



# *South Yarra Community Baptist Church*

## *Decisions and Questions from the Host Group Meeting*

### *2 September 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](mailto: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 slowly given restrictions on travel. Thanks to Sylvia for donating a king single bed.
2. We have drafted a simple **risk management document** for organising church activities, designed to make sure that basic safety issues are considered without being too onerous. This will be made available to the congregation once some final adjustments are made.
3. The **church contact directory** is being updated and will be circulated soon.
4. We are in the process of providing practical assistance to one person to enable them to get a **full online connection** to our services. Financial support has not been required.
5. **Virtual church camp** was held on the weekend of August 27-29 with a number of online activities arranged by various congregation members, including origami, storybook reading, 'knit and natter', a Werewolf Village game, picture frame making led by Tara and our usual daily prayers. Thanks to all who attended for their initiative and participation, and to Nathan for tech support! We see potential for some of these activities to continue to happen at other times. We also discussed the possibility of having an annual virtual camp as well as the annual face-to-face camp in the future.
6. All host members needing to attend a **Safe Church** refresher workshop did so this month. In line with recommendations on financial transparency and accountability, Nathan and Shelley as the two main signatories on our bank account will get **police checks**.
7. We note that several members of the congregation are going through big changes in their work and living situations at the moment, and that a number of us are becoming worn down by lockdown restrictions. We encourage you all in your **practices of care and prayer**, for yourselves and others.
8. We have received positive responses to the idea of making it easier for **first time visitors** to join our Sunday service in the cyber chapel without having to contact us first, so we will begin to make the Zoom link for the Sunday service available on our website in coming weeks. (The link for daily prayer will be different from the Sunday service and not advertised publicly.)

9. At some stage we will need to alter our **church signage** at Surrey Road to inform people that we are now a church that worships online. However while lockdown restrictions continue, this is not urgent and we can communicate with temporary signage in the interim. This will allow us more time to consider the uses of the building going forward.
10. Our **AGM is scheduled for September 19 at 1pm**. Reports will be circulated ahead of time for questions and we aim to approve them quickly without discussion in the meeting. We will then address the question: “**How can our church encourage and equip each other to respond to the climate crisis?**” in a format yet to be decided.
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:**

September 19, 1pm

AGM

Next meeting: Thursday 7 October 2021, 7pm, on Zoom