



## PRESS RELEASE

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### A TRIPARTITE COLLABORATION ESTABLISHES AN INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC CHRISTIANITY

[Singapore, 22 August 2014] – ETHOS Institute for Public Christianity (ETHOS), possibly Singapore’s first Christian think tank, was launched on 15 August 2014. The launch event, a Breakfast Lecture held at the St Andrew’s Cathedral was attended by about 100 distinguished guests from the public, private, academic and religious spheres. The inauguration of ETHOS marks a milestone in the history of the local Christian community.

ETHOS was formed by National Council of Churches in Singapore, Trinity Theological College and The Bible Society of Singapore. ETHOS seeks to serve church and society by engaging contemporary issues and trends from the Christian perspective. To achieve this, ETHOS will:

- conduct studies on important topics and issues from the Christian perspective
- organise regular lectures, seminars, conferences and symposiums for the Christian public
- provide resources to Churches and Christians in different professions and vocations
- contribute resources to the National Council of Churches in Singapore

“Through ETHOS, we hope to communicate good biblical principles that the church needs to hold on to and be able to discuss the same in the public square,” said Bishop Dr Wee Boon Hup, Chairman of ETHOS Institute for Public Christianity and President of The National Council of Churches in Singapore.

“Trinity Theological College is pleased to be partnering with the National Council of Churches of Singapore and The Bible Society of Singapore on the establishment of ETHOS Institute for Public Christianity,” said Rev Dr Ngoei Foong Nghian, Vice Chairman of ETHOS and Principal of Trinity Theological College (TTC).

“TTC has been addressing societal issues from the Christian perspective since its inception. With this collaboration, we envision ETHOS to be a vibrant centre where people will come to be educated in the Christian perspective and for Christians to understand that our faith is more than just a personal faith but a faith that will impact people for the common good,” he commented.

Some of the research topics already in the pipeline include education and society, reaching out to the children and youth in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, marriage and family, social media, civility and society and gambling, integrated resorts and society.

“The Bible Society of Singapore is delighted to be part of this very important and timely establishment of ETHOS Institute of Public Christianity,” said Pastor Ezekiel Tan, Director of ETHOS and the General Secretary of The Bible Society of Singapore. “Through this collaboration we hope to equip the Church and Christian public in Singapore to better engage in social issues that affect everyone,” he added.

ETHOS’ first Chairman is Bishop Dr Wee Boon Hup, President of the NCCS. The institute’s other key office holders are Rev Dr Ngoei Foong Nghian, Vice Chairman of ETHOS and Principal of Trinity Theological College and Pastor Ezekiel Tan, Director of ETHOS and General Secretary of The Bible Society of Singapore. Bishop Terry Kee from the Lutheran Church in Singapore is the institute’s Ambassador for Interfaith Relations and Mr Lim K Tham is its Honorary Director. Dr Roland Chia, Trinity Theological College’s Chew Hock Hin Professor of Christian Doctrine, serves as the institute’s Theological & Research Advisor and will spearhead ETHOS project initiatives.

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For more information on ETHOS Institute for Public Christianity, please contact:  
Gwen DeRozario : 6304 3790 / 9366 6507 / [gwen.derozario@ethosinstitute.sg](mailto:gwen.derozario@ethosinstitute.sg).

## **About ETHOS**

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## **ETHOS Office Bearers**

The following are ETHOS' office bearers for a term of 2 years starting June 2014:

- Chairman: Bishop Dr Wee Boon Hup, President, National Council of Churches of Singapore
- Vice-Chairman: Rev Dr Ngoei Foong Nghian, Principal of Trinity Theological College
- Interfaith Relations Ambassador: Bishop Terry Kee, The Lutheran Church in Singapore
- Honorary Director: Mr Lim K Tham, Honorary General Secretary, National Council of Churches of Singapore
- Theological & Research Advisor: Dr Roland Chia, Chew Hock Hin Professor of Christian Doctrine at Trinity Theological College
- Director: Pastor Ezekiel Tan, General Secretary of The Bible Society of Singapore

## **Additional Notes**

### **About National Council of Churches of Singapore**

The National Council of Churches of Singapore (NCCS) is a body bringing together churches and Christian organisations in Singapore to present a united witness. Its membership includes the country's major Protestant denominations, independent and non-denominational churches, as well as churches from the Orthodox tradition. Membership is voluntary and each member retains its autonomy in determining its own policies and actions. Christian organisations and institutions are admitted as associate members.

### **About Trinity Theological College**

Trinity Theological College (TTC) was established in 1948 as a union college to serve the needs of the church. It remains committed to the mission of Asia's fast growing churches, by training pastors, missionaries, church workers, and theological educators. By providing sound and solid theological teaching, TTC seeks to anchor Christian ministers in the historic faith of the church so as to enable them to engage the world with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

### **About The Bible Society of Singapore**

Today, the Bible Society of Singapore (BSS) is a Bible mission agency that is part of the fellowship of 147 societies across 200 countries and territories. The mission of BSS is to make the Word of God known to all people by making it available through the work of translation and publishing, accessible through distribution and literacy programmes, and credible through engagement and the Word of God. The Bible Mission first landed in Singapore in 1823 through the effort of Sir Stamford Raffles and Rev Dr Robert Morrison. It was formally registered in 1837.