



South Yarra Community Baptist Church

Decisions and Questions from the Host Group Meeting

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

Summary of the Decisions and Questions

1. The manse tenants now have access to the **church wifi**, which is much appreciated.
2. **Nathan's work hours** were high during the Holy week and easter period, but he took two weeks leave after Easter. Some work tasks were done during that time to support hosts running the Sunday liturgy and ease his return to work, but he has factored this into his leave entitlements.
3. Thanks to Shelley Taylor who very capably **ran the Sunday liturgy when Nathan was on leave** after Easter.
4. In **finances**, our expected deficit will be offset by a significant chunk of income on the way from the Australian Electoral Commission who are booking our hall for the federal election voting period. Thanks to Ian for continuing to do the role of Treasurer. If anyone is interested in picking up this role, he would be very happy to speak to you about it!
5. Thanks to Liesl and Nathan for hosting the final Lenten book discussions. Next year we hope to choose a book earlier so that everyone has enough time to get a copy. We encourage congregation members who have a book they'd like to read with others to **organise a book group** at any time during the year.
6. The **Holy Week services** were much appreciated, even with some residual sadness about not gathering in person. The Resurrection boat cruise to Herring Island was a highlight for those who were able to attend this physically gathered event.
7. The BUV have responded to some of the feedback on the **proposed changes to the BUV constitution** which are due to be voted on in the the October delegates meeting. However, they did not address any of the major concerns raised about Baptist identity and processes. The group of churches who have been meeting to discuss their concerns are planning to ask the BUV to prepare a for-and-against document to be circulated at least 3 months before the October meeting. The assumption is, however, that most churches are not concerned about the changes proposed. The group is considering whether there are other ways they could support each other to operate within the BUV while maintaining a commitment to consultative processes and Baptist principles.

8. We have begun to consider how we can **attract new people to our congregation** and services. Most people join a church when they have a personal connection with someone already attending. We recognise that the name 'South Yarra' is a problem for us as it indicates a geographical identity that is no longer true in practice, and is not necessary for involvement. We wondered whether we should be advertising online, or even on physical noticeboards in marginal spaces like small towns where people may not have access to a progressive church. We also recognise that we need to be true to ourselves in any promotion we decide to do. We will continue to discuss this questions, and welcome ideas from the congregation.
9. No new ideas about the **stewardship of the Surrey Road property** at this stage.
10. 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:

Saturday 28 May	Lunch in Geelong with Di Shearer
Thursday 2 June	Host meeting, 7pm