



South Yarra Community Baptist Church

Decisions and Questions from the Host Group Meeting

8 April 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, Liesl Filippi and Nathan Nettleton.

Summary of the Decisions and Questions

1. We have a **Covid safe plan** for any gatherings we have in the church, thanks to John Fowler and Ian Cook for their work on this. We will review it monthly to keep up to date with government requirements and to check how it works in practice.
2. **Nathan's regular work hours** have continued to be high to prepare for Holy Week. We now have a full year's worth of online liturgies (phew!) which should see his workload drop. He is taking a week of leave this week.
3. **Melbourne Water has requested to lease space on the lawn** behind the church for approximately 6 months while they are doing drain relining works in Surrey Road. We agree to enter into an arrangement with them subject to questions about traffic, lawn restoration and rental amounts being satisfactorily resolved.
4. Thanks to all who attended the **listening circle on future directions for our church**. We will hold a **second listening circle**, again online, so that people can communicate where they are at after what was shared at the first one. Details to be worked out soon.
5. We had our three **Holy Week services** online, and the Resurrection liturgy and brunch on Herring Island - in person! This marks a year of online liturgies, a huge thank you to Nathan for all his hard work in making this happen for our congregation.
6. **David and his family are moving out of the manse** this weekend. Given that our discussions about future directions of the church may impact on how we wish to use the manse, we will use this time to look at bigger maintenance jobs that need to be done, such as renovating the bathroom, and revisit the rental question as the way becomes clearer.
7. There have been **problems with both the sewerage pipes and the storm water pipes** at the manse which the plumber says are being caused by tree roots. Some of the trees concerned are also likely to be doing some damage to the wall foundations. His suggestion is that we get these trees removed and the stumps dug out, and that they be replaced with shrubs instead of with anything that will grow so big. We have approved removal of the trees along the side and will do more research about the trees at the front.

8. The discussion on our **Lenten reading book** Finding Sanctuary: monastic steps for everyday life will take place on a date to be confirmed once the listening circle date has been organised. Contact Liesl for more information.
9. Host meetings will continue to be held over Zoom but have shifted to Thursday nights at 7pm. 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:

Listening circle on future directions for our church - tbc

Lenten book discussion - tbc

Next meeting: Thursday 6 May 2021, 7pm, on Zoom