

# **The Extraordinary Congregational Meeting (“ECM”) to Elect/Re-elect Elders and Deacons**

**13 October 2024, 11.15am, Grace Bible Presbyterian Church**

## ***Candidates for the office of Deacon & Session Member***

### **Dn Chea Oei Kiang**

I am Oei Kiang, and I currently serve as the treasurer in the Church as well as the deacon in charge of worship in the last 3 years.

Having been laid off in late 2021 (post-covid), what seemed like a loss turns out to be God redirecting my focus in life. Though I continued working in another company, God has opened my eyes in the last 3 years to see the importance of ministry work, much more than the years before. It’s a re-awakening. I began to understand more of what it means to serve the community of believers beyond teaching and fulfilling the administrative/accounting role in the church. It involves time in listening, communicating and praying. By the grace of God, I hope to spend more time in this area of work.

The demographic change in our Church, leadership transition, and spiritual needs of the Church are some of the reasons that motivate me to continue to serve as part of the leadership team in the Church. I long for our church to be more authentic in our fellowship, i.e., being able to share more freely about our concerns, spiritual struggles (without fear of being judged) and consequently praying earnestly for one another. At the same time, I hope each of us will be less inhibited but bold to share the gospel of our Lord as we seek to invite others to join us in Church. To this end, please pray for me to serve God and fellow believers with humility and patience and pray along with me that God will grow and prosper our Church spiritually.

I left my accounting job early this year amidst some controversy. God willing, I may soon join a healthcare entity as a therapy assistant, having completed a therapy support course in July. I hope through this work, I can provide some practical help to some whose health has been debilitated by sickness or injury.

## **Bro Jonathan Sam**

I'm Jonathan/Jon/Jon Sam. I am currently overseas for my Graduation Ceremony, and by the time you hear this message, it would have happened on the Friday which just passed (13 Sept), if all goes according to plan. I thank God for His faithfulness and providence that I've been able to complete these studies in such a timely fashion as to be ready for a new chapter of challenges.

A bit about myself: Growing up in a Christian family, I was surrounded by the faith from a young age. However, it wasn't until Secondary 2 (in 2008) that I truly understood what it meant to follow Christ. I have been on this journey of discipleship ever since and was baptized in 2012.

I started attending Grace church regularly in early 2018 and became a member in late 2019. You might see me around serving in various ministries like ushering, Bible class, evangelism and missions, and recently, worship.

On the professional side of things, I usually like to start introductions by saying that I work in the beauty and wellness industry. I then give people a chance to guess what they think I do, and that's when I get very interesting guesses — beautician, skincare consultant; and some more plausible guesses like R&D or sales and marketing. In reality, my work is far less interesting — I am a lawyer by training, and currently work as an in-house legal counsel (meaning to say that I'm employed by my company to handle their legal matters).

My prayer for our church is that we will be a Christ-centred, caring and compassionate community, always ready to serve the Saviour. For this, I take inspiration from the Metropolitan Tabernacle in London which holds to the concept of the “working church” as a distinctive. Quoting from the Met Tab's own description of this concept, this “means that all true believers serve the Lord, if it is possible for them to do so, joining together in activities to bring glory to Him. With this emphasis a church may carry out large outreach efforts, Sunday School ministry, and so on. Christians are not just a ‘Sunday audience’, but a company of committed, dedicated workers for the Lord.” It's also my prayer that with all of us serving together in the manner envisioned by the “working church” concept, Grace church will become more effective in evangelism and edification.

In line with this, I have been greatly encouraged by the many of us who so readily and consistently contribute and serve for the glory of God, whether visibly or in the background. I pray that this will continue into the future for our mutual encouragement. As I am new to this, I also seek your grace and prayers as I trust God and find strength and wisdom in Him. Do also join me as I pray that this will never become a tiresome duty, but it will always be a joy to serve God in this manner. Finally, something as simple as taking time to check in would go a long way to lighten the load. As a community of believers, let's continue growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity.