



THE METHODIST CHURCH IN MALAYSIA

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EPISCOPAL INSTRUCTION: HOLY COMMUNION ON LINE IS PERMITTED – 16 April 2020

Dear Annual Conference Presidents

Warm greetings.

Please inform all our authorized ministers and pastors who are authorized to officiate in the celebration of the Holy Communion of the following:

1. Holy Communion on line [the Lord's Supper] as an option is permitted to be conducted under the following understanding as per the decision of the Bishop and Council of Presidents of the Methodist Church in Malaysia. This is in view of the on-going prolonged uncertain situation due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
2. The Celebration of the Holy Communion on line can either be done by live-streaming or recorded Worship Services.
3. The Holy Communion on line is allowed because:
 - A. *Our Methodist / Wesleyan belief* celebrates the Holy Communion / Lord's Supper as a *memorial* [remembering the once and for all efficacious act of atonement wrought by Christ on our behalf]; encountering the *real presence* of the risen Christ when we observe the Lord's Supper; and that it demonstrates the *sign, promise* and *pledge* of the reality of a heavenly banquet awaiting believers beyond this life.
 - B. *It is in our Wesleyan tradition* to regularly hold, as best as we can, and partake of this celebration of the Holy Communion that is Christ's means of grace to us.
4. It shall only be a temporary measure - due to the current unprecedented pandemic situation and the MCO. It must be emphasized that this is only a temporary measure allowed under unprecedented circumstances; but this optional practice will only cease when normal congregational/ church gatherings of worship can take place again.

5. Key Practical Issues:

- i. The on-line Holy Communion shall be celebrated **reverently** and **orderly**.
- ii. The Officiating Minister/Pastor shall lead the Service based on our Methodist Liturgy of Holy Communion.
- iii. The bread and grape juice will be prepared by the recipient[s]/family or as instructed by the officiating Minister/Pastor.
- iv. Preparation/distribution/ partaking instructions will be according to the directions of the Officiating Minister/Pastor in charge.

Thank you.

Together in the Service of the risen Great Shepherd of the sheep,

Bishop Ong Hwai Teik

Bishop – The Methodist Church in Malaysia