that this will bring and recognise that some who are on the lower end of the spectrum may not be able to fully integrate into the main flow of the church's life. In such cases, we will consider alternatives where they can continue to be discipled and grow spiritually.

b. The Three E's: Engage, Educate, and Equip

We hope to achieve this through the 3 E's, namely, Engage Educate, and Equip.

1. **Engage:** we want to engage with the church community – people with disabilities, their families and caregivers, specialists, related organisations, and the wider congregational community. We want to establish partnerships with the different communities to develop a network where the church can fulfil its mission to make disciples of all peoples.
2. **Educate:** we want to educate and inform our congregational community about people with disabilities and special educational needs through different platforms (seminars, workshops, and talks). Everyone in PLMC should undergo training to develop a deeper understanding of disabilities and special educational needs. This aims to build awareness, dispelling myths, and equipping individuals with the necessary information and resources to build a community that embraces every follower of Christ.
3. **Equip:** we want to equip our members with the skill to be effective in embracing inclusivity. We want to collaborate with our partners to equip our members with skills and resources to be effective in becoming an inclusive church.

It is imperative that every effort is made to understand the varied needs of our differently-abled brothers and sisters so that they can be effectively and actively discipled and become disciple-makers. This would mean an acknowledgement of the range of disabilities, both visible and invisible, and recognise their unique challenges. By fostering a culture of honour and love and understanding, we can fulfil God's invitation for PLMC to be a church that values every member.

4. Conclusion

PLMC must commit to actively discipling our differently-abled brothers and sisters and helping them to become a disciple-maker. This commitment is a testimony of our dedication to the principle of love, inclusivity, justice, and mercy. It also reflects our seriousness in accepting God's invitation and call to embrace inclusivity. By embracing inclusivity and actively addressing the diverse needs of our members, we will not only fulfil our spiritual mission but also contributes to creating a society where every individual, regardless of ability, can fully participate in the growth and well-being of our society and community. As we move towards this goal, let us continue to increase in our labour of love and compassion, cultivating understanding and acceptance of all people created in God's image. PLMC must commit to be a church that disciples all people and be a blessing to all people.

APPENDIX 2: YEAR OF EXPANSION

1. OBJECTIVE

In alignment with PIC's Year of Expansion direction and the 2025 vision statement of the Missions Ministry: **“A missional church proclaiming the kingdom of God among the least-reached peoples in Asia westward towards Jerusalem.”**

*By faith, we are targeting 80% of congregants to go for missions trips targeting about **2,000 trippers**. Based on an average of 10 person per trip, it works to **200 missions trips!***



2. STRATEGIES

The 2025 Vision is to be achieved through the three strategic thrusts:

2.1. Creative access to the least-reached people groups

- We are expanding in the least-reached people groups through opening new missions field in Bangladesh, Mongolia, India, Indonesia, Nepal and Sri Lanka etc.
- We are raising up the younger generation of missionaries that will be going to reach the least-reached people groups in countries such as Japan, Indonesia and Kazakhstan etc.

2.2. Effective engagement of field and missions partners

- We have increased strategic partnership with the local missions partners to increase the numbers of mission trips in the year of Expansion.
- This will enhance the effectiveness of our missions engagement and stronger support for our missions partners in their church planting effort.

2.3. Extensive mobilisation of PLMC members and worshippers

- To achieve this, we are praying for the move of the Holy Spirit impacting the congregants and that there will be a movement of spiritual growth especially in the area of evangelism and missions.
- The extensive mobilisation is not just about an increase in the number of trips; it's about transformation and discipleship.
- When congregants understand their role in God's mission, they become enthusiastic participants, saying "YES! To Missions".

3. TIMELINE FOR YEAR OF EXPANSION

Building the Momentum in 2024 towards Year of Expansion

2024 June Camp	20 October	26 October
Missions Program Missions Ablaze! (done)	YoEx Soft Launch + Laity Month	Missions Engagement – Yes to Missions



Year of Expansion 2025

5 January	5 March – 17 April	2 Mar, 27 April, 7 September	19 July	October
Vision Casting/ Commissioning	40 Days of Lent Prayer & fasting for the Nations	Preaching on Missions Missions booths	YoEx Weekend	Laity Month



Year of Expansion 2025

Here are the strategic church-wide events in Year of Expansion 2025 to propel congregants towards missions:

Dates	Events
5 January 2025	Vision Casting/Commissioning
5 March – 17 April	40 Days of Lent Prayer & Fasting for the Nations
5 March, 27 April, 7 September 2025	Preaching/Missions Booth
30 April 2025	Cultural night
19 July 2025	YoEx Weekend
October 2025	Laity Month

4. PARTNERSHIP WITH CELL MINISTRY

Three Strategies to Get the Cell to go for Missions:

- e. Mobilise the Cell to go for MET (Appendix 2A)
- ii. Equip the Cell for Missions (Appendix 2B)
- iii. Propel the Cell towards Missions together
 - Online cell material MomentumYes (Appendix 2C)

5. MOBILISING PRAYER

During the 40 days of Lent, we will be praying and fasting for the Nations. Weekly prayer material will be given to the congregation, and, through social media, we will encourage prayer for our mission field, our missionaries, our missions partners and the many MET/STM going out. By fostering a culture of prayer, we are creating a strong foundation for effective missions work.

6. CONCLUSION

The overarching goal of the 200 MET/STM trip goes beyond mere numbers or completed projects. It's about transformation. Participants experience God's heartbeat for the lost, encounter Jesus' love in action, and sense the Holy Spirit's presence as they serve in the missions field. This holistic approach ensures that the impact extends far beyond the trip itself and beyond the Year of Expansion!

APPENDIX 2A: MISSIONS TRIPS FOR CELLS

The Missions Exposure Trips (MET) and Short-Term Missions (STM) Trips will be a valuable platform for stretching beyond comfort zones. It is through these experiences that believers often encounter God in powerful ways and develop a deeper intimacy with Christ. Applying the Word of God to their faith journey during missions can indeed lead to transformative perspectives and a heart for cross-cultural ministry.

LET'S DISCOVER MET!

Missions Exposure Trip!

WHY GO FOR MISSIONS EXPOSURE TRIP?

Exposure to cross cultural ministry!

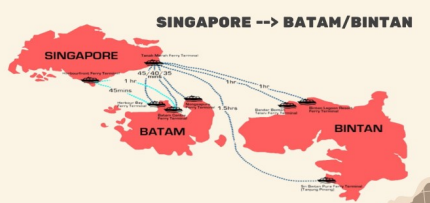
Short distance from Singapore and short time across the weekend (You don't have to take leave! ☺)

Support the locals in existing mission works

Great time of bonding for your family or cell

Great discipleship journey of experiencing and encountering God!

SINGAPORE --> BATAM/BINTAN



LET'S DISCOVER MET!

Missions Exposure Trip!

WHAT DOES THE TRIP LEADER DO?



- Coordinate with pastor/supervisor in the field
- Pre-trip planning
- Trip debrief
- Administrative matters (registration form, briefing and claims)
- Meet and pray with MET host online
- Discipleship!

WHAT DOES THE HOST DO?

- Booking of hotel (pre-fix hotel)
- Local transport (van/car)
- Local Logistics (food and bring teams to buy stuff for goody bags)
- Program (host the program and provide interpreters)

MET TO BATAM



Riau Island

DURATION	ACCOMMODATION
<p>2 DAYS 1 NIGHT</p>	<p>HOTEL Twin Sharing Room</p>
TRANSPORT	ESTIMATED COST
<p>FERRY Harbourfront -> Batam Batam -> Harbourfront</p>	<p>Ferry/ Transport + Accommodation + Meals = \$150</p>

MET TO TG PINANG

BINTAN

DURATION	ACCOMMODATION
<p>2 DAYS 1 NIGHT</p>	<p>HOTEL Twin Sharing Room</p>
TRANSPORT	ESTIMATED COST
<p>FERRY Tanah Merah -> TG Pinang TG Pinang -> Tanah Merah</p>	<p>Ferry/ Transport + Accommodation + Meals = \$180</p>

APPENDIX 2B: MISSIONS TRIP TRAINING

The Missions Preparatory Course is a pre-requisite for Missions Trips (MET/STM) while the Missions Trip Leaders Training is for those leading missions trips. Cell clusters can come together for the missions preparatory course. Please see the training dates below and register here: <https://forms.office.com/r/tTVqDgNx14>

Missions Preparatory Course	10 January 2025 Friday 8pm	Chapel
	16 March 2025 Sunday 2pm	Jordan Hall
	25 April 2025 Friday 8pm	Chapel
	18 May 2025 Sunday 2pm	Jordan Hall
	24 August 2025 Sunday 2pm	Jordan Hall
Missions Trip Leaders Training	8 March 2025 Saturday 10am	Conference Room
	10 May 2025 Saturday 10am	Conference Room
	16 August 2025 Saturday 9am	Conference Room

Note: Cell Clusters are encouraged to attend on the days highlighted in bold.

APPENDIX 2C: MISSIONS CURRICULUM FOR CELLS

The role of cell leaders and trip leaders in fostering prayer, devotion, and community is crucial. We will mobilise cell groups in PLMC to grow as a family serving together in missions. The cell will go through MomentumYes! (six online sessions) and mobilise the cell for MET/STM as spiritual engagement in missions.

Access MomentumYes material here: <https://plmc.org/missions/>

APPENDIX 3: EZRA LAY INSTITUTE (ELI)

1. Aim:
 - a. To develop leaders for the ministries in PLMC
 - b. To equip leaders with basic theological, biblical, and ministry skills.

2. Distinctives:
 - a. Modules are designed with PLMC unique characteristics, such as PLMC as a Cell Church and PLMC as a Safe Space for diversity of people.
 - b. Modules are designed with the Methodist/Wesleyan perspectives.
 - c. Elective ministry modules decide by participants depending on their particular ministry interest and a six-month ministry internship.

3. Course Modules:
 - a. **Foundation of Christian Theology**

This course provides students with a comprehensive introduction to the foundational principles of Christian theology. It explores key theological concepts, such as the doctrine of God, Christology, soteriology, and eschatology. Students will examine the historical development of Christian thought and engage in critical theological reflection.

 - b. **Survey of the Bible**

The Survey of the Bible course offers a broad overview of the Bible, covering both the Old and New Testaments. Students will study the historical and cultural contexts of biblical texts, key themes, and major events. The course aims to equip students with a foundational understanding of the Bible's narrative and its relevance to contemporary Christian life.

 - c. **Biblical Interpretation**

This course focuses on developing the skills necessary for interpreting and applying biblical texts. Students will explore various approaches to biblical hermeneutics, including historical-critical methods and literary analysis. They will learn to discern the original meaning of biblical passages and apply them to different contexts.

 - d. **Nations and Community Engagement (Evangelism, Missions, Social Concerns, and Safe Place)**

This course emphasises the role of the church in engaging with the community and the nations. It covers topics like evangelism, social concerns, and creating a safe and welcoming church environment. It will also cover topics related to world missions. Students will learn practical strategies for reaching out to the community and the nations, addressing social issues, and fostering a loving and inclusive church community.

e. Christian Discipleship and Formation

Christian Discipleship and Formation explores the process of spiritual growth and transformation in the life of a believer. It delves into the practices of prayer, worship, and spiritual disciplines. Students will examine different models of discipleship and how they contribute to spiritual maturity.

f. Cell Structure and Dynamics (Wesley's Class System)

This course introduces students to the concept of small group ministry, drawing from John Wesley's class system. Students will explore the history and theology behind small groups in the church and learn practical strategies for implementing effective small group ministry.

g. Christian Ministry Leadership

Christian Ministry Leadership focuses on developing leadership skills within a Christian context. Students will study leadership theories, ethical considerations, and practical aspects of leading in various ministry settings. The course equips students to serve as effective leaders within the church and community.

h. Introduction to Methodism

This module delves into the theological beliefs, religious practices, and historical development of the Methodist Church. Topics covered include the doctrines of prevenient grace, justification by faith, and sanctification, as well as the significant role of John Wesley in shaping Methodism. It examines the distinctive liturgical practices, such as class meetings and the use of hymnals, which are integral to Methodist worship. Additionally, the module explores the historical context of Methodism, from its origins in 18th-century England to its global expansion and the emergence of various Methodist denominations. Learners can gain a deep understanding of the theological underpinnings, rituals, and the rich history that have contributed to the enduring influence of Methodism within the Christian faith.

i. Ministry Electives (Worship Ministry, Children's Ministry, Missions, Social Outreach, Youth/YA Ministry)

This component of the program allows students to specialise in a specific area of ministry based on their interests and calling. Students can choose from a range of electives, such as Worship Ministry, Children's Ministry, Missions, Social Outreach, or Youth Ministry/Ministry to Young Adults (YA), to gain specialised knowledge and skills in their chosen field.

j. Ministry Internship (Six months)

The Ministry Internship provides students with practical, hands-on experience in a ministry setting. Over a six-month period, students will work alongside experienced mentors, applying the knowledge and skills acquired throughout the program. This internship offers a valuable opportunity for students to integrate theory with real-world ministry practice.

These courses together form a comprehensive program that prepares students for effective Christian ministry, emphasising theological understanding, biblical literacy, leadership development, and practical engagement with the church and community. Each module is 10 weeks and participants can choose either to do audit or credit. This will be a chargeable course, and the quantum will be decided at a later stage.