



National Council of Churches of Singapore

新加坡基督教全国教会理事会

Majlis Kebangsaan Gereja-Gereja Singapura

திருச்சபைகளின் தேசிய மன்றம்

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NCCS responds to “Singapore pastor apologises to Muslim leaders for US preacher’s alleged statements on Islam”

The National Council of Churches of Singapore (NCCS) notes with deep concern the controversy caused by the remarks made by the American speaker Lou Engel on 13 March 2018 at the “Kingdom Invasion” Conference organised by Cornerstone Community Church.

The NCCS is glad that Rev Yang Tuck Yoong, the Senior Pastor of Cornerstone Community Church, has met up with the Mufti of Singapore and other leaders of the Muslim community on 4 April 2018 to apologise for the offence which these remarks have caused to the Muslim community. We also note the letter of apology addressed by Rev Yang to the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (MUIS) dated the same day.

We appreciate Rev Yang's clear disavowal of the remarks made as “insensitive” and having no place in the multi-racial and multi-religious context of Singapore. We welcome the pledge made that his church would exercise greater vigilance in the future when inviting speakers from overseas to public events.

The NCCS is deeply appreciative of the measured response to this controversy shown by the leaders and members of the Muslim community in Singapore. Their gracious acceptance of Rev Yang's apology shows a magnanimity which bodes well for inter-religious harmony in our nation.

Great care and vigilance is needed by all parties to guard the public square in which harmonious inter-faith relations are built-up in our nation. Where there are unintended hurts, it is marvellous that the relevant religious leaders can graciously and maturely handle the matter and keep unhappiness from deepening or spreading. The leaders of MUIS have shown a very good example in overcoming the present controversy and moving on positively in the established direction of nurturing good relations among different faiths.

NCCS issued an Advisory to churches on 11 September 2017, following the decision by the Ministry of Home Affairs to deny short-term work passes to two foreign Christian preachers who made “denigrating and inflammatory comments of other religions” in the past ([A Note to Members, NCCS](#)). We wish to remind churches to exercise due diligence when inviting foreign preachers.

NCCS believes that with the goodwill already established among religious groups in Singapore, we can overcome this unfortunate incident with greater appreciation of the religious sensitivities in Singapore and, in the long run, develop stronger trust and understanding between followers of the different faiths that make up our homeland.

Yours Sincerely in Christ,

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