



South Yarra Community Baptist Church

Decisions and Questions from the Host Group Meeting

2 June 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, Ian Cook and Nathan Nettleton.

Summary of the Decisions and Questions

1. **Nathan's work hours** have reduced in the past month just slightly higher than what he is paid for, and should continue to drop in the second half of the year. He will take 1-2 weeks leave in June/July.
2. Big thanks to Eliz Cook, Ian Cook and John Fowler who managed the increased hall hire workload associated with our church being a **pre-polling station** for 2 weeks before the federal election. It involved a fair amount of time and effort! (Did you know that 26,000 ballot papers were stored in our building??!)
3. It looks like our **ecumenical services** might be coming to an end with low attendance for the most recent service at Christ Church, and little enthusiasm from the new and ongoing clergy organisers. There are some discussions about other ways we might continue to stay connected.
4. A group of 13 attended a **long leisurely lunch** in Geelong with Di Shearer during her visit from South Australia, and it was much enjoyed by all who attended.
5. In response to the **proposed changes to the BUV constitution**, a group of churches have started to explore alternative structures of association that could exist within the BUV but provide some buffer against the changes that are of most concern, including the ability of the BUV to take possession of church properties such as ours that they hold in trust. The group is sharing the cost of seeking legal advice to help work out what is required and some potential ways forward. We are contributing \$3000 towards this, and are willing to provide another \$2000 if needed.
6. We have begun to consider how we can **attract new people to our congregation** and services. One idea is to approach people in particular contexts who could be advocates (or matchmakers!) on our behalf, eg. Baptcare chaplains who might know people who are not able to access church services in person and might appreciate what we offer. We could run an online event to introduce them to us. Some other ideas were to advertise in church newspapers, and also to continue to trust that God will help people to find us.
7. No new ideas about the **stewardship of the Surrey Road property** at this stage.

8. We have not had much feedback on potential **revisions to the church covenant** to reflect our new situation, so we have decided to use the current one for this year's covenanting service, and not try to hurry it through or postpone the service. We do encourage everyone to give your feedback on the covenant, and please do not feel like you need to address every question.
9. A reminder that **church camp** in person is coming up August 26-28 in Anglesea.
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:

Sunday 5 June	Pentecost
Sunday 19 June	Church anniversary and covenanting service, 5pm
Thursday 7 July	Host meeting, 7pm