



South Yarra Community Baptist Church

Decisions and Questions

from the Host Group Meeting

6 May 2021

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@southyarrabaptist.church

Those in attendance at the recent meeting were Eliz Cook, Shelley Taylor, Dennis Fisher, Liesl Filippi, Nathan Nettleton, and Di Shearer (visiting). Ian Cook sent apologies due to another commitment. Samara Pitt sent last minute apologies due to a power failure in her neighbourhood cutting her internet access.

Summary of the Decisions

1. We agreed to a proposal sent in by Acacia that if we go ahead with removing some of the trees around the manse, we will either replace them with new trees in better locations on the property, or donate to pay for **trees to be planted** elsewhere.
2. **Nathan's work hours** this month have continued to trend back down towards what he's paid for.
3. We are grateful to John Fowler for managing the negotiations with **Melbourne Water to lease the church's back lawn** for six months while they are doing drainage works in Surrey Road. John secured a good outcome and Melbourne Water have occupied the space this week (see picture).
4. We considered a **"Flourishing Churches Survey"** that the BUV have prepared and requested us to complete by the end of June. We decided to try to adapt it and use it as our own "church review" for our own purposes, asking our congregation to complete our version of it, and then sending our collated responses in to the BUV. Nathan will have a go at drafting an adaptation which will be further considered by the Hosts before being circulated to the congregation.
5. Launch Housing have recently notified us that they are able to resume the 3-month tenancy "Accommodation Options for Families" program in **our manse** (church house) if we are still willing to be part of it. We have agreed that we will give it another go, but continue to review that, tenancy by tenancy. At present we are waiting for David Jackson to finish vacating and hand in the keys, and once he has done that, we will be able to assess whether there is maintenance work that needs to be done before the next tenants can be moved in. We had been considering whether to do major works such as a bathroom refit, but that is not immediately ready to go, and could perhaps be done in the next break between tenancies.



6. We agreed that it is becoming increasingly important to reach a decision clarifying **our church's direction into the future**. We were encouraged to see how many people had responded to the request to share written proposals on what our future might look like. We noted that those shared so far have all envisaged our worship continuing to be primarily online with encouragement to expand the number and range of other community activities, many of which could happen in physically gathered forms. We are expecting further proposals to come in with alternative views. We are asking that anyone else planning to share a proposal please do so by May 27th (one week before the next Host Group meeting), so that our next meeting can plan the next step, which we expect will be either 1) assembling a composite proposal to be put to the congregation as a recommendation for consideration; or 2) identifying the most promising alternative views of the way forward, and suggesting a suitable discernment process for the church to consider them and finalise a decision. While we believe that the church is getting closer to making a decision for now, we also noted that patterns of church life always remain open to review and reconsideration.
7. **Host Group 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:

13th May, Thursday 7:00pm, Ecumenical Worship service for the Feast of the Ascension, to be held at Christ Church, South Yarra.

23rd May, Sunday 2:00pm, Lenten book discussion, online.

27th - 29th August, Church Camp at Anglesea

Next Host Group meeting: 3rd June at 7.00pm online.