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Pastoral Letter to the Ang Mo Kio Methodist Church Family (30 January 2022)

Dear Family and Friends of AMKMC (TRAC),

First of all, let me wish all of us who celebrate Lunar New Year a blessed time of renewing familial ties, and may we all experience joy, grace, and peace in the Name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in this season!

Second, I believe most of us are aware that our government has recently announced updated vaccination differentiation safe management measures (VDS).¹ The major change for us here at AMKMC is that **our 5pm worship service will now be available only to those who are vaccinated**.

Nonetheless, as a church family, we have always held onto the belief that we must never neglect those who are marginalized and the minority. Because the government has listened to the churches' appeal not to completely exclude the unvaccinated from worship, the new guidelines do provide for a small gathering of 5 pax for private worship. While the government has given this concession, the Christian faith is – at heart – a communal faith. In particular, the sacrament of Holy Communion is a communal spiritual discipline which cannot be administered online. Thus, we will arrange for the celebration of Holy Communion separately for those who are unvaccinated. Please contact the pastors or church office to make this special arrangement.

Third, you should probably have heard by now – **God is calling us to resume ministry at Cathay cinema halls at AMK HUB**. While we do not yet have the details on how ministry will resume, we believe the God who called Abraham to leave his homeland to walk into his promised inheritance is likewise faithful to supply all we need to resume this strategic outreach post. **Do keep the leadership in prayer** as we discern God's further leading in this endeavour.

Finally, if you have yet to listen to the 4-part series on the lessons we as a church can learn from this pandemic, I strongly encourage us to do so. They may be found at this link https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLw5lvjvDgdw5GIncZiu3cWcdGmdLMql7H May God's Spirit empower all of us to emerge spiritually stronger from this new "exodus."

In as much as the circumstances around us might change, our God's goodness does not change like shifting shadows (James 1:17). This is our firm assurance.

Yours sincerely,

Rev Anthony Lee

¹ https://www.mccy.gov.sg/about-us/news-and-resources/press-statements/2022/Jan/updated-smms-forreligious-activities