



South Yarra Community Baptist Church

Decisions and Questions from the Host Group Meeting

1 December 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, Ian Cook, Shelley Taylor, Liesl Filippi, Samara Pitt, and Nathan Nettleton. Apologies were received from Uncle Den Fisher.

Summary of the Decisions and Questions

1. **Nathan's work hours** for the past 4 weeks have been higher again this month. We encourage the congregation to keep thinking about tasks done by Nathan that you could take on. For example, two simple tasks are: compiling the weekly notice sheet, and drawing up and sending out the daily prayer roster each week. Please contact Nathan if you want to talk about one of these tasks.
2. In light of health concerns for a number of our congregation, we believe that we should require stronger **COVID protocols** for our physically gathered events than the Government now mandates. Therefore, for physically gathered church events, we ask that people who have tested Covid-positive, or who live with someone who has tested positive, refrain from attending until it has been at least 10 days since the positive test.
3. We have approached Baptcare to ask if our **property** would be suitable for redevelopment as a social housing property. Are you interested in being someone who helps the church explore this possibility? The first step is to meet with Cliff Barclay from Baptcare at the church property. **We are looking for volunteers** to begin this conversation on behalf of our congregation, and will be approaching some people. Please contact Nathan if you want to be involved.
4. The vote by the NSW Baptist Assembly to proceed with expelling churches that support same-sex marriage has seen a sudden quadrupling of the numbers turning up to the **Open Baptists meetings**, and put a lot more urgency into the moves to set up the new association. The next step for us as a church will be deciding whether to join the new association, but no action is required by us at this stage.
5. There has been some discussion about **attracting new people** to our congregation, and some ideas about a new name for the church. We encourage people to keep the ideas coming.
6. We are working on developing the **pastoral review of Nathan** covering the Covid period 2020 - 2022. We hope to circulate a survey to the congregation for your responses in January.
7. The **Wattle Park picnic** was very well attended and much enjoyed, thanks Gilbert and Yvonne for persisting in the face of inclement weather!

8. The **Advent Retreat Day** is this Sunday 4 December from 10am - 3pm at the *Community Church of St Luke*, 41 Valiant Street, Abbotsford, and also online. Details have been circulated. The **Epiphany service** on January 6 (which has previously been a physically gathered ecumenical service hosted by us) will be held as an online service, and we will invite our ecumenical church neighbours to attend.
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:

December 4 Advent Retreat Day
December 24 Christmas service, 8pm
January 6 Epiphany service, 7pm
February 2 Host meeting, 7pm