



South Yarra Community Baptist Church

Decisions and Questions from the Host Group Meeting

7 April 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

Those in attendance at the recent meeting via Zoom were Ian Cook, Shelley Taylor, Samara Pitt, Dennis Fisher, Liesl Filippi and Nathan Nettleton. Eliz Cook was absent due to illness.

Summary of the Decisions and Questions

1. The manse is now fully occupied with 3 tenants from BaptCare's **Houses of Hope asylum seeker housing project**. Congregation members are able to contribute financially to this project if they want, we will distribute information about this soon. The tenants have requested access to the church wifi which we are happy to provide as we are not using it and our plan includes unlimited data. They may need to install an extender if the signal does not reach the manse.
2. We have purchased an **electric lawn mower** to replace the old one which kept breaking down.
3. **Nathan's work hours** have continued high this month due to responding to the BUV's proposed constitutional changes. He is taking two weeks leave after Easter.
4. Thanks to Ian Cook who very capably **ran the Sunday liturgy when Nathan was on leave** in March. Shelley will run the service during Nathan's leave after Easter. Nathan is working on some written procedures to help people update the liturgy slides and allocate parts in the event of him being unexpectedly unavailable to run the service for several weeks.
5. 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 continued to be 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, John Fowler and John Sampson have attended consultation forums, and Shelley Taylor and Sylvia Sandeman (who also attends Rosanna Baptist Church) are planning to attend the online forum next week. A group of pastors and lay leaders have been discussing the proposals as well as their concern about how discernment and consultation processes between the BUV and churches are being conducted more generally. They plan to write a blog post about the situation that can be shared more widely. They are also requesting that the BUV provide equal time to this group to present an alternative view on the proposals at the delegates meeting in May.
6. The **Lenten Retreat** went ahead on Sunday 6th March, and online discussions on the **Lenten daily readings** Following the Call: Living the Sermon on the Mount Together have been held weekly with a changing group of participants. The final discussion will be held after Easter, details to be distributed to those who have been participating soon. Four people made it up to

Gembrook Retreat on short notice to walk on the land, have lunch together and relax in front of the fire and enjoy each other's company.

7. The **Herring Island trip** on Resurrection Sunday morning is going ahead, details will be provided soon.
8. No further ideas about the **stewardship of the Surrey Road property** at this stage.
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 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 17 April:	Resurrection morning cruise and breakfast, dep. Fed Square 10am
Thursday 5 May:	Host meeting, 7pm