



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 22 March 2015

Theme for the Year: "Out of Myself and into the Savior" (Ezekiel 14:4-6)

Prelude	<i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i>
Call to Worship	
*Opening Hymn	1 - <i>O Worship the King</i>
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Responsive Reading	Psalm 103
Hymn	Insert - <i>Bless the LORD, My Soul</i>
Tithes & Offering	
*† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	John 14:1-6
Hymn	269 - <i>Under His Wings</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Jesus, The Mediator of Life"
*Closing Hymn	496 - <i>Victory in Jesus</i>
*Benediction & † <i>Threefold Amen</i>	
Silent Prayer & Postlude	<i>The Lord Bless You and Keep You</i>
Announcements	† <i>Inside cover of hymnal</i>

**Congregation standing*

Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church meets every Sunday at 3:00 pm
at 47 Davis Road, Attadale, Western Australia
Website: www.covenantbpc.org.au
Email: pastor@covenantbpc.org.au

Questions about the ECM Papers

Since last week, some session members have received good questions related to the ECM papers and the motions proposed.

As you read the papers, I encourage you to ask more questions. This serves a two-fold purpose.

Firstly, it is good to ask questions so that you know how your session thinks about these things and how we came to some of these conclusions.

Secondly, your questions help the session to consider things that we had not considered in the first place. These are helpful to us because in a multitude of counselors, there is safety (Prov 11:14).

Q: If it is God's will to purchase the church properties, why would it be necessary to take a bank loan? Would God not provide all the funds we need through his people?

There are several steps in the fund raising process that the session is proposing.

Firstly, we will ask members and worshippers to give to the building fund in the forms of gifts and interest free loans.

Those of us who worship here at Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church need to remember that building God's kingdom requires sacrifice on our parts.

Just as building the tabernacle required the gifts and abilities of the people, purchasing these church properties requires your money.

The session prays that most, if not all, of the funds needed will be raised by the worshippers ourselves.

Secondly, we will seek the remaining amount from like-minded Bible-Presbyterian Churches, with whom we have cordial relations, in the forms of gifts and interest free loans.

The third option, in order to cover any possible outstanding amount, the session may consider obtaining bank loans.

The session doesn't believe it is wrong or sinful for Christians to obtain bank loans. This is because the Bible neither expressly forbids nor condones the borrowing of money.

The Bible does teach that it is usually not a good idea to go into debt because it makes us a slave to the one who provides the loan.

At the same time, in some situations borrowing is necessary. As long as money is handled wisely and payments are manageable, a Christian can take on the burden of financial debt if it is absolutely necessary. This may be God's means of accomplishing his will.

So while the session is making provision for the possibility, we would rather not take it.

The purpose of this clause is not to demonstrate a lack of faith in God. To have it as a possible option is to exercise prudence and good stewardship, should the need ever remotely arise.

Q: Why is the motion to change the constitution concerning church membership placed after, instead of before, the motion to purchase the church properties? Would it not be more helpful and appropriate, that more members be involved in this decision?

First off, we are very encouraged to know that worshippers desire to be involved in this important decision.

But due to the timing of the offer by ABC, the motion to purchase the properties precipitated the ECM. And the practicalities of the situation suggested that the two motions be jointly raised, rather than at separate meetings.

While it would seem better that the motion to change the constitution is passed first, thereby allowing non-members to become full voting members and involved in the purchase decision, it is not so simple.

The constitutional change must firstly be approved by a government agency. Only

when that is completed can the church take in, as full voting members, those who are currently excluded.

Do be assured that the session welcomes those who desire to be members of the church.

We desire your fellowship and involvement - not your money; although we need that too! Be assured that we will hear you out.

Q: Why are you proposing to fence the Lord's Supper from visitors?

The reason for this proposal is three-fold. Firstly, it is to honor the institution of the Lord's Supper and to protect visitors.

Those who do not understand, are impenitent, and have not believed, would partake of it unworthily, bringing damnation upon themselves. Since not all visitors are known to the elders, this is put in place.

A simple interview is all that is required to ascertain, as far as possible, a person's understanding, penitence, and standing before Christ.

Secondly, it is to promote equity. Part of the benefits of church membership are accountability and discipline. When necessary, the elders may instruct a member not to partake of the Lord's Supper.

It would be inconsistent if a member under discipline is barred from the Lord's Supper; while a visitor, over whom the elders have no authority, with the exact sin issue, is allowed to partake of it.

Thirdly, it is to keep them accountable and for us to be accountable to their home churches.

When visitors come, whether longer term or short term, they are still under the oversight of their elders in their home churches. Their churches may even have commended their care to us.

Fencing the Lord's Supper is a means to keep visitors walking with the Lord, and for us to assure their home churches that we are providing pastoral oversight.

Practically, this will have little bearing on current long-term visitors, who are known to us. We would prefer them to be members. But we would be irresponsible if we did not offer them any form of accountability, especially when they walk disorderly.

Please keep your questions coming. They are valuable and help us to understand your concerns and for you to understand our reasons.

Please pray for the ECM, that the Lord's will be done and that all who attend will have the mind, speech, demeanor, and actions of our Savior. ~ Pastor



Westminster Confession of Faith XXIII - Of the Civil Magistrate

4. It is the duty of people to pray for magistrates,¹ to honor their persons,² to pay them tribute or other dues,³ to obey their lawful commands, and to be subject to their authority, for conscience' sake.⁴ Infidelity, or difference in religion, does not make void the magistrates' just and legal authority, nor free the people from their due obedience to them:⁵ from which ecclesiastical persons are not exempted,⁶ much less has the Pope any power and jurisdiction over them in their dominions, or over any of their people; and, least of all, to deprive them of their dominions, or lives, if he shall judge them to be heretics, or upon any other pretence whatsoever.⁷

1. 2 Chronicles 26:18.

2. Matthew 18:17; 16:19; 1 Corinthians 12:28-29; Ephesians 4:11-12; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2; Romans 10:15; Hebrews 5:4

3. John 18:36; Malachi 2:7; Acts 5:29.

4. Isaiah 49:23.

5. Psalm 105:15; Acts 18:14-15.

6. 2 Samuel 23:3; 1 Timothy 2:1-2; Romans 13:4.

Worship Service Roster

<i>Service</i>	<i>This Week (22.3.15)</i>	<i>Next Week (29.3.15)</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Raymond Woo	Chris Budiman
Pianist	Jabez Huang	Edward Lim
Welcomers	Micah & Hannah Chiang	Danny & Susie Tan
Offering Stewards	Rex Sriharan, Micah Chiang	Philip Orchard, David Lim
Usher	Hannah Chiang	Joyce Ng
Kitchen Duties	Carmel Sriharan*, Mary Loh Chris Budiman	Florence Orchard*, Vincent Chiu, Jemima Ng
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>25 March 2015</i>	<i>1 April 2015</i>
Speaker	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Chairperson	Jimmy Orchard	Johnson Lim
Pianist	Ian Tay	Nancy Lim

Announcements

1. A warm welcome to all worshippers. May God richly bless you. Please stay behind after the service for fellowship and tea.
2. Next week's message: "All That Believe is Not Faith" (Mark 11:11-22).
3. Church Anniversary Dinner. Venue: North Lake BBQ Restaurant (406 North Lake Road, Bibra Lake) Date: Sunday, 12 April 2015. Time: 7 pm. Subsidised cost: \$20/adult, \$15/child (4-12 years). Please register with Raymond and Peggy Woo.
4. Shepherding a Child's Heart Parenting Conference. Speaker: Dr Tedd Tripp. Dates: Monday, 13 - Wednesday, 15 April 2015. Time: 7:30 - 9:30 pm. Venue: Westminster Presbyterian Church (Bull Creek). Please register at www.covenantbpc.org.au/shepherding. Like and share it at www.facebook.com/shepherding.perth. Additional flyers are available at the foyer.
5. Volunteers Needed! Kitchen helpers and creche helpers for the Shepherding a Child's Heart Parenting Conference. Please indicate your availability to Terence Lee.
6. Reminder: Extraordinary Congregational Meeting, Sunday, 29 March 2015, 4:30 pm. Members are expected to attend this important meeting. Please collect the ECM papers from Terence Lee.

Appointments for the Week

WED	7:45 pm	Prayer Meeting - Psalm 104
FRI	7:45 pm	JF and Parents' Group
SAT	7:30 pm	Ladies' Bible Study
SUN	2:00 pm	Adult Bible Class
	3:00 pm	Worship & Sunday School

Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance

General Fund - \$2,257.20 (#461 - \$30.00). *Missions Fund* - \$260.00. *Building Fund* - \$580.00 (#203 - \$30.00, #205 - \$550.00). *Total Tithes & Offering* - \$3,097.20.
Attendance - 125.

Elders: **Mark Chen (Pastor)** 0415 932 373. **Jimmy Orchard** 0413 274 407.

Deacons: **Ken Chong** 0402 553 313. **LH Chua** 0435 601 373. **Terence Lee** 0418 845 617. **Johnson Lim** 0402 145 682. **SK Loh** 9386 1660.