

From Pastor to Bishop

An Interview with the Rt. Rev. Anthony Loh

Bishop Loh answers a questionnaire by Bro. John Lee, JCC

I. Introduction

1. *What were your initial reactions upon your nomination and election?*

A few of us younger pastors who were eligible for nomination were prepared for the possibility of serving in this role. Initially, I said no, as I felt there were others more suitable than me to serve God in such a significant role within the LCS. However, after much prayer, my heart began to change. I shifted from a firm “no” to a willing “yes, if God opens the door for me.”

To my surprise, I eventually became the only candidate nominated. I accepted this with a deep sense of privilege—and with fear and trembling—as I step into the big shoes of my predecessors, Bishop Emeritus Rev. John Tan, former Bishop Rev. Terry Kee and former Bishop Rev. Lu Guan Hoe, each of whom had faithfully led the LCS and carried out their responsibilities with dedication.

2. *It is a significant step from your long-standing pastoral ministry. How do you envision this transition personally and professionally?*

I have had the privilege of learning from several pastors who shepherded JCC during my time as a parish worker. Their guidance and example helped me to better understand the pastoral role. For example, Rev. Martin Yee and Rev. Fredric Lee, experts in teaching; Rev. Andrew, with his strategic and systematic approach to ministry, left a deep impression on me.

Serving as a parish worker and later as a pastor in JCC for an extended period also gave me the opportunity to work closely with several batches of council members. This allowed me to gain valuable insights into the perspectives of lay leaders and how to lead the church in partnership with them.

Later, I joined Cru Singapore, where I received further training in various aspects of ministry. Being part of Love Singapore, which focuses on both local and overseas kingdom work, also helped me to see the broader picture of God’s mission beyond the local church.

All these accumulated experiences have shaped me into who I am today—though I remain a work in progress. There are still many new things I need to learn, especially as the role of a bishop will thrust me into uncharted waters in the days ahead.



Presenting the 4th Bishop of the LCS, the Rt. Rev. Anthony Loh

II. Reflections on Milestones in Christian Ministry

A. Early Ministry and Foundation:

3. *Can you describe how your 3 years in the marketplace (secular workforce) prior to ministry influence your understanding of people and shape your pastoral approach?*

I worked in the marketplace for three and a half years. That season in the workforce deepened my passion for those who have yet to know Christ. I learned many valuable lessons from my colleagues—particularly in their mindsets and values as they approached life. Listening to their life stories, their struggles, and their joys allowed me to gain a deeper understanding of humanity and the complexities of the human experience.

4. *What were some of the most impactful lessons or insights you gained from your theological studies in SBC?*

I had the privilege of studying at Singapore Bible College (SBC) alongside two fellow church members, Rev. Yee and Pastor Michael Christian. The three of us were classmates throughout our time there. Rev. Yee, a deep thinker, was often our class's "living Google"—always ready with thoughtful insights that helped me better grasp the subjects we were taught.

Of course, we were also blessed by the guidance of experienced PhD lecturers at SBC, who played a key role in equipping us for pastoral ministry. The entire journey of theological education was deeply formative, and the lecturers were instrumental in shaping us not just academically, but spiritually and pastorally.

For example, Dr. Violet James, an expert in religious studies, frequently opened our minds to perspectives and ideas we had never considered before. Her classes were both enlightening and enriching.

5. *Could you share a memorable experience or a key learning point from your initial role as a parish worker in JCC?*

Yes, I served as a parish worker for several years, and that experience played a significant role in shaping the foundation of my ministry in its early years.

As mentioned earlier, I was mentored and sheltered by the pastors before me. These were invaluable opportunities for me to observe them in action—leading laypeople, coordinating events, and making both wise and unwise decisions. Each moment was a lesson that contributed to my growth.

As a parish worker, I worked closely with the youth and young adults in the church. It was a great joy and privilege to journey with them through different seasons of their lives. For example, I had the blessing of walking alongside Sam Tay and Angeline—from their early years in church to their marriage and now as parents of three children.

The countless hours spent together in retreats, camps, ad hoc activities, and outreach events allowed me to serve, learn, and grow in community. Through it all, I've come to see JCC as more than just a church or a workplace—it is truly a family in the Lord.

B. Leadership in Jurong Christian Church (JCC):

6. *Could you share about your ministry with Cru, and what prompted your return to JCC? How did your ordination as a Pastor in the LCS on June 1, 2008, mark a significant turning point in your spiritual journey?*

I believe God has His own surprising—and at times humorous—ways of preparing me, as well as each of us, for the roles He calls us into. My time with Cru Singapore was a rich season of growth and learning. I had the opportunity to lead discipleship groups, organise events at the national level, engage with various organisations, and collaborate with different churches. These experiences shaped me into a more well-rounded and hands-on ministry worker. My nearly three years with Cru were filled with action and life transformation.

I returned to JCC when Pastor Michael was sent to Nias and Rev. Yee moved to the LCS Headquarters, creating a leadership need within the church. I came back with a sense of fear and trembling, knowing that life as a Cru staff member and life as a pastoral worker in a church are two very different worlds.

Preaching has been—and continues to be—one of my greatest struggles. Yet, through each challenge, I've continued to learn and re-learn various aspects of ministry. This journey eventually led me to join LCS as a co-worker, trusting that God is still shaping and leading me step by step.

7. *For over 20 years, you have served as the Senior Pastor of the English Congregation in JCC, what are some of the core messages you consistently strive to impart to your congregation?*

Prayer and evangelism are deeply important to me. Without the fire of the Holy Spirit, we often find ourselves striving in ministry rather than thriving. It is the Holy Spirit who brings personal breakthroughs—especially during the storms of ministry and life. Without Him, I would not have the strength to persevere, much less to grow.

Evangelism, too, is supernatural work. By nature, we tend to be self-centered. But when we step out in faith, God can use us in ways beyond our imagination. Only He can increase our passion for the lost and empower us to go the extra mile in serving the community. That's why prayer and learning to dwell in His presence are essential. It is through prayer that our hearts are softened, our minds renewed, and our lives empowered to break out of old moulds and be transformed by the Holy Spirit.

I've also been learning to discern the work of God—both in the local church and at the national level. Every miracle or breakthrough in JCC, whether personal or corporate, is

not an end in itself but a stepping stone toward the larger agenda that God is preparing for His Church in these last days.

Things don't happen without reason. We may not always understand what God is doing—or have the answers we seek—but when we trust in His power and sovereignty, we open ourselves to experience even greater breakthroughs. Instead of waiting for healing, financial provision, or resolution to personal struggles before serving Him, we are called to trust and obey. It is in that posture that God moves most powerfully.

8. *Based on your work with JCC's outreach initiatives, what are your core principles for guiding LCS's engagement in local and global outreach today?*

1. Recognise God's desire for all to be saved.

Salvation is God's plan for everyone; evangelism is not optional. The Great Commission is a command, not a matter of convenience.

2. Step out in faith when God opens a door.

Moving beyond our comfort zones will always involve some fear and discomfort, yet faith requires action. Whether it's joining a weekday-night "Manna Bridge" outreach, repairing bicycles for the community on a Sunday afternoon, or taking leave from work to serve in Boys' Brigade and Girls' Brigade ministries, these are supernatural acts of obedience.

3. Seize the opportunities while they are open.

The doors for evangelism will not remain open indefinitely. As we await Christ's return, we must wisely seize every opportunity—personally and corporately—that the Lord provides. Understanding what God is doing in this season is vital, for everything is about Him. We either flow with His plans or risk missing them when we lose focus as His children.

9. *You have been actively involved in developing JCC's youth ministry. What strategies have you found most effective in engaging younger generations and nurturing their faith?*

Love them through action. Love them by looking to Jesus.

True love is expressed through presence—by spending time with them. Time is a precious commodity for everyone, and when you choose to give your time, hearts begin to open and doors to ministry are unlocked.

Share your life with them. Be real—show them your quirks, your struggles, and your journey of learning to trust the Lord. Be honest about your failures as well as your victories. In short, be as authentic as possible.

When youths become your friends and a deeper relationship is built, ministry becomes more natural. In fact, that's when ministry truly begins. The rest—like planning and serving together—will follow.

Always stay humble. I've learned so much from the youth and young adults. They've helped me remain a learner, constantly growing and adapting, so that I won't become a "dinosaur" in ministry.

Do creative and even "crazy" things together! Fresh ideas, mutual support, and a willingness to journey with them—not just lead them—are vital. Ministry is not about control (and honestly, we can't control them), but about serving side by side. When we empower them and challenge them to step out in faith, they begin to enjoy and own the ministry in the unique season they're in.

10. *How did you navigate the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic for JCC?*

JCC's greatest breakthrough came during the COVID-19 season. Working closely with the authorities pushed us to do what once seemed impossible. For example, the S3P initiatives, food deliveries to those in need, and eventually the launch of the Goshen Initiatives—all these moved JCC from a place of spiritual and physical slumber to a church more willing to step out in mission. While it may take time for the entire church to move fully into the rhythm of evangelism, we hold on to our faith in God.

The Intercession and Prayer Team was birthed after our 2019 retreat. Since then, the team has faithfully gathered to pray weekly—and continues to do so today.

God has encouraged us along the way, surprising us with breakthroughs as we learned to pray, and to pray in faith. This is a lifelong journey for all JCCians. My hope is that more will join our church Prayer and Praise sessions and seek God together. I truly believe that when the church seeks God intentionally and passionately, even more divine surprises will unfold.

11. *JCC's new five-story Church Hub, dedicated in December 2016, marked a significant moment. What did this new building mean for the congregation, and how were you involved in its realization?*

This was truly a miracle. At the time, JCC had only around \$2.5 million, while the cost of rebuilding was \$25 million.

The first and most important question we asked was: Does God want us to rebuild? It was a decision made in faith by both the church council and every JCCian. A vote was taken—and there was no objection to the rebuild.

Secondly, we witnessed that the impossible becomes possible when we follow God's leading. None of us had prior experience in constructing a church building, yet we stepped out in faith. A Rebuilding Committee was formed, along with several sub-committees (e.g. fundraising, relocation). We learned to engage with government agencies like BCA, LTA, and SLA. We even queued to meet our MP at Taman Jurong. All these stretched and "forced" us to grow in navigating complex processes and working with authorities.

Fundraising—something we were desperate to learn—was another journey of faith. We reached out to many churches, both within and outside of LCS. Throughout this process, the question "Why rebuild when you don't even have the funds?" remained a constant thorn. Yet, time and again, we saw God provide.

In summary, God performed a miracle for the JCC family to witness. And He can do even greater things when we choose to walk by faith, with boldness, and with hearts that seek Him.

My greatest concern is that we may one day forget this miracle. If we begin to rely on our own strength to do ministry and drift away from dependence on God, we will miss the greatest lesson He has taught us through this journey.

12. *You actively participate in broader Christian initiatives, such as the annual "Day of His Power" prayer event. How crucial do you believe inter-church collaboration and unified prayer are for the well-being of the Christian community and the nation of Singapore?*

Knowing God's heartbeat for the nations reminds us that His Kingdom is far greater than just JCC alone. It compels us to look beyond ourselves and to see His global mission.

Knowing that God's resources are available when we work together encourages us to collaborate—not in isolation, but in unity with the wider Body of Christ. When we choose to walk together, God provides more than enough.

Our lives become a living testimony when we, as God's children, learn to work with and love one another. Despite our weaknesses and personal preferences, this unity becomes the strongest witness to the world—that Jesus is a loving God who is actively transforming lives.

Ultimately, the greatest miracle is this: moving from a self-centered life to a Christ-centered life. When that transformation happens, it changes everything.

III. Challenges and Responsibilities as Bishop

13. *How do you plan to navigate inter-faith relations as Bishop, promoting dialogue while accurately representing the Christian faith?*

Singapore is a multi-religious society, and the harmony we enjoy today is truly a gift from God. Serving one another is vital because it testifies to our faith in Him.

We are called to bless society because God loves the world and gave His life for it. As salt and light, we help preserve harmony and illuminate truth. When the nation is healthy and united, Singapore can bless other nations—both physically and spiritually. In this, the Church has a significant role to play in shaping our nation and influencing the nations beyond.

14. *Leadership succession is a vital challenge for the Church. With many pastors nearing retirement, what are your plans for raising and equipping new leaders, both ordained and lay?*

1. Raise up a life of prayer and intercession, and trust God to fulfill His promises.
“Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”
– Matthew 9:38

God will always do His part when we choose to depend on Him and obey His Word. Prayer and intercession are not just disciplines—they are expressions of our dependence and obedience. It is in this posture that we align ourselves with His heart and see His purposes unfold.

2. Cast the vision of God's work in this season.

We are not here by accident. Each of us has a divine and higher calling than simply going through the motions of life. God has placed us in this generation for such a time as this. The doors of harvest will not remain open forever, especially as we draw nearer to Christ's return. Now is the time to rise and respond to His call.

3. Model a life of obedience and faithful service.

Pastors and lay leaders must continue to model what it means to trust in the Lord, to obey His Word, and to serve Him wholeheartedly. This includes teaching the next generation not only how to serve but how to finish the race well. We do not cast the vision of our retirement BUT we must leave behind a rich and biblical spiritual legacy.

Walking daily with the Holy Spirit is vital. When we experience more personal breakthroughs and deeper empowerment from Him, we gain the strength and perseverance to run further and serve longer—until we see our great King face to face.



Bishop Anthony Loh installing the new LCS Executive Council

15. *Beyond the spiritual and theological aspects, the Bishop also holds significant administrative and representational duties as head of the church and official spokesperson. How do you plan to balance these diverse responsibilities?*

A bishop is, first and foremost, human. Whether one is a bishop, a pastor, a lay leader, or what some may call an “ordinary” church member— if there is such term, we are all called to walk with and listen to the Holy Spirit.

The Bible remains our lifeline and our reference point in navigating life. The wisest path is to move in step with the doors that God opens and to trust in Him throughout the journey. This is not just a calling for a few—it is the calling of every Christian, every child of God. Our identity in Christ comes first, before any role or title we carry.

A heart that is willing to learn and relearn is essential for this journey. I believe that the moment we stop learning, pride begins to creep in—and when that happens, we risk spiritual stagnation and decline rather than thriving in God’s ministry.

16. *What do you believe are the most pressing challenges facing the LCS specifically, and how do you plan to address them as Bishop?*

I have been with JCC my entire life. As I begin this new role, my first priority is to get to know all the leaders and council members across the five LCS congregations—including those in LCCS and ILSM. This is important because it allows me to understand their contexts, feel their burdens, and come alongside them meaningfully. Leaders and council members must be supported so that together, we can serve the Lord with joy.

The retirement of LCS pastors poses a serious challenge to the long-term sustainability of LCS. Other key threats include an aging congregation, members leaving when the church no longer feels relevant to them, a decline in offerings, and the looming issue of lease renewals for church land. I believe these are not just LCS-specific challenges but also concerns faced by many churches in Singapore today.

There are two urgent actions I plead with all five congregations to take—starting in 2025:

1. Strengthen and increase the life of prayer and intercession—at the personal level, in cell groups, and at the church-wide level. God moves when His people seek Him. We will be surprised at what He can do when we depend on Him fully.
2. Be active in evangelism. Do not fall into spiritual slumber or give up easily. Keep sowing the seeds—that is the calling of the farmer. The growth belongs to God. If we are unwilling to sow, we will harvest nothing. If we refuse to cast our nets, we will catch nothing.

Let us walk together in faith, trusting that God will do far more than we can ask or imagine—when we seek Him earnestly and obey His call.

IV. Personal Reflections and Future Hopes

17. *As you embark on this new chapter, what are you most looking forward to in your role as Bishop?*

My desire is to discern what God is doing in these last days and to faithfully play my part in His divine plan before Christ returns. I long to work closely with all LCS congregations, seeking God together for a fresh outpouring and a reigniting of His fire within us—so that we may be effective and faithful witnesses in this critical hour.

At the end of the day, it is all about Him—His Name and His glory.

18. *What message do you have for the members of the LCS as you prepare to lead them into the future?*

Give yourself another chance to serve and encounter God more deeply, even in the face of challenges. Don't give up. Let God use us in this final hour for His purposes. Through prayer and intercession, allow Him to surprise us—because He still moves powerfully when His people seek Him.

Let us be united in One heart and One mind to love and to serve Jesus.

19. *Is there anything else you would like to share about your journey or your aspirations for the LCS?*

Loving God and loving people—this is the essence of both the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.

Let us not turn them into the “Great Convenience,” lest we lose sight of what God has done for us and miss His heartbeat for the nations.

We are called to leave behind a biblical and spiritual legacy for the next generation—and that takes years of intentional modelling, not just words.

So let us live each day ready to hear these words when we finally stand before Him: “Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful with a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your Master.”

—Matthew 25:21a



The new Bishop, special guests and members of his flock at his Installation Service

Thank You, Bishop, Rev. Anthony Loh, for your time and insights.
