

Truth B-P Church

Sunday Bulletin Supplement – 2 April 2017

(Note: This Supplement replaces the supplements of 19 Feb 2017 and 19 Mar 2017.)

The 11th Annual Congregational Meeting (ACM) and 6th Session Election of Truth Bible-Presbyterian Church will be held this coming Saturday. It is compulsory for all Truth church members to attend. More than just constitutional obligation, it is more important for us to come with a joyful spirit and a prepared heart to commune and serve the Lord in His business together.

ACM is always a time to reflect on the previous year as to how God has been so good and faithful to us. Reading the Annual General Report for the year 2016 should fill our hearts with thanksgiving and joy of what God has done to bless us in 2016 despite our many failings. We must not take God's blessings for granted. We must continue to pray for our church leaders and for the church as a whole to remain steadfast in the faith in these last days. Even the financial reporting has a spiritual component: to remind us how we are to be good stewards of God's money. God's work must always be supported by God's people. Every cent in the church treasury is to be accounted for, and used faithfully for the furtherance of the gospel and the extension of God's kingdom.

The election of Session members is a needful exercise to put the right leaders in place to govern the church. The election is to be conducted in a proper manner, as required by the law of our land. It is God's command that every local church is to be subjected to the higher authority of its country (Rom 13:1-4). However, our subjection is only as long as we are not limited in our higher calling to fulfil the Great Commission to the saving of souls in these last days. We abide by the biblical principle of Apostle Peter: "*We ought to obey God rather than men*" (Acts 5:29b). Should the time come when we have to choose between obeying God or country, we must always obey God wholeheartedly, without apology or compromise. We thank God for the freedom of worship and the peace we can enjoy in this country. This is God's blessing

to us and we must continue to pray for Singapore.

Let us be reminded again of the importance of church leadership and its responsibility. The Session is made up of leaders whom we call elders and deacons. Eldership consists of two types: teaching and ruling. The pastor is often the teaching elder of the church and he is in charge of the pulpit ministry. However, it does not mean that the ruling elder has no part in preaching or teaching. One of the requirements of an elder is that he is apt to teach and exhort (1 Tim 3:2; Titus 1:9). Elders have the spiritual oversight of all matters in the church. We often label the plurality of the elders in office as the Board of Elders. They are responsible for all decision-making pertaining to the church, including church discipline and counselling. Since the burden of the church ministry is a very heavy one, it is necessary for the elders to have faithful men to assist them in their service. This is where the office of the deacon comes in. The appointment of deacons in the local church was implemented for the first time in Acts 6:1-7. In the early church, deacons were appointed to serve tables and to relieve the elders so that the elders may focus more on prayer and on the ministry of the Word (Acts 6:4). Today, we continue to follow the biblical pattern of church setup and leadership because this is God's blueprint for the church. We need to continue to pray for God to raise up godly leaders who will meet His requirements (1 Tim 3 and Titus 1) to lead the church to greater spirituality and faithfulness in the fulfilment of the Great Commission and the edification of saints.

Let us all come prepared for the ACM and Election with a joyful spirit and a humble heart to rejoice together and to vote wisely. May God's will be done for His eternal glory. Let us grow together as a church for Jesus' sake. Let us seek to build up one another to be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might (Eph 6:10). May God be pleased to bless us in Truth B-P Church that we all may be found faithful until the Lord returns. May God help us. Amen.

*Yours in Christ,
Pastor Dennis Kwok*