



# MAJLIS GEREJA-GEREJA MALAYSIA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES OF MALAYSIA

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**“A NEW CREATION”**

*A Revived Church and a Renewed Nation*

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## HEALTHY WORSHIP:

### CHURCHES AT WORSHIP UNDER RMCO.

We give thanks to God that since the imposition of the MCO until this present day the churches have cooperated and taken cautious measures in reopening church premises for worship and other activities in a responsible way.

The Heads of Churches are deeply grateful to all the clergy who have played a very important role in doing whatsoever was necessary to ensure that healthy worship and safety was prioritized and innovative ways implemented to reach out to the congregations with love and care.

The Minister, Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri of the Majlis Keselamatan Negara ( MKN) announced recently that “ there will no longer be a limit as to how many people can attend a conference, social gathering or prayers in mosques or places of worship starting July 15th “. (The Star, 10th July 2020).

The rationale behind the new announcement under RMCO was to resolve the discrepancy between the SOP for social gatherings (which limits participation to 250 persons), and the SOP for places of worship (limits attendance to one third of the total seating capacity). He insisted though that wherever there is a crowd gathering the one meter social distancing rule shall apply.

CCM maintains that while the social distancing is prioritized, the announcement about how many can be present at worship; it will vary depending on the size to the church.

For that reason, CCM maintains that we follow the directive of the minister in this regard. The number able to attend to worship will depend on the size of the sanctuary or the church hall after taking into consideration the requirement for social distancing between people in attendance.

The Heads of Churches will decide and approve how many can attend the worship in the various congregations after consultation with the pastor in charge.

### OTHER SOP MEASURES STRICTLY TO BE FOLLOWED

Follow the guidelines laid down by your Head of Church so that all congregations to ensure uniformity.

- **Age Restriction**

Those over 70 years and those below 12 are still encouraged not to attend worship services. But congregations may wish to open up to seniors and children, if the church leadership is in agreement and permission received from the Head of Church.

- **Foreigners (non-citizens)**

The MKN SOP (24th June) still maintains that foreigners are not permitted to attend worship services.

- **Marriages and Funerals**

CCM proposes that the ONE THIRD rules apply as it is in essence a worship service.

- **Worship service**  
Temperature check and registration before worship. Online streaming of worship to continue Family Bubble may be allowed but limited to 5 persons.
- **Compulsory wearing of masks**  
This includes singers and preachers. (If the pulpit is not less Than 10 feet away from the first pew the preacher may remove His mask while preaching only. Again the Head of Church May standardize this in all Congregations.
- **Holy Communion**  
Wearing of masks compulsory and prepackaged elements. Some may choose to opt for face masks for distribution of elements.
- **Children’s activities**  
Compulsory adult supervision and wearing of face masks.
- **Sharing of food** not allowed in Buffet style
- **Packed food** accepted but in open air. Not allowed for weddings and Funerals.
- **Spot checks**  
Officials from Police, Ministry of Health or Ministry of Unity may appear with or without notice. They have a right to observe but not disrupt the worship or other church activities.
- **House Fellowships**  
Still disallowed.

## CONCLUSION

In the midst of the current challenges, we turn to God in prayer with complete trust that “in all these things we are more than conquerors “, and that “nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus”.

As we make the necessary adaptations we know that our commitment to love God also requires that we look to the wellbeing of our neighbor.

Together we shall deal with the present constrains.

Together we shall also witness to the truth that Christ journeyed with us, as the disciples on the Emmaus road, to warm our hearts with his living Word and rekindle us with the fire of his Spirit.

May God bless us all, Stay Safe. Stay Responsible. Stay Holy.

*Fraternally in-Christ,*

*Rev. Dr. Hermen Shastri*

*General Secretary*

*15th July 2020*

**Member Churches:** · Anglican Diocese of Kuching · Anglican Diocese of Sabah · Anglican Diocese of West Malaysia · Basel Christian Church of Malaysia · Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malaysia · Lutheran Church in Malaysia & Singapore · Mar Thomas Syrian Church · The Methodist Church · Chinese Annual Conference · Sabah Provisional Annual Conference · Sarawak Chinese Annual Conference · Sarawak Iban Annual Conference · Tamil Annual Conference · Trinity Annual Conference · Orthodox Syrian Church · Presbyterian Church in Malaysia · Protestant Church in Sabah · The Salvation Army ·

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**Affiliate Member :** Coptic Orthodox Church .