



# *South Yarra Community Baptist Church*

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

### *3 November 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, and Nathan Nettleton.

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

1. **Nathan's work hours** for the past 4 weeks have been higher again due to BUV and Open Baptist events, plus the new All Saints service.
2. We have drafted a policy in response to the **new Child Safe Standards** which extends our current Safe Church policy. This will be brought to the congregation for feedback and formal adoption soon.
3. We have approached Baptcare to ask if our **property** would be suitable for redevelopment as a social housing property. The relevant person is on leave but the initial response was positive. We did discover that while our building is not being regularly used for worship (which gives us charitable exemption from land tax), there is the danger of us being subject to land tax which would be unaffordable for us. This has implications for our future plans for the church property.
4. The **Open Space event** for churches interested in forging a new Baptist identity went well, it was particularly valuable for relationship-building between people involved in a range of congregations in Victoria, NSW and ACT. NSW and ACT churches will find out after their state Assembly this weekend whether some churches will be removed from membership due to their support for same-sex marriage.
5. The BUV Gathering voted in the proposed **constitutional changes**, which included the requirement that all congregations include the Doctrinal statement in their individual constitutions, and require all congregation members to subscribe to that statement. There is no deadline for compliance with the changes, but the BUV can ask to review our constitution at any time. We will need to decide as a congregation how we want to respond on our own behalf, and whether we might want to support other congregations who do not want to comply with the changes.
6. There has been some discussion about **attracting new people** to our congregation, and how our name affects that. We encourage people to keep the ideas coming, in particular to note what are the desirable criteria to include in a name. Eg should it reference geographic location? Include the word 'church'?

7. In response to a request that the **Sunday service bible reading references** be made more accessible, we will now include them next to the parts allocation list that is sent out weekly before the service, so that those who wish to refer to the text in their own bibles can note down the references before the service. The references are also available in advance in the weekly notice sheet.
8. In response to another suggestion about how to encourage **break out room discussions** after the Sunday liturgy to be as inclusive as possible, we remind people that if there is something they want to discuss with just one other person, you can both move to a free breakout room to have the discussion there.
9. The **Wattle Park picnic** has been postponed to 12 November due to wet weather, but the **All Saints service** was very well attended and got some positive feedback.
10. We have received some positive feedback about the idea of holding **future church camps** where people organise their own accommodation. It was also suggested that we could try to keep the event in Anglesea for the sake of continuity. We welcome further suggestions for locations and venues.
11. 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:**

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|-------------|--------------------------------|
| November 12 | Picnic in Wattle Park, 12 noon |
| December 1  | Host meeting, 7pm              |