



South Yarra Community Baptist Church

Decisions and Questions from the Host Group Meeting

5 August 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. Small maintenance tasks on **the manse** are continuing. We are not able to resume tenancies until lockdown restrictions lift so there is no rush at this stage.
2. Host members are in the process of attending **Safe Church** training which looks at laws and processes for keeping our churches safe for children and vulnerable adults. We will start looking at some ways to apply these principles to church activities that occur in physical and online spaces outside the church building.
3. The **Baptist World Alliance Congress** was held online for over 4500 participants and some sessions were made available to the congregation. We also had the **film premiere** of 'I married a pastor?', a short documentary directed by Youngoak, the wife of Craig who has been a regular online attender for the past 12 months. A number of congregation members and 'plus ones' enjoyed the film and discussion.
4. We held an **Open Space event to explore ways forward into the new expression of our congregational life**. A number of topics were raised for discussion and action planning. Discord proved to be a useful program for organising the day and taking notes, and we will continue to use it to develop ideas and activities. We look forward to seeing what develops over the coming weeks and months!
5. Alas, **church camp** had to be cancelled to the chagrin of many, especially a particular junior member! We encourage people to think of **alternative activities** that could take place on the weekend of August 27-29 so that we can still gather and enjoy each other's company in whatever forms are possible given changing restrictions. Liesl is organising a picnic lunch on the Saturday, and we encourage congregation members who do not usually attend daily prayers to give it a go over the weekend as we would usually do on camp. Email the church list if you have other activities you would like to invite others to attend!
6. **Church activities will be publicised** on the weekly notice sheet, the website calendar, the email list, and also on Discord (refer to Nathan's email from 5 August to find out how to use Discord for online community collaboration). We encourage organisers to send several email reminders to the congregation to make sure people don't forget! Nathan is updating the **church**

contact directory and will distribute this soon so that people can contact each other to organise events.

7. To enable **people other than Nathan to host the Sunday service**, he is organising some training for folks who have a reasonably up-to-date Mac computer and are already hosting daily prayers (or are willing to learn). He will also allocate some of his spoken parts in the Sunday service to others so that whoever is doing the technical role in his absence can concentrate on that. If you would like to learn how to host the service, please contact Nathan.
8. We are considering whether it would be a good idea to make it easier for **first time visitors** to join our Sunday service in the cyber chapel without having to contact us first. We think that this would be less of a barrier for people seeking to check us out. We will explore the security settings to see how this could work, and seek feedback from the congregation.
9. We would like to provide assistance for **members of the church without the resources** for a full online connection to our services. We will research the options and discuss further with the people involved.
10. Our **AGM is scheduled for September 19**. Reports will be circulated ahead of time for questions and we aim to approve them quickly in the meeting, leaving time for a listening circle on a topic that is likely to be fruitful for us, to be decided closer to the event.
11. 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:

Friday August 6	Ecumenical service at St Joseph's CANCELLED
August 27-29	Church camp CANCELLED (alternative activities encouraged)
August 28, 11am	Picnic at Rocket park
September 19	AGM

Next meeting: Thursday 2 September 2021, 7pm, on Zoom