



**Golden Jubilee Celebration.** The National Council of Churches of Singapore (NCCS) held its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Thanksgiving Dinner on Wednesday, 24 July, together with the extended family of the Christian community in Singapore. The event was attended by the Guest of Honour, Senior Minister Lee Hsien Loong as well as Mr Edwin Tong, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, and Mr Desmond Lee, Minister for National Development. Other religious organisations were also represented at the event, affirming the religious harmony that thrives in our society.

1) The evening kicked off with a rousing rendition of 'Great Is Thy Faithfulness' which acknowledged God's faithfulness and constancy in every circumstance. This set the tone for an evening filled with thanksgiving and gratitude.

In his welcome address, Bishop Lu thanked Senior Minister Lee for his contributions to Singapore's progress as Prime Minister for the past 20 years and acknowledged SM Lee's stewardship and love for the people, which "...has helped our people become more respectful of each other's religion, which is why we can experience the racial and religious harmony we have today".

Addressing the 240 dinner guests, Bishop Lu noted that the NCCS had, over the decades, patiently encouraged churches in Singapore to be part of the NCCS family.

"This big family is well-represented this evening, and your attendance testifies to the unity of the Christian community in Singapore. And thanks to this unity, NCCS can embrace the expanded role of representing Christians in the public square, work that we started doing in earnest more than a decade ago," Bishop Lu added. [Bishop's Welcome Address](#)

2) In his speech, SM Lee noted that NCCS' original intent was to bring together churches of different traditions and backgrounds but broadened its focus over the years to build bridges with other faith communities and foster inter-religious harmony.

He noted that the NCCS had responded constructively to help facilitate engagements between the Government and Christian groups whenever controversial and difficult national issues arose. Consequently, the community's views were properly aired and well considered, which in turn contributed much to building a cohesive, harmonious, and inclusive society.

"So, a very big thank you to NCCS and all your member churches for your very good work," SM Lee said.

Senior Minister Lee told the audience that besides giving thanks for NCCS' golden jubilee, Singapore had many broader reasons for being thankful, such as our racial and religious harmony, and how leaders of religious groups here understood the importance of accommodation and compromise and had led their congregations wisely and pragmatically.

SM Lee said that a recent Pew Research Centre study found Singapore's religious diversity to be "remarkable on the global scale" and that the country had "high levels of interreligious tolerance and acceptance on multiple measures".

“Thankfully, our religious diversity is a point of pride, and has not become a cause of schism. Despite the many tensions and conflicts elsewhere, we have by and large managed to avoid importing these problems, and maintained our religious harmony in Singapore,” he added. [SM LEE’S SPEECH](#)

3) After SM Lee’s speech, NCCS President Bishop Lu and Vice-President Archbishop Dr Titus Chung presented SM Lee with a token of appreciation: a Chinese calligraphy artwork done by Mr Tan Shee Ping, with the characters “勤政爱民” (“diligence in governance and loving the people”). This was followed by the cake-cutting ceremony. SM Lee and Ministers Edwin Tong and Desmond Lee were joined by members of the NCCS executive committee on stage for a group photo.

Short video clips that recalled the ministry and challenges of NCCS through the years were played during the dinner and all guests received a gift of the commemorative booklet “Serving the Church Engaging Society”.

NCCS’ new logo was also launched during the Golden Jubilee dinner. The logo, with its distinctive red and black wordings leaning on two gold crosses, signals NCCS’ expanded role of representing the Christian community in the public square.

All in all, it was a night of thanksgiving and fellowship, even as the guests took the opportunity to catch up with old acquaintances and make new friends, long after the VIPs had left.

Indeed, the NCCS’ Golden Jubilee celebrations calls to mind Ecclesiastes 3:11, and how everything is made beautiful in His time. It was also a night made possible by the generosity of Philip and Jonathan Ng of the Far East Organisation, who sponsored the dinner held in the beautiful Marquee of the Barracks Hotel, Sentosa.

It was indeed an ideal setting for a most memorable evening. [PHOTOS](#)

**The 2024 Paris Olympics:** the parody of Leonardo da Vinci’s *The Last Supper* at the grand opening ceremony is a “very blatant and very public bastardisation of the Christian Faith”. More on this at [ETHOS](#)

**NDTS 2024.** Come join us for the National Day Thanksgiving Service (NDTS) on Thursday 15 August at 7.45 pm in the Cathedral New Sanctuary, St Andrew’s Cathedral! During the service, NCCS Vice President, and Synod Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Singapore, Rt Rev Dr Christopher Chia will deliver a message on “Christ, Culture & Country”, based on 1 Peter 2:9-12.

Participants include the music team and handbell ringers of Toa Payoh Methodist Church. NCCS Exco members will be leading in different parts of the service including the Intercessory Prayers for church and nation. The congregation will also be blessed by a presentation by Cantate Domino, an inter-denominational choral group formed 33 years ago which has served churches, nursing homes and Christian charities in Singapore and the region.

Following the service, do enjoy light refreshments and warm fellowship with other worshippers. Don’t miss this opportunity to come together with Christians across Singapore to worship and to pray. If members of the same church would like to be seated together, please inform the NCCS office for reservations. We encourage you to share this publicity poster with your congregation. [PUBLICITY](#)