

CHURCH OF THE RISEN CHRIST
PARISH ASSEMBLY 2006

Minutes of the 3rd Parish Assembly held in the Parish Hall
On Sunday, 3rd December 2006 at 1.30 p.m.

Present: Parish Priest: Fr. John Sim
Assistant Priest: Fr. Adrian Yeo

Members of Parish Pastoral Council and PPC-Executive Committee
Members of Parish Organizations and Ministries
Members of the General Congregation

Item

The Parish Assembly was attended by 185 parishioners and 2 priests.

1. Praise & Worship

The meeting of the Parish Assembly was declared opened by Mr. Bernard Yee at 1.45pm with praise and worship led by Ms. Jeanette Kong.

2. Scripture Reflection

Fr. Adrian Yeo led the assembly to reflect on scripture passage 1 Corinthians 12:1-26, "Spiritual Gifts" and "One Body with Many Members".

3. Address by Chairperson of PPC (in English & Mandarin)

In her address, Vivienne Lim said the presence of each of everyone makes a difference in the Parish Assembly. Agnes Chan delivered the summary of Vivienne's address for each topic in mandarin. The summary of the Chairperson's presentation is as follows:

3.1 Structure of PPC:

- The Parish Assembly and PPC are means of participation by the laity to consider pastoral concerns.
- Pastoral concerns are those issues which help us live out the gospel and direct us on how to care for the needs of others.
- The PPC is accountable for what has been done to address pastoral issues and it plans on how to move forward the aim of loving God and each other.
- The work of PPC is flexible, depending on pastoral issues from the Parish Assembly and the needs of small pastoral work groups.
- The Executive Committee is the working body of PPC to implement the plans. The ExCo will inform PPC on the stages of pastoral plan implementation.
- PPC informs parishioners at the following year's Parish Assembly of the actions taken and future plans proposed by PPC.

3.2 Pastoral Initiatives in 2005-2006

- **Vintage Care** – to address the needs of senior citizens. It now has about 350 members and activities include social, handicrafts and talks on health for older persons. The coordinator is Candice Tan.
- **Media Team** – a team of mass media communication professionals who address the communication gap and coordinate information for greater publicity in the parish. The coordinator is John Png.
- **CaFE** – a Catholic faith formation video programme introduced in the parish. The coordinator is Jeanette Kong. A CaFE programme for Youth will be introduced in 2007.
- **Cell Groups** – the forming of Cell Groups (Small Christian Communities) is a possible way

of addressing the pastoral issues (e.g. passing on of people with no one to care for them). Presently, there are 5 – 6 Cell Groups in Toa Payoh, Bishan and Braddell View. More Cell Groups are encouraged to be formed to reach out to our neighbours. The Parish Team has been formed to help people interested to start new or join existing Cell Groups. The Parish Team can be contacted at email address cellgroups@risenchrist.org.sg or through the Parish Secretary. The coordinator is Josephine Cheong.

- **Parish Survey 2006** – the feedback revealed that many requested for counselling and various support services. In the light of this, the setting up of a Counselling Centre in conjunction with Family Life Society is in progress; Free Legal Consultation was started in 2006 in conjunction with the Catholic Lawyers Guild; and the Risen Christ Free Medical Centre is planned for in 2007. In our call to evangelize God’s love, these social services are to serve Catholics and non-Catholics.
- **Other pastoral issues** will be investigated into by the incoming 2nd PPC according to the needs and resources to start new initiatives.
- **Retirement of PPC 2005-2006**
The Chairperson acknowledged with thanks the contributions and efforts of Councillors retiring from PPC at the end of 2006. Four Councillors elected in 2006 will continue as members of the PPC in 2007, namely:
 - Bernard Yee
 - Christine Chew
 - Pauline Lee
 - Joseph Vijayachandran

3.3 **Reaching Out To Our Vision “We Are One In The Lord”**

We will continue with the same vision to foster concern and unity among parishioners.

Our mission is to:

- Care for one another within the Church.
- Care for others beyond the Church, e.g. poor people in Toa Payoh.
- Our relationship with God (the vertical wood of the cross).
- Our relationship with the broader community (the horizontal wood of the cross).

Four topics were discussed in small groups with PPC facilitators during the breakout session to bring home the vision and mission of the parish. The reflection topics were:

- One with God
 - What has helped me grow the most?
 - How can the existing faith formation programmes be improved?
 - Are there gaps in the range of faith formation programmes?
 - What other kinds of programmes/events/ministries should we have?
- One in Service
 - How can our ministries show the love of God and the church?
 - How can our ministries work more closely with each other?
 - How can we bring in more people to serve in the ministries?
 - How can we better train ministry leaders and ensure that there is a pipeline of leadership for each ministry?
- One with all Parishioners
 - How can we make our church a loving home for all parishioners?
 - How can we involve all parishioners more in the community life of the parish?
 - Do we need to do more to strengthen the families of the parish?
 - Do we need to do more to strengthen the marriages in the parish?
 - Do we need to do more to help parents with their children, their teenagers, the youth and the elderly?
- One with the Community
 - What can we do to make this an effort of more parishioners?
 - How can our services to non-parishioners be improved?
 - How do we help non-Catholics to know Christ better?
 - How can we make non-parishioners feel welcome when they attend mass?

4. **Address by President of PPC (in English and Mandarin)**

Fr. John Sim welcomed the people and expressed appreciation for their presence at the Parish Assembly. He said that the parish is our second home. As such, all people must have a feeling of belonging and treat it as a family of brothers and sisters.

Fr. Sim thanked the retiring PPC and their contributions, ideas and feedback. He said the parish cannot be stagnant. We need to be dynamic and be a church for the younger generation for the glory of God.

“We Are One In The Lord” calls all of us to have better communication and relationship with one another.

5. **Breakout Group Discussions & Group Presentation**

Four PPC facilitators presented the consolidated key points of the four pastoral topics discussed by the small groups. The points are enclosed at Appendix 1.

6. **Nominations and Election of the 2nd Parish Pastoral Council**

Vivienne announced that the parish received Nomination Forms for 42 persons to stand for election into the 2nd PPC. An election was not required because the number of nominees did not exceed the quota of 60 Councillors for PPC. All 42 nominees were considered able to stand for election as Councillors by the Parish Priest in consultation with the Office Bearers of PPC 2005-2006.

In the light of above, the Chairperson proposed the 42 nominees take office as Councillors in the 2nd PPC 2007-2008. There being no objection from the people, the said nominees were confirmed as the incoming Councillors. Please refer to Appendix 2 for names.

Thirty-one (31) newly appointed Councillors briefly introduced themselves to all at the Parish Assembly. Eleven (11) newly appointed Councillors were absent with apologies.

7. **Question & Answer Session**

A panel comprising of Fr. John Sim, Vivienne Lim, David Kwek and Josephine Cheong facilitated the Q&A session. The following were proposed by parishioners:

- 7.1 The church to install water coolers for children to provide a healthier choice of drink.
- 7.2 The church to organize a weekly class for non-Catholic young children (aged 5 to 9) to learn about the Catholic faith.
Panel's Response:
 - There is a children's liturgy on the 2nd Sunday of the month.
 - There is special children's catechesis on Saturdays and Sundays for Primary 1-6 students. Non-Catholic children can attend with the consent of their parents.
 - PPC will investigate into additional needs, if necessary.
- 7.3 The youth community require understanding and consideration on pastoral needs when decisions are made by PPC.
- 7.4 The mandarin-speaking parishioners need to feel welcome and invited to participate in parish events. Organizing events that is bi-lingual will build community oneness.
- 7.5 The parish to organize a food & funfair on Easter Sunday, feast day of the parish.
- 7.6 The parish to have a Legion of Mary that includes the English and Chinese speaking parishioners.
- 7.7 The “Vintage Care” to include the Chinese-speaking senior parishioners in its community care.
- 7.8 The church to organize catechism for children with special needs (e.g. autistic children).

Panel's Response:

- This pastoral issue may require a support group made of people with a special need to be formed, and possibly to co-opt a specialist to teach the children.
- There are some gaps in pastoral needs that require awareness for PPC to address, which require people to step forward to participate in it.

7.9 The church to employ a full-time Pastoral Coordinator to administer to the needs of pastoral care, such as management of catechism students' data. The work is currently done by catechists.

7.10 The youth are reportedly going to other Christian denomination churches for activities. The church need to get the youth involved, have interesting and meaningful activities to engage them in.

7.11 The church to organize Bible study/sharing groups for parishioners.

7.12 "Eternal Dawn", a Church of the Risen Christ youth band is performing a concert for a charitable cause, but the information is not widely known.

7.13 Panel's Response to the parishioners' concerns:

- Share information with each other.
- Show concern as a parish.
- Reach out to those who are now here at the Parish Assembly and invite them to participate with passion.

7.14 In closing, Fr. John Sim said:

- The parishioners have grown in maturity, and there is awareness that we need one another.
- The Catholic Social & Community Council has been established by the Archbishop. It is an umbrella for coordination, formation and training of leaders and allocation of resources to carry out the social mission of the church in Singapore.
- Parishioners should build the church not for themselves, but for their children.
- Fr. Sim quoted the late John F Kennedy, "Don't ask what the nation can do for you, but what you can do for your nation."

8. Closing of Parish Assembly 2006

The Parish Assembly 2006 ended at 5.00 p.m. with a prayer.

Recorded by:

Josephine Cheong

Secretary of PPC

Confirmed by:

Vivienne Lim

Chairperson of PPC

Fr. John Sim

Parish Priest & President of PPC

(This is an e-mail or computer printout. No signature is required.)

Authorized Circulation (PPCPC Article 8.5):

- Ex-Officio
- Members of PPC and PPC-Exco
- Parish Notice Board for the general congregation.

SUGGESTIONS FROM SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS AT THE PARISH ASSEMBLY 2006

<p>GROUP A - ONE WITH GOD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share trials and faith testimonies. • Mutual support (e.g. family groups to pray together and Gospel sharing). • Publicity and awareness of parish programmes are required. • Better trained and friendly facilitators. • Parents can be involved in catechism of their children. • Activities for youth after the Sacrament of Confirmation for secondary 3 students. • Activities for children before primary 1. • Synergy of ministries working in the parish. • More creative activities (e.g. outdoor sharing) • Ministries to include the Chinese-speaking parishioners (e.g. Vintage Care). • Parish retreats or recollections. • Inclusive Ministries without discrimination. • “Free & Easy” ministry for parishioners unable to engage in long term participation and commitments.
<p>GROUP B – ONE IN SERVICE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ministries to do home visits. • Greeters by different ministries on rotation, which could include awareness campaign by each ministry. Acknowledge people with a smile. • Cell Groups to grow faster, with membership comprising of a few ministries. • Smaller Parish Assemblies during the year to deliberate on specific pastoral issues. • Inclusive Ministries without restrictions. • Compulsory leadership rotation. • Parish Family Days or gatherings organized by ministries. • Singapore Pastoral Institute Training Programme for Christian leadership.
<p>GROUP C – ONE WITH ALL PARISHIONERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospitality – ministry of greeters; seats for elderly and disabled persons; children and youth participation in mass. A place for community gathering before mass to get to know each other and interact with newly baptized and new parishioners. Priests welcome people. Include youth and ladies in the Warden ministry. • Bible reflection groups – organize informal activities for parish community to build interest and sense of belonging. • Adoption of charitable organization every year by the parish community. • Families - More frequent family and youth masses (e.g. examination masses). Talks on parenting with regard to youth issues, internet problems/threats. Talks for young parents. Support group for parents. • Marriage Encounter – Dates for busy married couples to get together. Blessings at masses for couples on wedding anniversaries, expectant women and birthdays. • Infant-care room (preferably sound proof) for nursing mothers. • Tuition for children. • Placement of job vacancies on Notice Board to help the people seeking for employment.
<p>GROUP D – ONE WITH THE COMMUNITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publicity of parish programmes (e.g. parish renewal, education, training, newsletter) • Parishioners to adopt a friendly and welcome attitude. • Publicise widely the “FREE” services available in our church (e.g. legal aid, counselling, and clinic). • Print flyers and use CD ROM to introduce our Catholic faith to others. • Display more materials for non-Catholics to read. • Priests welcome new members of the congregation at masses, and Greeters can follow-up to establish contact with the new-comers in the parish.

Church of the Risen Christ - PPC 2007-2008 Councillors

S/n	Name	Appointed Councillors at Parish Assembly 2006	Org 1	Org 2	Proposer	Seconder
1	Alexander Paul Yeow Shene Jhene	Present	Catechists	CYF	Kwek Mean Luck	Vivienne Lim
2	Alicia Khoo	Present	Lectors		Vivienne Lim	Bernard Yee
3	Anthony Heng Weng Leng	Present	Wardens		Paul Chay	Eugene
4	Benedict Chan Wei Jun	Present	Catechists	CYF	Kwek Mean Luck	Vivienne Lim
5	Caleb Leong Fook Luen	Present	CaFE	Canteen	Jeanette Kong	Mark Leong
6	Carol De Costa	Absent	Shalom Choir		Rosalind Danker	Nancy Chan
7	Cecilia Fong	Absent	Vintage Care		Candice	Rosy Koh
8	Darrell Low	Present	Lectors	Cantate Domino Choir	Vivienne Lim	Bernard Yee
9	David Chook Yong Kee	Present	SSVP		Philip Tay	Maggie Tay
10	Desiree Anasyasia Ling	Present	Shalom Choir		Amelia Teo	William Lai
11	Doreen Law	Present	Choir	CaFE	Candy Lim	Doris Tan
12	Edwin Yeow	Present	SSVP	Willing Hands	Mark Leong	Jerome Leon
13	Eric Josiah Tan	Present	Shalom Choir		Mike Lim	Henry Jansea
14	Eric Pham	Present	Charismatic Prayer Group		Eddie Danker	Jeanette Kong
15	Gabriel Law	Present			Jeanette Kong	Roy Ng
16	Grace Hoia Chup Moey	Absent	(3)		Candice	Rosy Koh
17	Helen Lee	Present	Vintage Care		Candice	Rosy Koh
18	Jeanette Kong (PPC 2nd Term)	Present	Charismatic Prayer Group		Mark Leong	Christine
19	Jeffrey Ong Boon Leng	Present	CaFE		Mark Leong	Candy Lim
20	John Bosco Lukase	Absent	(3)		Mark Leong	Caleb Leong
21	Kwek Mean Luck (PPC 2nd Term)	Present	PPC	Lectors	Royston Yuen	Mark Leong

Church of the Risen Christ - PPC 2007-2008 Councillors

S/n	Name	Appointed Councillors at Parish Assembly 2006	Org 1	Org 2	Proposer	Seconder
22	Larry Lee	Present	Lectors		Cynthia Chan	Bernard Yee
23	Lena Tan	Present	Shalom Choir		Irene Choo	David Yip
24	Lester Joannes Wan	Present	Catechists	CYF	Jeanette Kong	Mark Leong
25	Lynda C Yap (PPC 2nd Term)	Present	Charismatic Prayer Group	Min of the Sick	Shanti Bala	Bridget Pereira
26	Margaret Asha K	Present	ICM		S Nathan	Celestian MA Bangar
27	Mark Leong (PPC 2nd Term)	Absent	SSVP	CaFE	David Choo Yong Kee	Richard Lim
28	Mary Ow	Present	Canteen		Rosie Lim	Paul Lim
29	Matthew Wan (PPC 2nd Term)	Present	PPC	Mandarin Speaking Wardens	Vivienne Lim	Kwek Mean Luck
30	Nicholas Quah Teow Huat	Absent	CFSM		Heng Chung Joo	Teo Hai Chai
31	Pandiyan	Present			Mark Leong	Vanda Lim
32	Paul Loh (PPC 2nd Term)	Absent	LM (Queen of New Town)	Mandarin Speaking Wardens	Thomas Tan Kok Ann	Anthony Soh Yoong Lee
33	Peter Tan Yong Tuck	Absent	CFSM		Heng Chung Joo	Teo Hai Chai
34	Royston Yuen	Present	Lectors		Kwek Mean Luck	Vivienne Lim
35	Sharon Yuen	Absent	Lectors		Bernard Yee	Jeanette Kong
36	Susan Yeow	Present	Charismatic Prayer Group		Eddie Danker	Jeanette Kong
37	Teresa Hoe (PPC 2nd Term)	Present			Jeanette Kong	Mark Leong
38	Thomas Quek Khook Whee	Absent	Wardens		Daniel Tsi	S Nathan
39	Virginia Josephine Cordeiro	Present	Charismatic Prayer Group	Min of the Sick	Jeanette Kong	Bernard Yee
40	Vivienne Lim (PPC 2nd Term)	Present	PPC	Lectors	Mark Leong	Gabriel
41	William Hoo Loon Hong (PPC 2nd Term)	Present	PPC (Cell groups)	Vintage Care	Joseph Goh Yong Soo	Roland Lim Peng Boon
42	Yeo Aik Khoon	Absent	Mandarin Speaking Wardens		Tan Choon Huat	Joseph Lee