



South Yarra Community Baptist Church

Decisions and Questions from the Host Group Meeting

2 March 2021

Listed below are the main decisions and questions from our recent Host Group meeting. This is not the full minutes, but a summary of the main decisions and questions. In line with our church policy, these are circulated not only for your information, but to allow you to consider the decisions and ponder the questions 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@southyarrabaptist.church

Those in attendance at the recent meeting via Zoom were Ian Cook, Eliz Cook, Shelley Taylor, Samara Pitt, Dennis Fisher, and Nathan Nettleton.

Summary of the Decisions and Questions

1. Thanks to those who helped with the **manse clean**. It was not too big a job, but it raised the question of whether we can do it every 3 months if we return to the short term rental arrangement with Launch Housing or whether we would need to pay for cleaning. There are a few maintenance issues that have been discovered by David, Liz and Thomas since they moved in, which are being dealt with.
2. **Nathan's regular work hours** have continued to be high this month. He is taking several long weekends over the next semester and may try running the Sunday services from Aireys Inlet.
3. We had our **Ash Wednesday service** online, and the **Lenten retreat day** at the church. One person attended via Zoom and the simple format of two bible passages and two listening circles worked well and led to some valuable insights.
4. Liesl has organised Finding Sanctuary: monastic steps for everyday life for our **Lenten reading book**. The discussion is flagged for the weekend of 27-28 March, but may be postponed as some people have had trouble getting the book delivered quickly. Details to be confirmed soon.
5. The **discussion and discernment about returning to physically gathered worship, retaining online worship only or a hybrid option** continues. Nathan is preparing a second discussion paper (or sermon) about our need to develop the congregation's mission and purpose beyond just what will nourish our current members. Once this has been distributed, **we will hold a listening circle** on Sunday March 21 or Sunday 28 March to get feedback on both discussion papers and any related issues and ideas. (We may hold a second one if it seems helpful.) If our direction is becoming clearer after those listening circles, we will hold an open space gathering to develop those ideas and plan our next steps.
6. Host meetings will continue to be held over Zoom. Anyone is welcome to **attend a host meeting**, please let Nathan know if you wish to do so. The hosts may also invite a congregation member to attend a meeting if we feel they have insights into a particular issue on the agenda.

Dates for your diary:

March 21 Listening circle, 1:30pm on Zoom

April 1 Maundy Thursday 8pm on Zoom
April 2 Good Friday, 5pm on Zoom
April 3 Great Paschal Vigil 8pm on Zoom
April 4 Herring Island boat trip and picnic, 10am

Next meeting: Tuesday 6 April 2021 (t.b.c), 7:30pm, on Zoom