

SHALOM BAPTIST CHURCH

Annual General Meeting (27th of March 2022)

13th March 2022

Dear members,

Please be informed that our church Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on the 27th of March 2022 after the Service. We encourage every member to be present and to prayerfully decide on matters pertaining to the church.

The Agenda is as follows:

- 1) The Past Year's Ministries of 2021
- 2) The Projected Ministries of 2022
- 3) Appreciation of Past Year's office-bearers
- 4) Election of 2022 office-bearers
- 5) Approval of 2022 Budget
- 6) To support another 7 new missionaries.
- 7) To permit the Pastors and the Deacons to decide on mission projects of not more than \$3,000 per project in the Special Project Fund.

General Information for 2021:

Average Sunday Service Attendance:	168
Baptism:	5
Transfer in:	18
Total Members Added:	23
Out of Membership:	16
Total Membership as at the end of 2021:	English 215 / Chinese 30 / Overseas 14
Number of Missionaries that we were supporting:	80

1) The Past Year's Ministries of 2021:

a) Special Projects:

1.	The Orphanage in Myanmar (Pastor Thauang Lian):	\$7,000
2.	Purworejo Baptist College, Indonesia:	\$ 500
3.	The Embos in Negros, Philippines:	\$3,000
4.	Car for Missionary Thauang:	\$3,000
5.	Church Building, Pastor Jun Austria, Philippines:	\$1,000
6.	Printing of Vietnamese books, Pastor Espino:	\$1,000
7.	Temporary Resident Card for Pastor Melvin, VT:	\$1,000
8.	Temporary Resident Card for Pastor Dante, VT:	\$1,000
9.	Church lot in Laos, Pastor Jarmin:	\$10,000
10.	Pastor Thauang's surgery, Myanmar:	\$1,000
11.	Pastor Yakub in Indonesia (Health):	\$1,000

Total: \$29,500

- b) **Bible Institute:** The Shalom Bible Institute was started at the beginning of 2020 as the highest educational arm of the church and we have completed 3 semesters (Christology, Ecclesiology and Bibliology) thus far. We thank God that 2021 saw an increase in the number of students from 25 to 30. We have both credit and audit students, and we are in the midst of completing our 4th semester (Pneumatology). We look forward to training many more teachers and preachers for the Lord's work in the years to come.
- c) **Discipleship:** Bro Christian has been discipling a group of young people weekly since 2019. This group has grown and as of 2021 we have approximately 11 young people attending these weekly Tuesday discipleship lessons. We are heartened to see the heart that these young men and women have for the Lord. We have completed a course on "Survey of Bible Doctrines". At present we have 3 courses (Survey of Israel's History, Book of Romans and Christian Living) running on a rotational basis. They also meet once a month for a time of fellowship.
- d) **Men's and Ladies' Fellowship:** In 2021 the Ladies Fellowship had 6 sessions (bimonthly) via Zoom with an average attendance of 30 to 40 ladies. Using Lori Alexander's book "The Power of a Transformed Wife", the ladies learnt what the Bible had to say about the attributes of a godly wife such as being Chaste, Good, and Sober amongst other things. Although these sessions were virtual, we are certain that the ladies were blessed by the fellowship and by the lessons taught.

As for the men, they had a physical gathering in January 2021 and we thank God that about 30 men were able to come together to fellowship and hear the word of God preached. We look forward to 2 more of such fellowships in 2022.

- e) **Shalom Seniors Ministry:** Shalom Seniors Ministry started at the end of 2020, with the objective of creating a platform to bring our seniors together for fellowship and to be a blessing in Shalom. It wasn't an easy start as that was in the midst of the pandemic. Notwithstanding the ever-changing Covid landscape and restrictions, our seniors rose above the challenges, and are determined to stay active and connected. By God's grace, now we have a small group of seniors anchoring this ministry; they managed to find a day in a week for the seniors' fellowship. For those who are young at heart and are interested to visit different parts of Singapore, come join us for our weekly seniors' fellowship, every Wed's Morning Walk cum Breakfast Fellowship. As the nation's population continues to age, we see an urgent need to grow the senior ministry, more importantly to harness the experiences and potential of our seniors. Like it or not, Shalom Seniors Ministry is here to stay, to grow and to serve!
- f) **Young Adults Ministry:** 2021 was another challenging year for the Young Adults Ministry. Due to Covid restrictions, we were unable to organize large group physical gathering. Instead, most of the organized activities were held online, even the annual Young Adults Camp in Jul. Nonetheless, we managed to plan for some small group physical meetings at homes and lunch/dinner fellowship. By God's grace, Shalom is blessed with a steady in-flow of Young Adults and the number is growing. The needs for our young adults are wide ranging and the pressure on them is coming from all over; a group of our young adults are pursuing higher education, many others are in the working world trying to find their own footing, and a few have just been recently promoted to become young parents. The need for a strong Young Adults Ministry is ever more pressing as the church continues to grow. Pray for God's providence that we will continue to have older brethren stepping forward to support the needs of the Young Adults Ministry.
- g) **Youth Ministry:** Shalom Youth Ministry is blessed with a huge pool of teenagers, many of them have the desire to be useful for our Lord and to learn more about God. In 2021, the Youth Ministry was supported by a team of dedicated young adults, they took upon

themselves to plan and organise activities for our youth throughout the year. Most of all, we are thankful for their caring hearts to know and to engage the youth. Despite the challenges imposed by COVID-19, we still managed to end off the year with the much-anticipated Youth Camp 2021 in Dec. With COVID-19 restrictions, we have since suspended all physical Sun School. By God's grace, we were able to move our youth classes to Zoom, on every Sat, 4pm. We are especially thankful for the faithfulness of the youth to attend the Sat online class regularly, in the face of their own school commitments. Do continue to keep the Youth Ministry in your prayers. By His grace we will see a batch of new leaders and teachers with a servant's heart to serve our Lord!

- h) **Children Ministry:** On Sunday, during our worship time, we have Chapel for Pre-schoolers from 3-6 years old and Primary children. If they stay through the curriculum, they will go through most of the books in the bible. At the end of every quarter, we will have "Shopping Day" for the children. It is to reward them for the works that they have done, like being on time, answering questions, memorizing verses, etc. We thank God for the teachers, assistant teachers who have been laboring for the Lord together to help the children to grow spiritually. During last Dec school holiday, we managed to have 4 outings at Bouncing Paradise, ECP, Pasir Ris Park, and Kids Amaze.
- i) **Chinese Ministry:** Time flies like an arrow, and a year came to pass. At the beginning of last year, Pastor Tan took a break from preaching for two months, during which brothers Jason and Chris came in to help with the preaching. Due to the epidemic, the vaccination policy, and more than half of the members in the Chinese Ministry are elderly people, the number of people coming for Chinese service fluctuated. Although the Chinese Ministry's teaching mainly relies on video conferencing, thank the Lord, from the crowd that attended the service we have affirmed that the brothers and sisters yearn more for a physical service and understood the benefits and blessing of coming to church worship.

In the afternoon from March to May last year, we had tried to start a Bible study class at our late Brother Li Guohua's house, but because of the Delta variant spreading, we had to stop again. The Thursday morning Bible study group of the Chinese Department was originally started for the brothers and sisters in the north, but due to the epidemic, it gradually became the main video conference Bible study and communication group for our Chinese congregation. Inadvertently, it also helped elderly people learn to use modern conferencing tools for communication. At the same time, some parents who had not met in our church also have the opportunity to participate in this Bible study group. Last year, our sister Lizhen had cataract surgery on both eyes and recovered perfectly. Our brother Li Guohua was diagnosed with cancer in the fourth quarter of last year, and after radiotherapy, his condition had improved. But still three days before the Lunar New Year this year 2022, the Lord seems fit to bring him home. At the end of last year, God brought Sister Rachel to our church for worship, she then decided to join our church. At the same time, God also led Brother Keith to visit our church, and he is still worshipping with us.

The pandemic of the past two years has changed our lifestyle, heading us to live more dependent on media, smart phone, and e-commerce. In an increasingly technological life, it is more and more difficult to distinguish the real from the false. But the Word of our God has never changed, and the love and salvation of God through his Son Jesus Christ remains unchanged. Therefore, we must even more press onto Christ Jesus, who is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and continue to run the race that is set before us.

- j) **Tracting:** We had ceased tracting due to the pandemic but have recently restarted it. More than 50 of our folks carry on from where they left off last year. Their zeal never wanes or wavers. Praise God!

2) **Projected Ministry for 2022:**

a) **The Ordination of Bro Christian Eliab as an Associate Pastor (July 2022):**

We thank God for raising up bro Christian who has been preaching regularly and our brethren were very much edified and blessed by the Word of God through him. Through his regular interactions with the members, we see in him having a shepherd's heart. We deem him faithful in the ministry and recognize the spiritual gifts that the Lord has bestowed upon him, and we look forward that he will be ordained this coming July. We encourage our members to get to know bro Christian as he seeks to be acquainted with the membership. And let us be prayerful for his coming ordination into the gospel ministry.

If bro Christian were to be ordained by this July, he will be the Associate Pastor while Pastor Wee will remain as the Senior Pastor. There is the possibility that bro Christian may be the next Senior Pastor in the future. We will pray and seek the Lord's will and timing for that transition to take place. There is no time frame set for the transition. One thing we are assured of – with the Lord Jesus Christ being the Head of the Church and having been unerringly guiding us all these years – we will have the perfect peace of the Lord to do so in His time.

b) **The tentative resuming of the Sunday School if there are no more restrictions:**

We will resume the Sunday School for the adults and children in July if there are no more governmental restrictions due to Covid.

c) **The tentative resuming of the in-house lunches if there are no more restrictions:**

We will also have in-house lunches, but it will be monthly from July or later, if the situation permits. We will gather in small, scattered groups in ACS after church.

d) **The tentative Church Camp in December at Forest City in Johore Bahru.**

3) **Appreciation of 2020-2021 Office-Bearers:**

Deacons: Bro Chris Cheong, Roberto Zacarias, Eric Tan, Liang Siah, Joel Chia, Christian
Trustees: Bro Teck Guan & Andrew Charles
Treasurer: Sis Luona
Auditor: Bro Robin Ho
Clerk: Sis Serena Wong

4) **Nomination/Election of 2022-2023 Office-Bearers:**

Deacons: Bro Chris Cheong / Eric Tan / Poh Liang Siah / Joel Chia / Christian Eliab /
Denzil Titt

Decline: Bro Roberto Zacarias / Andy Lim / Jason Chan

Trustees: Bro Teck Guan / Andrew Charles

Treasurer: Bro Joshua Yan

Clerk: Sis Serena Wong

Auditor: Bro Robin Ho

Although the church has voted to dispense with the internal auditor and, in its place, to have an external auditor, we can only proceed when ROS (Registry of Society) approves of it. While waiting for the approval, we will continue to elect an internal auditor. This office of the auditor will be removed once ROS approves of it.

The Pastors and Deacons form the Nomination Committee and they have prayerfully presented the possible candidates for 2022. The church is permitted to nominate other candidates if they so desire. They do not have to nominate other candidates if they are satisfied with the Nomination list that is presented. If they desire to nominate other candidates for the respective offices, they can do so by putting in the nomination slips into the Nomination box available in the front of the LT. Such candidates can only be qualified for the election if they have 5% of the voting membership of 224 (as of 1 Jan 2022) or 11 votes. Closing date for Nomination: Sunday, 20th of March 2022.

The election for the deacons requires a 2/3 majority of the voting membership present. You can vote for all the candidates if you think they are qualified for the office of the diaconate. For the church clerk, auditor and the treasurer, it will be a simple majority. With regard to the Trustees, we usually have the same trustees every election year as every change requires a legal fee to do the changes. Bro Teck Guan and Andrew Charles have been the trustees for Shalom for several years now and we appreciate their willingness to hold that office.

Qualifications for the Deacons: “Likewise must the deacons be grave, not doubletongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; Holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. And let these also first be proved; then let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless. Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things. Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.” (1 Tim 3:8-13)

5) To approve the 2022 Budget:

A copy of the 2022 Budget is attached, and we encourage the members to exhaust all their queries or clarification before the AGM as it will save the church much unnecessary discussion. The Pastors and Deacons will be happy to engage you on your inquiries. Let us keep in mind that, in a congregation of 200-plus members, it is difficult for everyone to see eye to eye on every expenditure. The Pastors and Deacons have done their best in presenting the 2022 Budget. And we covet the understanding and the unity of the church in this matter.

6) To support the following Missionaries from 1 Jan 2022:

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|----|---|----------------|
| a) | Missionary David Mwepo, Congo: | \$30 per month |
| b) | Missionary Goby Thiagarajah, Sri Lanka: | \$50 per month |
| c) | Missionary Vinay Kumar, India: | \$50 per month |
| d) | Missionary Suranjit Cishim, Bangladesh: | \$50 per month |
| e) | Missionary Liton Chakma, Bangladesh: | \$50 per month |
| f) | Missionary Nehar Cishim, Bangladesh: | \$50 per month |
| g) | Missionary Ronjit Biswas, Bangladesh: | \$50 per month |

Missionary David is recommended by Missionary Felicilda serving in Congo whom we have been faithfully supporting all these years. Bro David is a product of Missionary Felicilda’s ministry. Missionary Goby and Vinay are recommended by bro Christian who was there in Sri Lanka and Hyderabad India. Bro Christian was very impressed by their strong Baptist doctrinal stand and their faithfulness in the ministry. The other 4 missionaries from Bangladesh were recommended by Pastor Jun Manuel, Filipino missionary to Bangladesh.

- 7) **Special Projects:** To permit the Pastors and the Deacons to decide on mission projects of not more than \$3,000 per project in the Special Project Fund.

Our missionaries would occasionally write to the church on their needs in the mission fields. We could not help with all their needs, but as the Lord leads us, we will help with some of their requests. Sometimes, their needs may be urgent and we may have to address them as quickly as we can – like the needing of funds before they can have an urgent surgery. If we need to have a business meeting for every project, it may take some time for the church to decide on these needs. It can also be cumbersome on the church to have numerous business meetings throughout the year to decide on the ongoing mission projects. Last year, we had 11 mission projects.

For the support to the orphanage in Myanmar, we have already voted previously to help them with \$7,000 on a yearly basis.

8) **Explanation of the 2022 Budget:**

- a) **Miscellaneous (4):** We exceed the expenditure of \$2,046 due to the unforeseen PET testing when we reopen the church. We expended \$2,400 for 3 Sundays of PET testing for the unvaccinated.
- b) **The Other's Fund (12):** We are increasing this budget from \$15,000 to \$25,000 in case it is required to assist those in needs. The disbursement of this fund is by the collective decisions of the pastors and the deacons.
- c) **Literature Ministry (13):** We are increasing this item from \$1,000 to \$5,000 in case we need it to print new tracts.
- d) **The 'Other Income' under General Fund:** The extra \$28,0559 is largely from the government Job Support.

NOMINATION SLIP (2022)

The nominating slip is for voting members 18 years and above who would like to nominate other candidates outside the list given by the Pastors and the Deacons. You need not nominate if you are satisfied with the list of candidates in the AGM notice.

This is not the election of the office-bearers. The election is on AGM (27th March 2022). You need to indicate your name on the Nomination slip if you are planning to nominate other candidates besides the list given by the Pastors and the Deacons. Do seek the Pastors or the Deacons if you need further clarification.

A hardcopy of the Nomination Slip is available outside the LT 1, next to the Nomination Box. It is only available in the front of the LT 1. Closing date for Nomination: 20th March 2022.

Name of Member: _____

DEACONS:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

TREASURER:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

CLERK:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____

AUDITOR:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____