



# *South Yarra Community Baptist Church*

## *Decisions from the Host Group Meeting*

*3 December 2014*

Listed below are the main decisions from our recent Host Group meeting. This is not the full minutes, but a summary of the main decisions. In line with our church policy, these decisions are circulated not only for your information, but to allow you to consider the decisions and, if you have any concerns about any of them, to seek more information or ask for them to be reconsidered. Where possible, we will not implement the decisions for at least seven days, in order to allow time for people to respond. Questions or concerns can be raised with any member of the Host Group, or by emailing all of them at once at [hosts@laughingbird.net](mailto:hosts@laughingbird.net)

Those in attendance at the recent meeting were Eliz Cook, Ian Cook, Nathan Nettleton, Alison Sampson, Sylvia Sandeman, Shelley Taylor. Steven Wong was an apology.

### **Summary of the Decisions**

1. We received the following letter regarding Alison's candidature for ordination:

14 November 2014

Rev Nathan Nettleton  
2 Leonard Street  
Parkville VIC 3052

Dear Nathan,

Thank you for the reference you provided the PLSC for Alison Sampson and for your contribution to her DSG Report. The PLSC met with Alison and Paul on the 7th November. I am pleased to notify you officially that the committee provisionally accepted Alison as a candidate for the ordained Baptist ministry and we look forward to meeting with her again in 12 months time. I know that you and the members of the South Yarra Community Baptist Church will continue to encourage and support Alison in her ministry among you as she embarks upon the ordination track. Please convey our appreciation to the members of the DSG for their very thorough and constructive report. We would not be able to fulfill our responsibilities without the DSG's feedback.

Grace and Peace

Marita Munro  
Chair PLSC

2. The design of the **invitation postcards** has been done, using one of Paul Gahan's paintings and an invitation to the church. Printing was waiting for confirmation of the new church website URL, but that confirmation arrived by email during the course of the meeting, so production of the cards will now go ahead.

3. A call for interest in being part of a Working Group on **Indigenous Reconciliation** went out to the congregation, and Alison, Samara, Sylvia & Margie have expressed interest in being part of it. That's enough people so it is underway.
4. Ian and Nathan reported that the **electrician** who was involved in the data projector installation has been back and has been able to solve the long running problem we had with a one of the electrical circuits in the church which kept shorting. Not only is the problem fixed, but we were pleasantly surprised by how reasonable his bill was, so we will be sticking with this electrician in the future.
5. We sorted out the main content of the **program for 2015**, and Sylvia will complete it and distribute it after her holiday.
6. **Hall hire rates** have not been increased since 2009 so we authorised Eliz and Nathan to review and raise the rents as they see fit. We agreed that one-off parties are usually more stress than the are worth, and we authorised Eliz to not accept party bookings.
7. We need to provide a supper after the **ecumenical Epiphany service** that we are hosting on January 6. Sylvia will coordinate the food with a bring a plate approach.
8. We discussed plans for the Lenten and Advent **retreats** next year. We agreed that Alison will lead the Lenten Retreat. We agreed to look for different venues next year, and Alison will seek out venues for both retreats. We will give some more consideration to how we promote it to the congregation.
9. Some questions have been raised about whether we should include members of our congregation who have died, such as Lindsay and Frances, in our gallery of **Saints icons**. It was noted that we presently put people who are absent on the right hand side of the second beam, and so members of the congregation who have died could be similarly shown on the left hand side. We agreed to go ahead with this, and that they would remain there as long as seems relevant. Nathan will arrange for the pictures.
10. Alison shared a basic description of an idea she has for open-to-the-public **story telling nights** in the school holidays, perhaps after Easter. She reported that Samara had experienced something similar in the UK and was excited about trying something like that here. We discussed logistics, timing and advertising, and agreed that we like the idea and it should be further explored. Alison and Samara will have further discussions about this and begin planning.
11. The question has ben raised about **food after worship**, and perhaps having soup again, at least sometimes, instead of the nibbles. We noted that the nibbles had grown into a meal sized event which makes it more work and more expense that originally anticipated. We discussed ways that the supper could be symbolically linked more strongly to the Eucharist, by setting tables that run from the communion table through to the present nibblies space. We agreed to introduce the changed table set-up in February, and to encourage the rostered caterers to consider soup or other options.
12. Our Next Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 4 February 2015.