



# *South Yarra Community Baptist Church*

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

### *3 March 2022*

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 Eliz Cook, Ian Cook, Shelley Taylor, Samara Pitt, Dennis Fisher, Liesl Filippi and Nathan Nettleton.

### **Summary of the Decisions and Questions**

1. The manse has had final repairs and compliance work completed, and we are waiting on the BUV Council to sign the lease. Sammi, our first tenant from BaptCare's **Houses of Hope asylum seeker housing project** has moved in, and brought some wicking beds for the back yard.
2. We are planning to buy an electric lawn mower as our current one keeps breaking down.
3. **Nathan's work hours** have been high this month due to preparing the manse for new occupants, updating slides for the Lent season, responding to the BUV's proposed constitutional changes, work on a new system for music recording, and preparing Sunday liturgy slides that can be run by prayer hosts in his absence. The last two items will reduce his hours and enable him to take proper leave in the future.
4. We held the **Ash Wednesday service**, with Jen Davis, Robert Davis, Mark Learmonth and Margie Dahl being enrolled as candidates for membership of our congregation. We will vote to approve their membership before the final rites at Easter. We thought some people might not have remembered or realised that they could prepare their own ashes, and we will try to give some verbal reminders next year, as well as the instructions via email.
5. For the first time since our move to online services, Nathan will hand over to a prayer host - in this case Ian Cook - to **run the Sunday liturgy when Nathan is on leave** on March 13. There will be a couple of slight differences from the usual service but we applaud this step!
6. The BUV have **proposed some major changes to the BUV constitution** which have caused serious concern to us and a number of other congregations. Nathan has been heavily involved in analysing the proposals, discussions with other churches, providing feedback to the BUV on the content of the proposals and the timeline for consultation, as well as resourcing people planning to attend the consultation forums. Nathan, Ian Cook and John Fowler are planning to attend the consultation forums coming up in the next few weeks. As one of the BUV proposals concerns ownership of church properties held in trust by the BUV (and our property, since it is no longer being primarily used for worship or mission, is particularly vulnerable), some churches are considering pulling out of the BUV Trust arrangement and setting up an alternative trust

structure for our properties. We have authorised Nathan to participate in any emerging conversations about an alternative property trust.

7. The Lenten Retreat is going ahead as a physical and online event on Sunday 6th March, and discussions on the **Lenten daily readings** Following the Call: Living the Sermon on the Mount Together will be weekly for those who would like to participate. The first one is proposed for Sunday 13 March at 3pm, using a listening circle format followed by discussion. If you would like to participate but this time doesn't suit you, please let Nathan know.
8. John Fowler has suggested a couple of ideas about the **future of the Surrey Road property**:
  - If the Sanctuary program works well in the Manse, consideration could be given to converting the hall into a series of bedrooms with ensembles, a communal kitchen is already there, and the carpeted room could become a dining/socialisation room. The "kid's" room could become a Co-ordinator's/Manager's office.
  - Leonard Joel Auction House may be interested in hiring the whole building (do they know that it is potentially available?) We retain the Prayer Chapel for possible/potential use. *We note that Leonard Joel are selling their property on Surrey Road so are unlikely to need overflow space with us.*

We encourage ongoing discussion and the sharing and consideration of other such ideas.

9. 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:**

Sunday 13 March:	Lent book discussion, 3pm tbc
Thursday 7 April:	Host meeting, 7pm
Sunday 10 April:	Palm Sunday service, 5pm
Thursday 14 April	Maundy Thursday service, 8pm
Friday 15 April:	Good Friday service, 5pm
Saturday 16 April:	Great Paschal Vigil, 8pm
Sunday 16 April:	Resurrection morning cruise and breakfast, dep. Fed Square 10am